



Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MDCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Diane Hurley, Interim Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: July 7, 2022

Subject: **Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training (QUEST): Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants Funding Announcement – Call for Project Ideas**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of a Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (DOL/ETA) funding opportunity announced July 5, 2022 on grants.gov: [ETA-TEGL-02-22-DWG: QUEST: Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants.](#)

Background: The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD)/MassHire Department of Career Services (MDCS), is interested in project ideas from our partners in the workforce system to help shape a state-level application that will enhance Massachusetts workforce system's ongoing efforts to empower unemployed and underemployed workers through worker and business engagement, elevate equity, and connect jobseekers with high-quality jobs.

As outlined in the FOA:

The QUEST DWG initiative will support employment equity and individual, community, and industry resilience as the nation prioritizes economic and employment recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Successful applicants will propose projects that include partnership development, community outreach, business engagement, and comprehensive career and training services, and that also may include disaster relief employment. QUEST DWGs focus on serving individuals whose employment has been negatively impacted by the pandemic, including individuals from historically marginalized and underserved populations who have been disproportionately impacted.

QUEST DWG projects should help dislocated workers and other eligible participants, including underserved and historically marginalized individuals, develop economic resilience to future economic shocks through employment, training, and entry into high-quality jobs, especially in growing and critical industries.

Required Grant Activities

Applicants for QUEST DWG funds must commit to executing the following types of activities:

- A. Develop or Expand Strategic Partnerships – Applicants must create a data-informed project design that includes the development or expansion of strategic partnerships that will ensure that the grant will achieve the goals of the QUEST Initiative. While ETA does not require any specific entities to be partners in a QUEST DWG application, we encourage applicants to consider how partnerships might enable the project to most effectively and comprehensively develop or strengthen an economy built on equity, job quality, sustainability, and shared prosperity.

Examples of strategic partnership activities include:

- developing partnerships with organizations that serve, train, and hire individuals from underserved and marginalized communities most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- expanding partnerships with business or industry associations hiring workers into quality jobs;
- ensuring worker voice by soliciting input from and partnering with dislocated workers, individual workers, labor unions, labor management partnerships, and other relevant organizations;
- building and expanding partnerships that bring together workers, employers, and labor to advance demand-driven workforce strategies, such as labor-management partnerships; and
- cultivating formal sector partnerships with demand industries and high-quality employers.

Applications for QUEST DWGs must include letters of commitment from at least two partners, but applicants may include as many partners as they deem appropriate and may add partners as necessary throughout the life of the project.

B. Community and Participant Outreach – Applicants must develop an operational plan for community and participant outreach that is culturally and linguistically appropriate to ensure that eligible participants know about and can participate and succeed in the grant’s 6 services, particularly historically marginalized individuals and communities. Grant funds may be used to create and execute focused outreach campaigns to reach historically marginalized communities and other priority participant populations adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. Business Engagement – QUEST DWGs must include business engagement activities. In addition to assisting businesses with finding the workers they seek, strong business engagement enables grantees to work closely enough with businesses to share information on the value and business benefits of increasing job quality and equity, and support in creating or expanding high-quality jobs. For purposes of this grant, business engagement may include both strategic and operational activities.

At the strategic level, applicants should consider activities that are intended to:

- develop long-term relationships with the employer community with an emphasis on expanding high quality jobs;
- provide solutions to the needs of individual employers, industry associations, or other groups to identify and address current or emerging skills needs;
- develop sector-based approaches;
- provide information on the services available through the workforce system;
- support the development of high-quality employment opportunities across an industry/sector; and
- develop and scale career pathway models incorporating worker voice, equity, and demand-driven workforce approaches, such as through labor-management partnerships.

Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training (QUEST) Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant

Funding Opportunity Number: [ETA-TEGL-02-22-DWG](#)

Application Deadline: August 4, 2022 by 11:50 PM

Estimated Total Funding: \$140,000,000

Award Ceiling: \$15,000,000

Award Floor: \$0

Anticipated # of Awards: 20

Period of Performance: 24 mos. (9/30/2022 to 09/30/2024)

Eligible Applicants: State Workforce Agency Outlying Area Workforce

Agency Indian tribal governments as defined by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(6))

Action

Requested: Please share with managers, staff and partners as appropriate.

Please send ideas and a first draft budget to Leslie Seifried at Leslie.Seifried@mass.gov no later than COB on Monday, July 18, 2022.