



# Workforce Issuance

---

100 DCS 25.170

☐ Policy ☒ Information

---

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

**cc:** WIOA State Partners

**From:** Alice Sweeney, Director  
MassHire Department of Career Services

**Date:** March 15, 2019

**Subject:** **FUNDING AVAILABILITY REMINDER: Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants to Address the Opioid Crisis**

---

**Purpose:** To remind MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of the Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Training and Employment Guidance Letter ([TEGL No. 4-18](#), *National Health Emergency Phase Two: Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants to Address the Opioid Crisis*). The TEGL describes how the ETA interprets the statutory and regulatory requirements of the National Dislocated Worker Grant Program's disaster grants (Disaster Recovery DWGs) as they apply to the unique challenges of the opioid crisis. Under this guidance, eligible applicants can obtain Disaster Recovery DWGs to create disaster-relief employment as well as to provide employment and training activities, including supportive services, to address economic and workforce impacts related to widespread opioid use, addiction, and overdose. **DOL is still accepting applications.**

**Background:** The United States faces an ongoing health crisis due to widespread abuse of and addiction to prescription opioid painkillers, as well as illicit opioids. According to

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, deaths from drug overdoses in the United States more than tripled from 1999 to 2015.

**Through TEGL No. 4-18, ETA announced guidance for how states can apply for Disaster Recovery DWGs to respond to the opioid crisis.**

Under WIOA, DOL has discretion to award Disaster Recovery DWGs, which are grants aimed at reducing the workforce impacts of federally declared disasters through employment and training activities for dislocated workers and temporary employment opportunities assisting disaster-relief efforts. Disaster Recovery DWGs will create temporary employment opportunities aimed at alleviating humanitarian and other needs created by the opioid crisis. Grantees also may use these funds to provide services to reintegrate into the workforce eligible participants affected by the crisis and train individuals to work in mental health treatment, addiction treatment, and pain management.

**DOL expects successful opioid Disaster Recovery DWG projects to:**

- Facilitate community partnerships that are central to dealing with this complex public health crisis;
- Provide training that builds the skilled workforce in professions that could impact the causes and treatment of the opioid crisis: addiction treatment, mental health, and pain management;
- Ensure the timely delivery of appropriate, necessary career, training, and support activities to dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), individuals temporarily or permanently laid off due to the opioid crisis, long-term unemployed individuals, and self-employed individuals who are unemployed or significantly underemployed as a result of the opioid public health emergency—including individuals in these populations who have been impacted by opioid use, to promote successful reemployment; and
- Create temporary disaster-relief employment that addresses the unique impacts of the opioid crisis in affected communities.

DOL will review and considered proposals on a first come, first served basis and funds will be available until exhausted.

**Action**

**Requested:** Please review the TEGL in its entirety. Local areas interested in submitting program proposals are encouraged to do so. Please submit a completed Proposal Summary (Attachment A), not exceeding 10 pages double-spaced, that addresses TEGL application requirements to Leslie Seifried at [Leslie.Seifried@MassMail.State.MA.US](mailto:Leslie.Seifried@MassMail.State.MA.US).

**Effective:** Immediately.

**Attachment:** A. Proposal Template