



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
MassHire DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

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

Date: May 17, 2023

Subject: **Call for Ideas - Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training (QUEST) Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants (NDWGs)**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners that the MassHire Department of Career Services is seeking ideas regarding the Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training (QUEST) Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants (NDWGs) funding opportunity as described in Training and Employment Guidance Letter [\(TEGL No. 2-22 Change 2: 2023 QUEST Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants Funding Announcement\)](#).

Background: Change 2 to TEGL 22-2 announces the availability of funding for 2023 Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training (QUEST) Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) and conveys updated submission and project requirements. Award amounts for 2023 QUEST DWGs will be up to \$5 million for the grant period of performance.

While the public health emergency declaration has been rescinded, the uneven health, employment, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to create challenges for the nation’s full recovery. Many of the workers most impacted by the resulting economic downturn were employed in the care economy, hospitality, and transportation and logistics sectors. These sectors are dominated by people of color, immigrants, people with disabilities, individuals who were formerly incarcerated, women, and lower-wage workers. Furthermore, global supply chain disruptions caused the displacement of workers who would have been eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program services; however, this program is not accepting new participants. These conditions continue the need for 2023 QUEST NDWG grants to support pandemic-impacted workers, industries, and communities now and for years to come.

Applicants may propose 2023 QUEST grant activities that address workforce needs in the following sectors:

- Infrastructure
- Care Economy
- Hospitality
- Climate and Environment (such as climate change mitigation, clean energy transition efforts, construction, manufacturing, and technology); or
- Other industries or sectors relevant to their local economy

Funding Opportunity:	TEGL 2-22 Change 2
Application Deadline:	August 4th, 2023
Award Range:	Up to \$5,000,000
Expected Number of Awards:	20
Period of Performance:	36 months (Oct. 1, 2023 - Sep. 30, 2026)
Eligible Applicants:	State workforce agencies; outlying areas; and Indian tribal governments
Eligible Participants:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Individuals temporarily or permanently laid off as a consequence of the COVID19 pandemic disaster.2. Long-term unemployed individuals, as defined by the applicant.3. Dislocated workers as defined by WIOA Section 3(15)4. Self-employed individuals who became unemployed or significantly underemployed due to the disaster.

Action

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

Please review [TEGL 2-22 Change 2](#) in its entirety. If your local area is interested in submitting a project idea for consideration, please develop a 2 – 3-page summary of the proposed project using the attached template.

EOLWD, MDCS and Partners will review and consider all submissions.

Please submit ideas for this funding opportunity to Jack Rhatigan john.rhatigan@mass.gov by close of business June 5, 2023.

Attachment: Call For Ideas Template