

Mass Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 08-108.1

☐ Policy

☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Development Board Chairs
Workforce Development Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: January 18, 2017

Subject: **MassDOT Training Funds Remain Available for Dislocated Toll Collectors - REVISED**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other workforce partners that funds for training and education to assist MassDOT Bargaining Unit F employees transitioning into jobs outside of toll collection are still available. Also, since the initial announcement, the contact information has changed and is updated within the attachments.

Background: MassDOT committed \$750,000 to provide training and education assistance to toll collectors hired before January 31, 2014 who have been displaced by All Electronic Tolling (AET). MassDOT, Teamsters Local 127 and the Department of Career Services with local One-Stop Career Centers have partnered to help employees of Bargaining Unit F transition into jobs outside of manual toll collection. AET replaced manual toll collection effective July 2016.

The Department of Career Services and certain Career Centers, selected in accordance with residential proximity of a majority of affected workers, previously conducted information sessions. Eligible MassDOT individuals previously attended these information sessions in October-December 2015 and were previously enrolled in the Mass DOT grant.

All MassDOT displaced workers are eligible to receive, at ANY Massachusetts One-Stop Career Center, a variety of employment related labor exchange services including but not limited to job search assistance, job referrals, and placement assistance. Services are delivered in one of three modes including self-service, facilitated self-help services and staff assisted service delivery approaches. Depending on the needs of the labor market, other services such as assessment of job seeker skill levels, abilities and aptitudes, career guidance when appropriate, job search workshops and referral to training may be available.

Training funds (ITAs) are available ONLY at the following Career Center locations and are only available to those workers who previously attended information sessions and were previously enrolled in the Mass DOT grant:

- Boston Career Link, Boston
- Employment and Training Resources, Framingham
- Workforce Central, Worcester
- FutureWorks, Springfield
- The Career Place, Woburn

MassDOT employees displaced due to AET can receive up to \$7,500 for training and education assistance. Employees will not receive direct cash payments and must visit one of the dedicated Career Centers listed above for access to MassDOT training funds. Funds may be used to pay for tuition, fees and other reasonable expenses directly related to the educational or training program, such as books and lab fees. The funds may not be used to purchase laptops, computers, tablets, telephones or other electronic communication devices.

Training providers must be selected from the Massachusetts Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL), Training Pro. Providers of courses that are not currently in Training Pro will be required to file an application and be approved for the MA ETPL. Guidance is provided on the [MA Training Pro](#) website or may be obtained by contacting any local Workforce Development Board.

There are no other qualifying requirements for accessing training, including the type of training that a MassDOT employee selects. However, in cases where a MassDOT employee qualifies for other funding available through the Career Center (e.g. WIA/WIOA Dislocated Worker funding), program rules, including eligibility determination, apply and the customer must be co-enrolled in that program. Career Center staff will support MassDOT employees to make informed, well-thought out decisions when choosing a training provider, the type of training and the availability and appropriateness to the individual of the job being sought.

Availability of training funds is **limited to one** training program per employee, i.e. if a MassDOT employee fails to complete a training program, no additional MassDOT training funds will be made available to that person.

Action

Required: Please assure that all Career Center staff is aware funding remains available and the steps necessary for customers to access training and education assistance for MassDOT employees dislocated due to All Electronic Tolling implementation.

Effective: Immediately

Inquiries: Please email questions to Beth Goguen,
Elizabeth.M.Goguen@MassMail.State.MA.US.

Attachments: A. Voucher Process
B. Individual Training Account Request Form
C. DOT Training Funds Q&A
D. FAQ – Accessing MassDOT/Local 127 Training Funds