

Mass Workforce Issuance

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☒ **Policy** ☐ **Information**

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Board Chairs
Workforce 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: December 14, 2015

Subject: **Sector Partnership National Emergency Grants**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of guidance with respect to the Sector Partnership National Emergency Grants (SP NEGs) program. The purpose of this program is to provide funding to implement new or expand local and regional job-driven partnerships that will serve dislocated workers and achieve better employment-related outcomes for this group of workers.

Background: The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration made available **up to \$150 million** for new **Sector Partnership National Emergency Grants (SP NEGs)**. Individual awards range from \$500,000 to \$7 million. Official notification of the availability of these funds was announced in DOL Training and Employment Guidance Letter ([TEGL No. 31-14](#), April 29, 2015), Sector Partnership National Emergency Grants.

Policy: On June 25, 2015, Massachusetts was awarded \$3,277,190.00 in WIA Dislocated Workers National Emergency Grants to implement Sector Partnership NEG programs (SP NEGs). National Emergency Grants (NEGs) are discretionary grants awarded by the Secretary of Labor under section 170 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that are intended to temporarily expand service capacity at the state and local levels by providing time-limited funding assistance in response to dislocation events. The SP NEG grants runs from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017. The SP NEG grant is planned to train 323 dislocated

workers with a goal of placing 275 in employment at manufacturing businesses that are participating in five regional manufacturing sector partnerships across the state.

To be eligible to participants in the SP NEG programs the training participants' must meet the WIOA Title I eligibility requirements as dislocated worker.

Targeted populations include:

- i) Veterans Priority (Dislocated Workers definition applies)
- ii) Long-term unemployed jobseekers (unemployed for at least 27 weeks in aggregate over the past year)
- iii) UI recipients that have been profiled as likely to exhaust their benefits
- iv) Foreign-trained immigrant workers, who qualify as dislocated workers, and have faced barriers to obtaining employment in their trained field or profession

The program is being administered in five major workforce areas: Bristol, Franklin-Hampshire, Hampden, North Central and the Northeast (Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium comprised of Greater Lowell, Lower Merrimack Valley, Metro North and North Shore).

Three other workforce boards in the southeast region will receive technical assistance in regional planning activities from the Commonwealth Corporation (CommCorp) – Greater New Bedford, South Shore and Brockton. CommCorp will provide support to each of these three workforce boards to research and share examples of similar programs, assist in the development of program design and provide support to address challenges with completing the program design.

Additionally, CommCorp will convene the Workforce Boards in the southeast region throughout the duration of the 2 year grant to discuss employer needs, share progress in developing training program designs and identify opportunities for leveraged resources.

Services for all SP NEG participants must be tracked in MOSES and all participants must have an up-to-date case plan in MOSES. Please refer to the MOSES User Guide for MOSES data-entry instruction that is specific to NEG programs.

Unless otherwise specified, implementing regions should follow their specific SP NEG Statement of Work in conjunction with local policy with regard to program operation, including enrollment into training (ITA, OJT, etc.), and training justification. If a local area elects to apply a policy to the SP NEG program that is different from a local policy, a SP NEG policy must be developed to state the exception and receive approval from the local workforce board.

Effective: Immediately

Inquiries: Please email all questions and/or requests for technical assistance to PolicyQA@detma.org. Please include Issuance number and description.