



National Dislocated Worker Grants

A comparison of Disaster Recovery and Employment Recovery DWGs

National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) are time-limited supplemental funds awarded by the Secretary of Labor under Section 170 of WIOA to provide employment-related services to dislocated workers in response to major economic dislocations or other events that cause significant impact on the state and local workforce development system. To enable states and communities to respond to and recover from large, unexpected dislocation events, the Department funds two types of DWGs: Disaster Recovery and Employment Recovery.

The following chart summarizes the key similarities and differences between the two DWG types and provides links for more detailed and related information.

Purpose	Disaster Recovery DWG	Employment Recovery DWG
Provide temporary disaster-relief employment (DRE), as well as employment and training activities, as appropriate, to minimize the employment and economic impact of declared disasters and emergency situations in the affected region.	✓	
Provide resources to respond to major economic dislocations, such as plant closures, mass layoffs, military base realignments, and closures, causing significant job losses.		✓

Qualifying Events	Disaster Recovery DWG	Employment Recovery DWG
<i>Emergencies and major disasters</i> , as defined under Section 102 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5122), declared by FEMA as eligible for public assistance pursuant.	✓	
<i>Emergencies or disaster situations of national significance</i> , natural or man-made, that could result in a potentially large loss of employment, as declared by the chief official of a federal agency with jurisdiction over the Federal response to the disaster or emergency.	✓	
<i>Relocation of a substantial number of individuals</i> from a state, tribal area, or outlying area to another region due to a declared disaster or emergency.	✓	
<i>Mass layoffs or plant closures</i> that affect 50 or more workers from one employer.		✓
<i>Community impact</i> - Multiple small dislocations occurring over a period of up to 12 months that have significantly increased the number of unemployed individuals in a region or local workforce area.		✓
<i>Higher-than-average demand for employment and training activities from dislocated military service members and dislocated military spouses</i> that exceeds state and local resources.		✓



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Eligible Applicants	Disaster Recovery DWG	Employment Recovery DWG
A State	✓	✓
Outlying areas	✓	✓
Indian tribal governments (as defined by the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5122(6)).	✓	
Entities eligible for funding through the Indian and Native American program at WIOA Section 166 .		✓
Entities determined appropriate to apply by the Governor.		✓
Entities that demonstrate to the Secretary of Labor their capability to effectively respond to particular dislocation events.		✓
Eligible Participants	Disaster Recovery DWG	Employment Recovery DWG
Dislocated workers as defined in WIOA Section 3(15).	✓	✓
Individuals temporarily or permanently laid off because of the emergency or disaster.	✓	
Long-term unemployed individuals, as defined by the grantee.	✓	
Self-employed individuals who became unemployed or significantly underemployed due to disaster.	✓	

Allowable Grant Activities	Disaster Recovery DWG	Employment Recovery DWG
<i>Employment and Training</i> - Career Services including outreach, intake, labor exchange services, initial and comprehensive assessments, development of an individual employment plan, referral, labor market information, list of eligible training providers, and availability of supportive services. See the Career Services section of TEGL 19-16 beginning on page 2 for details. - Training Services such as occupational training and work-based learning such as on-the-job training and Registered Apprenticeships. See the Training Services section of TEGL 19-16 starting on page 5 for details.	✓	✓
Temporary <i>disaster-relief employment</i> that enables - clean-up and recovery efforts within the declared disaster area and/or - delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of a federally declared disaster or emergency.	✓	
Supportive Services to enable individuals to	✓	



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• participate safely and effectively in disaster-relief employment, and/or • achieve success in employment and training activities (such as assistance with transportation, and childcare).		
<i>Supportive Services</i> to enable individuals to participate in employment and training activities		✓

References

TEGL 16-21 *Updated National Dislocated Worker Grant Program Guidance* (June 16, 2022) <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-guidance-letter-no-16-21>

TEGL19-16, *Guidance on Services Provided through the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service (ES), as amended by title III of WIOA, and for Implementation of the WIOA Final Rules* (March 1, 2017) <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-guidance-letter-no-19-16>

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (Pub. L. 113-128) (July 22, 2014) <https://www.congress.gov/113/bills/hr803/BILLS-113hr803enr.pdf>