

Transcript: CAREER DWG Reporting TA Session 12/14/21

>> JESSIE OETTINGER: Welcome everybody. I hope you're all here for the Career Dislocated Worker Grant: Performance Technical Assistance session – if you are you're in the right place. We're still waiting for one of our presenters, so we wanted to let everybody in and say hello. And there he is so we will get started within the next minute or so. I just want to give all these other folks in the lobby a chance to make their way into the room. Can everybody see my screen with the webinar that says Career Dislocated Worker Grants? Is that visible?

[Everyone heads nod yes]

All right and so as you're all making your way into the room – it's just a reminder, this is a teams meeting, everybody has the power to mute and unmute and with that power comes great responsibility so if we could all make sure we're muted, that would be really helpful. All right, thank you. All right, I still see some folks trickling in. While they're trickling in we can get ourselves kicked off, so welcome again to the session for Career DWG grants, so this is a follow-up session from the orientation that DOL hosted in October and this session is really geared towards grantees under the career initiative that are new to DWG reporting and are not a state agency. And so, we want to keep things pretty informal today – we do have a formal presentation we have some slides to get through but we're hoping to dedicate a big portion of today's meeting to Q&A and so hopefully you guys can be putting questions in the chat and at the end when we get to the Q&A, we'll invite folks to unmute themselves and ask their questions if they like.

So, as I mentioned to that end. A little bit of housekeeping – this is like I said a pretty informal meeting, everybody can mute and unmute yourself, so please keep yourself muted. You can turn your cameras off if you like. Maybe when we get to the speaking portion if you want to turn them on again, so the presenters can see your face when you're asking questions that's always welcome but no pressure. So, you should all have access to your cameras as well. Throughout the presentation we'll be monitoring the chat so if you have questions or comments – feel free to use that to comment or ask questions we will track those and make sure the presenters get them at the end. And yeah, we can keep moving, we'll have lots of time to get to those questions.

All right, so today we have two primary presenters, as well as myself. So, my name is Jessie Oettinger, I work for Social Policy Research Associates. I sent out the invite today. I'm very happy to have you all here. My team and I are working with DOL to support the Dislocated Worker Grant so you'll likely see lots of more emails from me and my team over the next few years and we're really looking forward to working with you. I'm joined today by two seasoned technical reporting experts those are the folks you really came to see, so Kim Powell is with us and she's with the DWG program office and she works on performance reporting for all the DWG grantees so you might have already had a chance to interact with Kim, over WIPS or through other means. We also have Kellen Grode with us and Kellen is with ETA's office of Policy Development and Research and he's an expert on the reporting systems that are used by the ETA grantees so if you have some technical questions about uploading your files to WIPS – Kellen is a great resource.

All right and so our agenda today, as I mentioned this is a follow-up from that October webinar so we'll start by reviewing some of the WIPS information that was shared then and providing a little context for that. And then, Kim is going to... or Kellen is going to talk about wage matching and the options for wage

matching and working with your state to do your performance reporting if that's something you're choosing to do. We'll end with some information about who to follow up with if you have questions about reporting that don't get answered in this webinar or come up as you start... [inaudible] Can everybody please mute themselves? Thank you. All right, and then we'll end with Q&A from the audience.

All right, so I told you a little bit about who we are but we're really curious to see who came toward the webinar today so we're going to start with a quick couple of polls about who came today and my colleague, Sergio, is going to put a link in the chat, so look for that and that will take you to a poll where you can answer some questions about who you are. And Sergio, you can also share your screen so we can see those live results. So, you know this session is geared towards grantees but I also want to acknowledge there are a lot of federal staff here too and you are also quite welcome if you wanted to pop any of your information in the chat and just let folks know that you're here as well that'd be great.

All right, so it looks like so far lots of folks from local workforce development boards, some others a couple community-based organizations so that's some good representation. Great, it looks like the voting is slowing down. So, Sergio, do you want to move on to our next poll? So, we had a follow-up question, so it looks like got a good mix of non-state grantees but what is your level of experience with dislocated worker grants or reporting on some of these WIOA performance measures. Okay so we've got... all right, I love watching these live polling results. We have a good number of first-time grantees so again you are in the right place, that's terrific. I'm glad you're here hopefully we can answer some of your questions, massage any of your concerns about your upcoming reporting. All right, so good mix of folks in the room – excellent. All right, Sergio, I'm going to go back to the slide deck as these polls come in, but this is really helpful information so thank you all for voting.

All right, we talked about who's in the audience today. All right, one last announcement from me before we move into the content and that's that you all sort of received an email on Friday or a WIPS newsletter that made this announcement which is that the login portal or the protocol for getting into WIPS to do your performance reporting has changed and so everybody is now going to log in through something called login.gov and that's going to... so it changes the way you're going to log into WIPS moving forward and that conversion is going to happen, it needs to happen by January 15th so on Friday the 10th you should have gotten a newsletter article and some resources including step-by-step screenshot instructions on how to do this. So hopefully you got that email if you didn't, it could be that it's somebody else in your organization got that so as long as the people who need access to WIPS have done this and have created their logon login.gov instructions, you should be good. If you do have questions about this or you don't know what we're talking about feel free to drop those questions in the chat and we can address those if we have time or answer them if we have the answers but hopefully everybody is on board with this and has been working on this already.

And again, we have another poll. So we are curious if you if you got the email and if you are aware of this transition and folks have made the switch to login.gov yet. So again, you can use that same link that Sergio put in the chat, it looks like folks have already started answering so we have at least one person who has set up their login. Oh good, two people set up their login.gov account. Nobody is saying that they haven't heard of login.gov so I think that is probably the best news and for those of you who haven't done it yet – don't worry you still have one month and one day, so make sure you put that on your list of things to do before leaving for the holiday if you're planning to take any time off and again if

you have any questions about that your FPO is probably a great resource or you can always put some questions in today's chat as well. All right, thank you Sergio. I'm going to go back to the PowerPoint and I'm going to transition to Kim who's going to do a review of the WIPS system so Kim over to you.

>> KIM POWELL: Thank you Jessie and you can just stay on this slide for a minute. Hi everyone, I'm Kim Powell. I presented on performance reporting for these career DWG grantees at the new grantee orientation so today I'm just going to do a very quick review and then we'll get into some of the more technical details so you can turn to the next slide.

I'm just going to as a reminder there are two reports each quarter for performance a QPR, the quarterly performance and a QNR, the quarterly narrative. There's a chart on the screen here that shows the quarter end dates and shows the deadline for each report quarter so the next reports are due on February 15th and those will cover the time period from October 1st to December 31st and both reports are submitted and certified in WIPS. So grantees at this point should have a WIPS user account and I know we've already gotten a lot of user account requests from this group so I think you're well on your way.

Okay you can turn to the next slide. This is a screenshot that just shows a web page which is called the WIPS resource page. It contains a lot of resources and information on WIPS. You can link to the WIPS system from here and from here you can also launch a help request ticket so if you're having a technical WIPS issues or a new account request you can do that from here. So, all the WIPS resources and help can be found here on ETA's WIPS webpage. So now we're going to take a deeper dive specifically on reporting participant data in WIPS and Kellen is going to walk through the technical details for you to get ready to report on services and outcomes for grant participants.

>> KELLEN GRODE: Great, thanks Kim. So, if we could move to the next slide Jessie.

So just in general, at a very high level for grantees that are not states you basically have two options for getting the reports submitted to DOL and so you can see those here, but the first option is to work with your state workforce agency to have them work out an arrangement where they will submit the reports on your behalf. The second option you can see here is to do those submissions yourselves and in WIPS and leverage what's called the common reporting information system or CRIS which we'll talk more about what that means as we go through but the very high level is that CRIS is the way that we obtain wage record matches for grantees that are not states because states are able to do that wage matching themselves against the UI wages whereas other grantees are not and so we leverage CRIS in order to do that and we'll talk more about that here in a minute. But the choice to do the submissions yourself, does mean that you'll have to do things like uploading individual participant records which will then generate your quarterly performance reports in WIPS just... you can go to the next slide.

So, when the WIPS upload is completed by the state which is something that I think we would encourage because the states do have established systems for doing this is that you would essentially this option would mean that you're working with the state workforce agencies to develop an arrangement by which they would be submitting these reports for you into WIPS and they would be doing those pieces that I just talked about uploading individual records to generate the QPR the benefits

you know of this. There's the established infrastructure that these states already have right there's their pre-existing experience with reporting. I think one note here is that while this is an option that's allowable it does not necessarily mean that it does not mean that the states are required to work with you so it would require some work to develop that partnership in a way that be satisfactory for all parties. There is a handout that I think was provided prior to today's session that sort of should help maybe start some of those conversations and I think as you can see on the slide here, one of the pieces that would almost certainly be required in order to make that arrangement work is a data sharing agreement between your organization and the state workforce agency that you're working with and that is you know essential for getting them the information in that they would need in a legal manner in order to collect due to the wage matching collect that data and then submit it on your behalf. A thing that I would note here is that and this is true regardless of if you have this arrangement or the CRIS arrangement which we'll talk about is that it's still important to attempt the collection of social security numbers from participants because whether it's the state conducting the wage matching or the department of labor through this CRIS process. The wage matching for that is dependent on social security numbers.

Now the caveat to that point is that participants are not required to provide the social security number, but you should be asking for it at the very least and then I think the only other point there here that I wanted to make is that there will be some variations in how states may operationalize this and so that's important to have those conversations about what their process looks like and looking at. Oh, and Jessie helpfully put in the chat the name of the handout that I was referencing which is the WIPS instructions for states uploading for non-state grantees so that's I think helpful for you all when you have those conversations with states because it shows the states what their options are in terms of how they would be submitting that data. Some states you know prefer to submit it all as one big file, some prefer to break it out and there's a few other options described in that handout that's important information that you can share with the states when you're having those conversations. So now to talk more about if you as the grantee are doing the submissions and to upload if you choose this approach just to go over some things that that are important to be aware of that you would be responsible for. So, you would be responsible for uploading a profile into the WIPS system which means that you have a file with all of these individual records that gets uploaded and then WIPS will process it. There are some very there are various options when you're reporting into WIPS in terms of what version of this pearl layout that you're using which we are strongly recommending using pearl 2021 that way you don't have to make updates later on down the road if the pearl version changes. There's also multiple schema options the primary one that you'll want to be aware of is the one we call the SIRS schema which it stands for state integrator reporting schema. This is the primary schema that DWGs use, although you can choose to use what is called the full pearl the main difference there is the number of columns in the file so the full pearl allows you to report on any element that is included in the pearl regardless of which program is trying to collect it. It's a lot more columns involved in submitting that information whereas the SIRS is paired down to just what's required for the subset of programs that use this that schema of which dislocated worker grants is one of them. The screenshot that you see here on-screen sort of is the one of the initial screens that you would see when you're going in to upload and certify your data. What's demonstrated here is after you've selected your pearl version and your schema name and your target program what becomes available is a list of grants that you are able to report on now this is a pretty long list this is one of our states lists. For most of you all it'll probably be one maybe two grant numbers that'll show up and you'll select the numbers that you want to be reporting on and then move on to the

next step. See what else do I want to talk about on this slide here before we go to the next. There's another handout that's related to this which you should have been provided which is called new DWG upload instructions, this screenshot is straight from there and that would walk you through the full step-by-step of what you would be needing to do in order to upload this file to generate your report for certification. As a part of this you would be responsible for the certifying of the data which we're going to you know we'll talk about a little bit more here and then as a part of that process also responding to edit checks which we have a whole slide on top to talk about what the edit checks process looks like which I think might be next so if we could jump to that slide here

So, the edit check process is something that's applied to every single file that gets uploaded or the QPR part of the process so there's not the same edit checks on the QN the narrative reports but on the performance reports where you're uploading individual records. There will be edit checks and we have a screenshot that's maybe a little bit hard to see here but it's in the DWG... it's from the DWG reporting guide one of there's an appendices c I want to say or three, I can't remember how we numbered them that walks through the step by step of responding to edit checks but just at a sort of a high level of how the edit checks work the first thing that gets checked when you upload a file is that the file format is compliant so that means it's one of the allowable formats which I think are csv, txt or a zipped file. Now I don't think most of you will have to worry about a zip file because that's really for our state grantees that have millions of records that they're submitting. The file size for a csv or a txt that you all will be submitting is probably not going to be a concern for WIPS. The other part of the file format that it checks is that there's the correct number of columns in the file and it does that by checking each row to make sure that there's – by end counting the commas in each row. Typically, that's not too much of a challenge for these performance reports the only place where it could come into play is maybe if there's... I can't remember for this particular schema if there's any cells in the performance report that are text based but text based ones are where there's most likely to be trip buffs because it may be an additional delimiter like another comma or an apostrophe that WIPS might read as an additional column because of the way csvs are saved but for the most part really you just got to make sure that you have the right number of commas or columns to separate all of the different values that are needing to be reported in the schema and you can sort of check that in the schema will give you the number of columns that there should be in there. I don't off the top of my head know what that number is for SIRS but there is a schema available on the website that that you'll be able to verify that against and we can drop that in the chat too at some point. Once you've cleared the file format check then there's three types of what we officially consider to be edit checks in the in it and WIPS will run through these in order so the first check, it will check is valid values this is things like making sure that the types of characters in a certain cell are appropriate for that particular element and that the length is appropriate for that particular element. So if you know in the pearl it says that an element can only be two characters long and it has to be numbers then it'll check to make sure that it's two characters long enough there are numbers there's no letters or it's not three characters long or whatever otherwise it'll spit back an error on your error report which is what the screenshots on the slide are indicating their screenshots of what the error reports look like. Once you get past valid value checks the next thing it checks is for duplicate records there's a set of I think nine tests that WIPS runs against the records within the file to see if any of them look like duplicates primarily making sure that things like the same individual indicator doesn't have multiple records for the same time periods you know there's more details to that when you look at the edit check files. They're more detailed descriptions of what they are but essentially it's making sure that you don't have two records for the same person. And then, finally once it clears duplicate checks

then it goes to the logical value checks and so this is where we're testing specific elements against each other to make sure that the values being reported make sense. A very simple explanation of or example I should say is that the date of program exit can't be before the date of program entry some of them get more complicated than that but it's just a series of these sort of logical checks that we know logically cannot be true and so we've enforced that that logic is applied throughout these files. Having described that process I think maybe this next bullet point is self-evident but it's important to start testing your files early in order to make sure that you can clear all of these checks right. Typically, you know for some of our state grantees that have a lot of records they may start a couple weeks to even a month before the due date doing a test submission of their file just to see how many errors come back and identify what those are and start cleaning them up. That's not the only approach that you could take some folks take like some a sample of their file and put you know 5, 10, 20, 50 records through and see what types of errors they're getting and then try to apply the fix to the rest of their records. Regardless of what you choose to do in terms of approaching that process our recommendation is to start testing early because the worst thing you could have happen is to really stress yourself out by not testing the submission until the day that it's due and then try to upload it and find out that, oh now I've got you know 100, 200 whatever errors being triggered that I have to fix and then hope that the fix didn't create new errors that then we got to fix again. So, test early, test often the system doesn't care how many times you attempt to submit – you just got to certify one once if you if you real certify and make them realize you made a mistake you can overwrite it with a new certification so we're not going to get mad at you for testing a hundred times if that's what it takes and you know hopefully it doesn't take a hundred times but you know the system is agnostic to how many times you attempt to upload. All that we care about in the end is what that final certified file looks like and I think it looks like Sergio's dropped in the chat a link to the edit checks page which is what this final bullet point is saying just to check that out in the file, it'll show what the edit checks are which programs it applies to so you'll look for the ones that apply to DWG and know that those are the ones that you need to make sure that you're able to pass I think that is a lot but that's probably it for now on edit checks and we can move to the next slide

So now we're going to go to the next big topic that we wanted to discuss today which is wage matching and I've sort of started to get into this a little bit. But essentially what wage matching does in general is we take the participants social security number, and we match it against UI wage records in order to determine essentially if they were employed and if they were earning anything and then that information sort of is used to then populate four of the indicators that are part of the primary indicators of performance. So those four indicators are median earnings in the second quarter after exit, employment rate in the second quarter after exit, employment rate in the fourth quarter after exit, and then retention with the same employer which you may hear also called effectiveness of serving employers. So those are the four measures that we do based on wage matching, and this comes back to then that decision that you're making about whether or not to work with the states or leverage CRIS and essentially that is just a decision about how you want to get that data and how it comes back to you. There's some differences there, I'm going to talk about that here in a second actually yeah right now let's get this next slide.

So what is CRIS is the question that this this slide proposes and the reason why we want to talk about it is that you know for you all career DWG grantees if you choose to report to DOL directly rather than working with the state then there is the option that we would recommend which is to use CRIS in order to get wage matches to obtain outcomes if you report to us but don't participate in the CRIS option then

all of your outcomes for those four measures we just discussed would be based purely on supplemental information that you provide and in our experience because of the amount of follow-up that's necessary in order to obtain follow-up supplemental information the results end up looking much lower than they do if you're leveraging wage records which CRIS does. So, in terms of how it works as I mentioned you know we need a social security number so make sure that when you've obtained social security numbers that you're including those in pearl element 2700 and the way that it works is that that information that you upload in your file we then extract pieces of that into a bigger file that we encrypt and securely send over to the state of Kansas who then leverages, what we call the Swiss which is the state wage interchange system to query against UI wage records in all of the states in the country so typically each state manages their own UI wage record system but because of this Swiss arrangement that we've set up we can actually in one system query the UI wage records, no matter what state somebody might be employed in and so with CRIS we leverage that Kansas processes the results based on the information the records that we send them and then they generate aggregate numbers that they share back with us and they'll add suppression rules for small sample sizes in order to protect individuals personal identity. But once we get that information back then we have aggregate numbers that tell us things about employment rates for program individual grantees as well as the program as a whole tells us maybe a little bit more there's a few different aggregations that we also get back and the long-term plan although this is not implemented as of this date is that this information will get appended back into your quarterly performance reports that you'll be able to and then you'll be able to see those in WIPS. We're anticipating that that update to WIPS will be happening soon, but it is not implemented as of me speaking so... but it should be within the next quarter or two I would imagine. I don't want to promise for sure that it will because things happen but we expect relatively soon that you'll be able to see that attached to a QPR that you file and in fact, I think for most of you all because of the data lag in both the timing of the measurement of these measures as well as the collection of the data by the time that your exiters will be reaching the cohorts for the measures this will already be implemented in WIPS so by the time you... maybe it would be relevant for you all to see these measures. We'll be already appending the results into QPR's and so that's I think the general overview of how that process works. Let me just go through my notes here make sure I'm not forgetting anything.

So, there's a question that came in in the chat and it's a good question and so I want to talk about it in both the context of CRIS as well as working with the states. The question is through this process are we going to get specific information about individuals by social or just aggregate totals. The answer is just aggregate totals and this is going to be regardless of if you work through CRIS or with the state and the reason for that is related to, if I'm not mistaken UI law, in terms of the way that information gathered from UI wage records is allowed to be shared. There is a limited number of parties that are able to look at it by individual and then outside of those groups third parties are only able to receive aggregate information about those results so you wouldn't be able to see individual records I think the one place where there's a little bit of difference not from your all's in but from the US DOL end is that we would if you work with the states, we would be able to see individual record information from those UI wage records whereas through the CRIS process we don't even get to see individual level UI record information by four participants we only get aggregate information that way but for most of you that are not state grantees, I think regardless of which approach you're taking the results that come out of UI wage matching are going to always be aggregate for you. You will still see information by the supplemental information that you provide right that information can always be individualized in your system or if you're working with the states in the state system, but you won't see it for the stuff that's

generated using the UI records. There's a follow-up question or maybe a second question about the difference in quality and accuracy between the CRIS data and your own state UI data. There shouldn't be any difference and I say that with one caveat which is that I think the quality and accuracy there shouldn't be a difference. The difference that you're going to see there between CRIS data and in individual state data is that the CRIS data will be looking at the UI data from all states versus just a single state. Now that being said if you're working with a state they're a part of this agreement that allows them to query all of these states as well. So in that in that case like there shouldn't really be a difference in terms of the data that you're seeing the quality and accuracy should be pretty high, I would say there's limitations that are going to apply whether it's CRIS or working with the state for the UI matching which is that at least currently UI wage information does not include information about federal employees including military, postal and then it will also be missing information about individuals that are self-employed. And so, that you know for me I think what you all can take away from that is that if you know through working with participants that they're falling into one of those categories based on where they've been placed. Those are the individuals that you want to really focus on for your follow-up activities right because you know they're not going to show up in the UI wage matching. Are there other questions about this before we move on? Did I get to all the questions? I know that I tried to get to once I saw as they were coming in. There's one about sharing the pearl – I don't know if we can Sergio or Jessie if we can drop that in the chat there, we do have a reporting page where that's available, but Kim or Jessie may have a collection of resources that they're sharing as all groups together I'm not sure. But we can certainly give that to you.

>> JESSIE OETTINGER: Yeah it's on the WIPS performance page. I can drop that in the chat again and kind of just hopping around a little bit but I would just also direct folks attention to – I think we sent out another handout called career DWG's performance reporting information. And just in case you are trying to furiously take notes like a lot of the information we presented today is also in that handout and there are a bunch of links in there. The same links that Sergio is putting in the chat and quick note there are pdfs and if you're having trouble making the links work, just check your pdf reader and your internet browser and make sure that they are allowed to talk to each other and if you're really having trouble getting the links off of that you can let me know and I can send you a word version so anyway just some more notes about the handouts there

>> KELLEN GRODE: Yeah, well if that's all the questions I think we can move to the next slide which I think I'm handing back over to you Jessie.

>> JESSIE OETTINGER: Yeah, I think so. All right, so that was a lot of information but hopefully you have been thinking about this. So the next steps for you as grantees is if you are planning to work with your state and you haven't initiated that conversation I'd get definitely get in touch now and a couple things would flag is again that handout that we sent out that Kellen drafted which is the information that they need to know to understand what it would entail for them to do the reporting for you, so that's a great conversation starter it might have some technical information for them that helps them figure out how and if they can help you with your reporting, so just another plug for that handout. You'd also want to

make sure that you have a data sharing agreement in place that conforms to that Teagle and I believe and that's earlier in the chat but again it's also in this handout the one about performance reporting so there's good information about getting a data sharing agreement in place. And then as soon as you figure it out please let your FPO know how you're planning to do your reporting and the reason for this is that if you are going to have your state help you with reporting they need to be able to access your grant through WIPS and be able to upload that file for you, so by you alerting your FPO then the WIPS team knows that can provide that proper amount of access. So let your FPOs know as soon as you have figured it out how you're planning to do your reporting. And then, FPOs because I know we've got a lot of FPOs on the line as well. Once you hear from grantees if you could put that information in the spreadsheet on the ETA L drive with the grantee reporting plan. We would love to have all of that information in by the end of the year.

And so, this brings us to our final poll. Which is hopefully folks have been thinking about this and we are very curious, how are you planning to complete your wage matching? So again, you can use that same poll from Sergio and we'll just get a sense of how folks are working on this and maybe we can form some specific cohorts on folks who are either they're a bunch of CRIS grantees maybe you can get together and share tips. All right, so some good representation on the CRIS front. A lot of folks working with their state. Again, those states are really set up to report on WIOA and they've got that MIS in place and those folks who are pretty experienced they probably all talked to Kellen before when they had some issues with WIPS, so all right some good representation from all fronts for those of you who aren't sure, just make sure that you've got the decision figured out by the end of December. All right, so Sergio, I'm going to take the screen back.

All right, mostly to just flip us over... oh so just some last minute items so we are going to go into a Q&A session we'll talk about that in a sec but you know as you start working on your WIPS reporting, just some direction if it's a WIPS issue if you're having trouble with the actual platform and uploading your file and you think you need TA from like the folks who run that. You can file a ticket either in WIPS or you can go to the WIPS technical assistance page on the ETA page so that's another way to get in touch with that team. If you have a questions about performance, you know again your best bet is to check with your FPO first and if you want or what might also be helpful is to copy your regional performance specialists and these folks should also have some good guidance for you if it's a performance question.

For those of you who don't know who your performance specialist is or even what region you're in we have a little map here. These are the DOL regions and I believe Sergio is going to put a contact link in the chat as well. So that's for following up with folks after this webinar as you're testing your file in January. Everybody's going to give themselves lots of time before that February 15th deadline hopefully much more happier valentine's day that way.

All right and so this brings us to our Q&A session and so we're going to be watching the chat. So, if folks want to just ask questions you can raise your hand. There's a little icon of a smiley face and a hand raising so if you want to raise your hand, we'll call on people to ask questions. You can also just drop stuff in the chat if that feels more comfortable, so we'll also be monitoring the chat. And I welcome anyone, grantees to ask questions, FPOs if you want to ask questions on behalf of your grantees or on behalf of folks who aren't here. So, we did get a question, Kellen. We will not be enrolling individuals, we are outreach focused only, do we still need wage matches and that's from Jill Watson.

>> KELLEN GRODE: I think this is maybe a Kim question, but my reaction is no, right. And I'm less familiar with and I've heard that there's different types of these current ranks so maybe this question for Kim.

>> KIM POWELL: Yeah, you would only create a pearl file and have the participant data if you are enrolling participants. o if you're not enrolling participants then you don't need to do that.

>> KELLEN GRODE: For Kim, maybe this is a question that some of those folks may be having as well but if they are not enrolling participants, do they still need to submit a narrative and if so then they would need to create a WIPS profile still. Correct?

>> KIM POWELL: Yes. So, every type of career grantee, no matter what kind of focus your grant is taking would do the quarterly narrative report. And so, that would require WIPS user account to submit the QNR and so you just include in the QNR updates on the activities for that quarter and there's a template for the QNR so it will walk you through different questions and focus on different areas of the grant you can report on.

>> JESSIE OETTINGER: Great. Any other questions? I am scanning this long list of folks, I'm not saying hands up, but you know feel free to unmute yourself and ask a question. It's also been a lot of information today, so we recognize that folks are still processing it. But I'll give folks a little bit of time to finish typing in the chat that's what you're doing.

>> KIM POWELL: I'll mention also I know that there were a lot of links available in the chat today and we are going to be building a community of practice that will be available for all of the dislocated worker grants and so we will begin to populate that community of practice online and we'll send the information out when it's available. But we're hoping that will be kind of a centralized place to house a lot of these technical assistance resources and in the meantime most of it is found on ETA's website. There's a DWG program page that has a performance section and then there's also a general ETA performance section that has the WIPS information so a lot of the links that we're giving you can also be found on those places.

>> JESSIE OETTINGER: And it looks like we did get another question here in the chat from Brienne Davis, for our grant we are serving participants through subsidized employment and then we have another goal to serve a certain amount of people through workforce support which is a much higher number do we need to enroll anyone receiving workforce support or just those receiving subsidized employment and services. Is this a QNR, QPR question, Kim?

>> KIM POWELL: I think I would need to know more... I don't know how to answer that question just by reading it. I think I need to hear a few more details on it.

>> JESSIE OETTINGER: Brienne, do you feel comfortable unmuting and talking through this?

>> KIM POWELL: I'm wondering if it's a is it an on-the-job training.

>> JESSIE OETTINGER: Ah okay. Brienne said no problem they'll follow up with their program specialist. Okay, great. Any other questions from the audience or any of our FPOs or other federal staff on the line?

>> KELLEN GRODE: Just a thought on that question which may not be the actual answer to the question, but it made me think of something that might be worth flagging for everyone right that may be less familiar with how the pearl is set up. So, when you report on somebody in the pearl, you're providing information about the individual demographic information when they started in the program when they completed the program, what their outcomes were to the extent that that applies, and it's not based on the UI records right. But you're also reporting on what types of services they received and so you know it sounds like the answer to this question might be you would report on both pieces of information and if the same person got both types of services, you would just indicate that in different parts of that individual's record within them, within your submission. So that maybe the answer to the question that's being asked I don't know for sure as Kim said without more detail but it's worth noting that you know one record should reflect all of the services that an individual received, not a separate record for each type of service.

>> KIM POWELL: And really, any participant should be included in the pearl file, regardless of the level of service so the answer might be yes.

>> JESSIE OETTINGER: Great. And then, Samantha Hansen had a question. So, Samantha, go ahead and mute yourself and feel free to ask your question.

>> SAMANTHA HANSEN: Okay, yeah. I was just following up on those answers so the question we had was do they have to fill out the application but I'm assuming if we're reporting them on the pearl then they would have to fill out the application to be considered a part of receiving a service under this grant as far as the reporting is required. Because a lot of what's on the pearl is also on the app so that's why...

>> KELLEN GRODE: Yeah, I think I mean my immediate thought is that you would use the information from that application you referenced to generate a lot of that initial information about the individual for their for their record right so if you're you know asking about date of birth or you know, race, ethnicity, gender, you know those types of like demographic questions. If those are part of the application then that information can be pulled into their pearl record and then you would add on as services are provided, you'd add in that information to that record as well.

>> SAMANTHA HANSEN: All right, thank you.

>> JESSIE OETTINGER: Then Charlotte had a question if you wanted to mute yourself, Charlotte.

>> CHARLOTTE: I will. Kellen, this is a CRIS question. In this clarification when you were saying earlier about the benefit between the CRIS and UI, you said UI doesn't capture federal employment and those kinds of things. Does CRIS capture that?

>> KELLEN GRODE: It's a good question. So, no because CRIS is still based on the UI wage records right. It's just a matter of how we're getting to them that that changes essentially. I will say that we're working on trying to incorporate federal records as a part of the CRIS process as well as the Swiss that is used by the states but at this time, we don't have a data sharing agreement established that allows for that so at some point if we are able to establish that at some point that may get incorporated into the process and you all won't have to do anything differently. If it does and you know if that happens you know we'll probably see a bump in outcomes, you know across the board areas or grantees that maybe have more individuals being served by federal or that are serving people that go into federal employment would potentially benefit more from us being able to establish that type of data sharing agreement but at this time that is not something that is in place.

>> CHARLOTTE: Okay, thanks.

>> JESSIE OETTINGER: Alright, we still have about four minutes left so last chance. You've got Kellen in the hot seat, got Kim here. It's been a pretty quiet group so again I just referenced the follow-up page so your FPO always a great place to start if you have any questions and those regional performance specialists and I think somebody pointed this out but if you're looking for something google is a really helpful resource. There aren't too many other competing pearl acronyms out there in the internet world so that's always helpful for finding some solutions if you're late at night trying to figure some of the stuff out. So, it looks like we don't have a lot of other questions. I'm going to release everybody three minutes early for those of you on the west coast maybe get a little jump on your lunch but it was great having everybody here today and yeah, I don't know. Kim or Kellen, do you want to say anything else to close this out?

>> KELLEN GRODE: I think I had one last thought which is related to the point that I made earlier when I was talking about edit checks specifically about starting early. I think that maybe that advice may go beyond that right. I think while there's maybe not a lot of questions right now as you start working on building the reports and trying to submit them that may trigger these additional questions that you might have and so being able to have started early will definitely help us to be able to answer you timely because as we get closer to deadlines as you might expect that's when we start getting floods of questions and help requests and stuff like that so the earlier you get those to us the easier it is for us to turn around a quick answer to you.

>> KIM POWELL: Great. Thank you, Kellen. Thank you so much for all the Information and thanks everyone for attending.

>> JESSIE OETTINGER: All right. Bye everyone. Thanks for being here today.