

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Desk Reference

National Dislocated Worker Grants - Overview

National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) are discretionary grants awarded by the Secretary of Labor. DWGs provide resources to states and other eligible applicants to respond to large, unexpected layoff events causing significant job losses. In addition, DWGs may fund disaster relief employment to assist with recovery efforts in federally declared disaster areas. There are two types of DWGs:

Employment Recovery DWGs temporarily expand capacity to serve dislocated workers, including military service members, and meet the increased demand for WIOA employment and training services, with a purpose to reemploy laid off workers and enhance their employability and earnings.

Disaster Recovery DWGs provide funding to create temporary employment opportunities to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts, when an area impacted by disaster is declared eligible for public assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or otherwise recognized by a federal agency with authority or jurisdiction over federal response to the emergency or disaster. Unlike Employment Recovery DWGs, Disaster Recovery DWGs uniquely provide wages to participants assisting with clean up and recovery efforts.

GRANTEES

Eligible applicants for DWGs may include:

- ◆ A designated WIOA program agency in a state or outlying area or a consortium of states;
- ◆ A Local Workforce Development Board (WDB) or a consortium of WDBs;
- ◆ Entities eligible to receive funding under WIOA 166(c) (Indian and Native American Program);
- ◆ Other entities determined to be appropriate by the Governor; and
- ◆ Entities that demonstrate to the Secretary of Labor their capability to effectively respond to circumstances related to particular dislocations.

Note that the eligible applicants may differ by DWG type, see TEGL 12-19 for more information.

TARGET POPULATIONS

Individuals eligible to receive services under DWGs include:

- ◆ Dislocated Workers unlikely to return to his or her previous industry or occupation, who have been terminated or laid off through no fault of their own;
- ◆ Those dislocated from employment due to federally declared emergencies or disasters;
- ◆ Long-term unemployed as defined by the state (eligible for disaster events only); and
- ◆ Self-employed individuals who become unemployed as a result of a disaster or emergency (eligible for disaster events only).
- ◆ Separating military service members unlikely to return to his or her previous industry or occupation, who have a notice of termination or layoff;
- ◆ Displaced homemakers; defined in WIOA as individuals who provide unpaid services to family member and meet certain criteria
- ◆ Military spouses of active duty service members and who meet certain criteria;



The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Note that some target populations may differ by DWG type, see TEGL 12-19 for more information.

DWG SERVICES

Services provided to eligible individuals through DWGs include:

- ◆ Career Services: Basic (e.g. career counseling, workforce and labor market information, referrals to partners) and Individualized (e.g. specialized assessments, career planning, work experiences/Transitional Jobs)
- ◆ Training Services: Work-based Training (On-the-Job training, Registered Apprenticeship, Customized) and Occupational Skills Training (training from Eligible Training Providers)
- ◆ Supportive services and needs-related payments enable individuals to participate in disaster-relief and employment and training services.
- ◆ Disaster Relief Employment (Disaster Recovery DWGs only): Temporary employment on projects that provide food, clothing, shelter, and other humanitarian assistance for emergency and disaster victims, and on projects for demolition, cleaning, repair, renovation, and reconstruction of damaged and destroyed structures, facilities, private property under certain circumstances, and lands located within a disaster area.

QUALIFYING EVENTS

Major economic dislocations or other events that qualify for a DWG include:

- ◆ Plant closures or mass layoffs affecting 50 or more workers;
- ◆ Industry-wide layoffs events from multiple companies in the same industry, which could include layoffs affecting fewer than 50 workers;
- ◆ Community impact layoffs with multiple small dislocations over a 12-month period that significantly increased unemployment in a region or area;
- ◆ Closures and realignments of military installations;
- ◆ Situations where a higher-than-average demand for employment and training activities for dislocated members of the Armed Forces exceeds state and local resources for providing such activities;
- ◆ Emergencies or major disasters declared eligible for public assistance by FEMA;
- ◆ An emergency or disaster situation of national significance declared or otherwise recognized by a Federal Agency; and
- ◆ Other events as determined by the Secretary of Labor.

REFERENCES

- ◆ Section 170 of the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#)
- ◆ WIOA Final Rule, regulations for WIOA, DWGs found at 20 CFR Part 687
- ◆ For Operating Guidance on National Dislocated Worker Grants, please read TEGL 12-19 - https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=9054
- ◆ For DWG Performance guidance, please read TEGL 14-18 - https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=7611 and Attachment 6 - https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL_14-18_Attachment-6_Acc.pdf
- ◆ For more information on National Dislocated Worker Grants and how to apply, please visit <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/dislocated-workers/>

