

WORKFORCE ESCAROSA, INC.
SUMMARY
AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009
TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT GUIDANCE LETTER NO. 14-08
Issued March 18, 2009

Strategic Vision

To assist workers who are facing unprecedented challenges to retool their skills and re-establish themselves in viable career paths. Sector strategies that enable low-income, displaced and under-skilled adults and disconnected youth to acquire knowledge and skills for success at work in key industries are an important service delivery innovation.

Emphasizes transparency and accountability in expenditure of ARRA funds along with regularly allocated Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds. Both funding streams are to be utilized and expended to stimulate jobs and retraining.

General Policy Guidelines

The One Stop system's success in implementing the Recovery Act will be gauged in part by the progress it achieves in using annual appropriations along with Recovery Act funds to help unemployed, underemployed, and dislocated workers find new, good jobs and to access and remain in the middle class; to help low-skill or low-income workers acquire 21st century skills, find family supporting jobs in healthy industries and access the middle class; and to help enhance the education pathways for disadvantaged and disconnected youth to improve their labor market prospects and long term career success.

- Substantially increase the number of customers served
- Substantially increase the number and proportion of those customers who receive training
- Recovery funds cannot supplant or replace state or local funding currently dedicated to workforce development and summer jobs
- Remove hiring freezes at the state and local level to reach capacity necessary to meet the demand for workforce services
- Evaluate potential technological changes and updates that would improve WIBs capacity to serve growing numbers of UI claimants, as Recovery Act funds may be used for information technology required to identify and serve the needs of UI claimants

Key Recovery Act Provisions and Emphasis of Note

- Training in high-demand occupations that do not limit customer choice
- Allowing WIBs to pay for the full cost of training at the beginning of the course
- Institutions of higher education, such as community colleges, need not be on a state list of eligible providers of training services
- Other providers of training that are not institutions of higher education must be on the state's list of eligible providers in order to be awarded a contract
- Emphasis to service recipients of public assistance and other low-income individuals as described in WIA section 134 (d)(4)(E) to include veteran's priority of service

- Provision of Reemployment Services to Unemployment Compensation recipients
- Emphasis on Green Jobs (no one knows what these are, but it sounded really good)
- Jobs created by Recovery Act funds should be listed with the state's WIBs and job matching system
- Monitoring and oversight of local service providers and operations
- Funds available for expenditure through June 30, 2011; however, USDOL wants as much funds expended as possible by June 30, 2010

WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker

- Must meet WIA eligibility criteria to receive services with an emphasis for adults on recipients of public assistance and other low-income individuals with veterans as a priority of service; dislocated workers must meet WIA eligibility criteria
- Ensure availability of support services to include transportation, child care, dependent care, housing and other services that are necessary to enable an individual to participate in activities authorized under WIA
- Needs related payments may be provided to adults who are unemployed and do not qualify for or have ceased to qualify for unemployment compensation
- Integration and coordination with all other funding sources to include Wagner Peyser, Veterans, Unemployment Compensation, etc.
- Individual Training Accounts allow job seekers maximum flexibility in selecting training providers to meet their training and education needs
- Customized training, on-the-job training, registered apprenticeships, are all encouraged and allowed
- Sequence of service does not require an individual to go through layers of service. This can consist of an assessment of skills and development of an Individual Employment Plan.

Wagner Peyser

- Must provide employment services to include job search and placement assistance and appropriate services for employers
- Assessment of skill levels. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) strongly encourages use of these funds to support career guidance and counseling services including assessments.
- Career guidance
- Job search workshops and referral to employers
- Labor market information
- ETA strongly recommends utilizing a portion of Wagner Peyser funding to enhance workforce and economic information availability and utilization. Such investments are critical to identifying businesses and sectors of the economy still in need of workers and those that will begin to grow as the economy recovers

WIA Summer Youth Employment and Training (SYETP) Program

- Strongly encourages a SYETP during PY 2009 (May 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009); and
- Full expenditure of SYETP funds in 2009
- SYETP does not require that all 10 WIA Youth components be made available

- 12 month follow-up is not required; however, if a youth is identified as needing additional services, follow-ups are encouraged
- Local flexibility to determine the type of assessment and Individual Service Strategy (ISS) for summer months only
- Local flexibility to determine whether it is appropriate that academic learning be directly linked to summer employment for the summer months only
- Work readiness portion of the skill attainment rate will be the only indicator used for youth that participate in summer employment only
- The basic and occupational skills parts of the skill attainment rate and the literacy/numeracy gains measure will not be required for youth that participate in summer employment only
- Local areas may provide wages or stipends to youth in a classroom-based component of a summer employment opportunity. Local areas should have a policy guiding the payment of classroom-based stipends and wages
- All youth must meet WIA youth program requirements except the Recovery Act allows for youth up to the age of 24 to be served
- The requirement that local areas expend a minimum of 30 percent of funds on out-of-school youth applies to Recovery Act funds.
- Local areas do not have to assess basic skills level for out-of-school youth participating in the summer employment program
- Youth participants cannot replace the work of employers who have experienced layoffs. Youth work experience is intended to increase work readiness skills of participants and not impact the profit margin of a for-profit company
- Recovery funds cannot be spent on work experience for any "casino or other gambling establishment, aquarium, zoo, golf course or swimming pool"; therefore, local areas should not use Recovery funds to place youth in summer employment or work experience outside the summer months in any of these facilities"
- Green Jobs work experience is strongly encouraged