Opioid Crisis Response at the Department of Labor

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National Health Emergency Dislocated Worker Grants (NHE DWGs)

- Administered by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA).
- Triggered by the HHS declaration of the opioid crisis as a public health emergency.
- Seek to address the economic and workforce impacts of the opioid and substance use crisis by providing employment and training services to individuals impacted by the crisis and to individuals wishing to enter occupations to improve the response to the crisis or mitigate the underlying causes of the crisis.

- Two Phases
  - Phase I - Demonstration (awards announced September 2018).
  - Phase II - Disaster Recovery (on-going since September 2018).

- Nineteen states and one tribal entity have been approved to receive more than $100 million from Phases I & II.
Eligible Participants: dislocated workers, new entrants in the workforce, and incumbent workers who:

- Have been impacted by the crisis (they or a friend/family member have a substance use disorder, or they live in a community hard-hit by the crisis) or
- Are seeking new or upgraded skills in occupations that could respond to the crisis or mitigate the underlying causes of the crisis.

Individuals impacted by the crisis may be trained in in-demand occupations (as determined by their state and local workforce boards) or in occupations to respond to the crisis.
Eligible Participants: dislocated workers, long-term unemployed individuals, individuals laid off because of the disaster or emergency, and self-employed individuals who became unemployed or significantly underemployed as a result of the disaster or emergency.

Eligible participants are eligible for disaster-relief employment opportunities (such as peer support services, local clean-up efforts) and for employment and training services to enter in-demand occupations or occupations that could respond to the crisis or mitigate the underlying causes of the crisis.
National Health Emergency Dislocated Worker Grants
The Support to Communities: Fostering Opioid Recovery Through Workforce Development

- Competitive grant authorized by Section 8041 of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act
- Eligible participants: dislocated workers, individuals with barriers to employment, new entrants, and incumbent workers who:
  - Have been impacted by the crisis (they or a friend/family member has a substance use disorder) or
  - Are seeking new or upgraded skills for occupations that support individuals with substance use disorders or who are at risk for developing one (such as mental health care, emergency response, and peer recovery support services)
- The first competitive round closed in January and will be announced in April.
How Do We Access these Funds?

- Grant awards are made to State Workforce Agencies (SWAs), which then provide funds to local workforce development boards (LWDBs). LWDBs operate local American Job Centers (AJCs).
  
  - SWAs: [https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/CommunityServices/community-services.aspx](https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/CommunityServices/community-services.aspx)
  
  - LWDBs: [https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/WorkforceDevelopment/find-workforce-development-boards.aspx](https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/WorkforceDevelopment/find-workforce-development-boards.aspx)
  
  - AJCs: [https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/AmericanJobCenters/find-american-job-centers.aspx](https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/AmericanJobCenters/find-american-job-centers.aspx)

- New and ongoing grants:
  
  - [https://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm](https://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm)
  
  - [https://www.grants.gov/](https://www.grants.gov/)
Fidelity Bonding Program

What is Federal Bonding?

- It is a **unique tool** to help a qualified job applicant remove a barrier to employment.
- It is a **business insurance policy** that protects the employer against financial loss due to theft, forgery, larceny, or embezzlement caused by employee dishonesty. (It does NOT cover motor vehicles.)
- The bond is **given to the employer at no cost** and serves as an incentive to the company to hire.
Fidelity Bonding Program

- Targets individuals whose backgrounds can pose significant barriers to securing or retaining employment, including:
  - Justice-involved citizens
  - Individuals in recovery from substance use disorders
  - Welfare recipients
  - Individuals with poor credit records
  - Economically disadvantaged youth and adults who lack work histories
  - Individuals dishonorably discharged from the military
Fidelity Bonding Demonstration Grants For Justice-Involved Individuals
How Do We Access These Funds?

More information available on: https://bonds4jobs.com/.

Every State has a Bonding Coordinator. Find yours here: https://bonds4jobs.com/our-services/directory
The Re-Employment, Support, and Training for the Opioid Related Epidemic (RESTORE) Grants are administered by the Women’s Bureau.

Target employment and training services to women who have been impacted by substance use disorders.

In 2018, a pilot grant was awarded to the State of Maryland.

2019 grant competition: five awards totaling $2.5 million.

**2019 Grantees**

- Helen Ross McNabb Center (TN)
- Public Health Management Corporation (PA)
- Research Foundation for SUNY - University at Buffalo (NY)
- Total Action Against Poverty in the Roanoke Valley (VA)
- Urban Workforce Advantage (NJ)
Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Grants

- Administered by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA).
- Expand the impact of existing workforce development initiatives within the Appalachian and Delta regions.
- Provide enhanced training and support activities to dislocated workers, new entrants in the workforce, incumbent workers, and, particularly to grants in the Appalachian region, individuals affected by substance use disorder.
- 2019 awards: 18 awards totaling $29.2 million.
  - Five grantees will target services to individuals impacted by SUD.

2019 Grantees

- The Alcohol and Drug Council of Tompkins County (NY)
- Coalfield Development Corporation (WV)
- Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties, Inc. (KY)
- Randolph County Housing Authority (WV)
- Spartanburg Community College (SC)
Thank you!

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