

Resources to Respond to Coal-Economy Layoffs

Is your community's economy impacted by downturns in the coal economy? Do you have coal mines or power plants that have announced or are likely to announce layoffs or closures? Are you interested in obtaining resources to address the economic and workforce-related impacts of these layoffs and closures?

Your community or state may be eligible to apply for National Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) funds from the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to support the community and worker transition!

ETA currently offers two options for grants to address employment loss from coal mining and coal power plants—POWER DWGs and Employment Recovery DWGs:

1. POWER DWG

POWER DWGs support strategic planning and workforce development activities that prepare workers dislocated from employment in coal-related industries for good jobs in high-demand occupations aligned with a regional or community economic development strategy.

POWER DWGs allow applicants to use grant funds to conduct strategic planning to align economic and workforce development activities to spur economic diversification and growth in coal-impacted communities. POWER DWG applications require applicants to address plans for economic diversification, in coordination with economic development organizations, in affected coal communities.

Applicants may request POWER DWG funds when there is a public announcement or individual notifications of employment loss in coal mining or coal power plants (or layoffs in the manufacturing or transportation logistics supply chains).

POWER DWGs may be requested to address layoffs that occurred as many as 18 months prior to the application, and in some cases for layoffs occurring even longer than 18 months prior, if the economic impacts are still being felt in the affected communities.

Participants eligible to be served under a POWER DWG are limited to individuals laid off from coal mining and coal power plants, as well as those previously employed in manufacturing or transportation jobs related to coal mines or power plants.

POWER DWG eligible applicants are state workforce agencies as well as entities eligible to receive funding under Section 166 (Indian and Native American Program grantees) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; however, state applicants must partner with at least one impacted local workforce area to carry out the project.

2. Employment Recovery DWG

Employment Recovery DWGs provide resources to eligible entities where the state or local workforce development board has expended formula funding and can demonstrate the need for additional funds to provide employment and training assistance to workers affected by major economic dislocations. These dislocations include those in the coal economy and other indirect job losses, such as those in the service industry that can be shown as resulting from dislocations in the coal economy. These DWGs provide direct services and other assistance to dislocated workers.

Employment Recovery DWGs allow for broad participant eligibility, as an application may request to serve both workers dislocated from coal mines and coal power plants as well as other individuals in affected communities. Additionally, Employment Recovery DWGs allow local workforce development boards to apply directly for grant funds.

Applications may be submitted by any entities eligible to apply for Employment Recovery DWGs (state workforce agencies, outlying areas, designated tribal entities, or one or more local workforce development boards).

Employment Recovery DWGs cannot be used for economic development strategic planning, and applications are generally expected to be submitted within 120 days of the qualifying layoff event.

If you think your community could benefit from coal-related DWG funds, we encourage your state workforce agency to contact the appropriate ETA Regional Office to discuss a possible application.

Coal-Economy Layoff Response Grant Options		
	POWER DWG	Economic Recovery DWG for Coal Layoffs
Application Timing	For layoffs occurring up to 18 months prior to application (or more with adequate justification of the ongoing economic hardship caused by the layoffs)	For layoffs up to 120 days prior to application (or more with significant justification)
Eligible Applicants	State agencies responsible for administering WIOA title I activities, including those in outlying areas, within which is an impacted community or region as well as entities eligible to receive funding under section 166 (Indian and Native American Program grantees) of WIOA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A designated state or outlying area WIOA program agency 2. A state or local Workforce Development Board 3. An entity eligible for funding through the Native American Programs (WIOA Section 166(c))
Eligible Participants	Dislocated workers laid off	Dislocated workers directly

	from coal mines, coal-fired power plants, and transportation and manufacturing industries related to the mines or plants	impacted by layoffs in coal mines or coal-fired power plants, as well as those laid off as a direct result of these primary layoffs
Strategic Planning Activities	Yes	No
Application Requiring Alignment with Economic Development Activities	Yes	No
Additional Information	<u>TEGL 9-16</u>	<u>TEGL 2-15</u>