

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY SYSTEM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Washington, D.C. 20210	CLASSIFICATION WIOA - DWG
	CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL OWI
	DATE May 7, 2026

**ADVISORY: TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT GUIDANCE LETTER NO. 09-24
Change 1**

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARD CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS
LABOR COMMISSIONERS
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS
WIOA SECTION 166(c) INDIAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM
GRANTEES
RAPID RESPONSE COORDINATORS

FROM: HENRY MACK, ED.D. /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Change 1 to Training and Employment Guidance Letter Number 09-24, *Updated National Dislocated Worker Grant Program Guidance and Application Information*

1. **Purpose.** To inform the state and local workforce development system of changes to the policies and priorities that govern the award and use of Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) funds, pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Title I, Section 170.
2. **Action Requested.** Please share with all staff who administer DWGs. The workforce development system, all DWG recipients, and eligible applicants should review and update applicable policies and procedures to comply with this Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL).
3. **Summary and Background.**
 - a. Summary – This Change 1 to TEGL Number (No.) 9-24 includes updates to requirements for Disaster Recovery DWGs in response to the opioid crisis¹ as well as revisions to reflect current policies and priorities for the overall DWG program. In December 2024, the Department of Labor (DOL) published TEGL No. 09-24 *Updated National Dislocated Worker Grant Program Guidance and Application Information*, which described the policies and priority of the program at that time.

¹ As defined by the Department of Health and Human Services, “opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, morphine, and many others.” See <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/prevention/index.html>.

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For Disaster Recovery DWGs responding to the opioid crisis,² key updates in this TEGL No. 09-24, Change 1 include:

- i. Funding approach – For Disaster Recovery DWGs in response to the opioid crisis, DOL will prioritize awards to applicants with a demonstrated need for the funding that have not previously been awarded an opioid-related DWG, and to those that do not have an active opioid-related DWG at the time of proposed start date. DOL will only consider one Opioid DWG per eligible applicant at any one time, with the state determining the appropriate service area within the state. Applicants must demonstrate, with sourced data, the severity of the impacts (e.g., rates of death related to opioid use, rates of non-fatal hospitalizations related to opioid abuse, number of children affected due to parental/primary caregiver substance abuse/misuse, etc.) of the opioid crisis in the proposed service area. Note that DOL will only accept these applications during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year (July 1–September 30) to ensure that funds remain available for natural disaster recovery and employment recovery DWGs throughout the year. (Attachment I, pages I-17 and I-25).
- ii. Disaster-Relief Employment – DOL will consider applications for opioid-disaster DWGs without the inclusion of Disaster-Relief Employment as a service strategy. (Attachment I, page I-6).
- iii. Updated Application Requirements – Among other updates, applicants must demonstrate ongoing state efforts to use workforce resources to address the opioid crisis and that available workforce resources are inadequate to meet demand for services to respond to the opioid crisis, and describe plans to sustain activities carried out after the grant period of performance (Attachment I, page I-20).
- iv. Employment and Training - DOL encourages applications that emphasize employment and training participant services focused on increasing the number of qualified professionals in fields mitigating the opioid crisis. DOL includes law enforcement and first responders among these professions (Attachment I, page I-6).

Other key updates in this Change 1 include:

- Qualifying Events for Disaster Recovery DWGs – Updated to clarify that for emergencies or disasters involving a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declaration, FEMA must designate the event is eligible for public assistance in order to qualify for a DWG (Attachment I, page I-2).
- Eligible Applicants for Disaster Recovery DWGs – Updated to clarify that the term “state workforce agencies” refers to state workforce agencies administering WIOA formula funds (Attachment I, page I-3).
- Participant Eligibility and Documentation – Updated requirements for self-attestation policies and the collection of all documentation needed to demonstrate participant eligibility (Attachment I, pages I-4 and I-13).

² The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services declared the opioid crisis a Public Health Emergency on October 26, 2017, and this declaration has been renewed every 90 days. At time of this writing, the most recent renewal was signed on March 16, 2026. <https://aspr.hhs.gov/legal/PHE/Pages/Opioids-Renewal-15Dec2025.aspx>

- Disaster-Relief Employment – Updated wage requirements to remove the \$15 hourly wage rate minimum in the absence of an industry standard (Attachment I, page I-8).
 - Administrative Costs Limitation – Updated total administrative costs to 10 percent of the total grant award, with rare exceptions (Attachment I, page I-31).
 - Performance Measures – Updated required performance goals to remove Measurable Skills Gains (Attachment I, Page 1-32).
- b. Background – DWGs are discretionary grants awarded by the Secretary of Labor under Section 170 of WIOA to provide employment-related services for dislocated workers and other eligible individuals.

DWGs provide supplemental funding in response to major economic dislocations or other events that cause or contribute to a shortage of existing WIOA Dislocated Worker formula funds and other relevant resources in states and local areas, creating challenges in their ability to provide workforce services to eligible participants. DWGs enable states and communities to respond to and recover from large, often unexpected dislocation events and their associated impacts.

The WIOA statute allows DOL to fund two types of DWGs: Disaster Recovery and Employment Recovery. Disaster Recovery DWGs provide funding to create temporary employment opportunities to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts when an area impacted by an emergency or major disaster is declared eligible for public assistance by the FEMA or is declared or recognized as an emergency or disaster of national significance by a Federal agency with authority or jurisdiction over Federal response to the disaster or emergency, including public health emergencies. Employment Recovery DWGs expand capacity to serve dislocated workers and to meet the increased demand for employment and training services following a qualifying dislocation event such as a mass layoff, plant closure, or higher-than-average demand for employment and training activities for dislocated members of the Armed Forces and their spouses. While the two DWG types serve different purposes, both play an important role in helping communities, individuals, and businesses recover from large-scale economic events.

DWGs in response to the opioid crisis are a specific type of Disaster Recovery DWG, where the qualifying event is a declaration by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) designating the opioid crisis as a Public Health Emergency.³

4. **DWG Program Guidance.** See Attachment I, National Dislocated Worker Grant Program Guidance and Application Information, for a full discussion of NDWGs’ purpose, policies, priorities, and requirements. See Attachment II, Policy Explanations and Examples to Support DWG Program Guidance, for additional supporting information.
5. **Paperwork Reduction Act Statement.** Applicants for DWGs must submit an application, as described in Attachment I. The OMB Information Collection Number for that application,

³ Health and Human Services Declaration of Opioid Public Health Emergency renewed March 2026 <https://aspr.hhs.gov/legal/PHE/Pages/Opioid-Renewal-16Mar2026.aspx>.

1225-0086, expires June 30, 2028. The current approval and subsequent approvals for this information collection are tracked in <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

This information is being collected for the purpose of awarding a grant and is required to be considered for a DWG. DOL will use the information collected through this solicitation to ensure that grants are awarded to the applicants best suited to perform the functions of the grant.

6. **Inquiries.** Direct questions regarding this guidance to the appropriate ETA regional office.

7. **References.**

- TEGL No. 09-24, *Updated National Dislocated Worker Grant Program Guidance and Application Information*, issued December 17, 2024, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/tegl-09-24>;
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (Pub. L. 113-128) (July 22, 2014);
- Employment and Training Administration, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; Final Rule (WIOA DOL Final Rule) published at 81 FR 56071 (August 19, 2016), specifically [20 C.F.R. parts 680 and 687](#);
- TEGL No. 23-19 Change 3, *Guidance for Validating Required Performance Data Submitted by Grant Recipients of U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Workforce Programs*, issued December 1, 2025, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/tegl-23-19-change-3>;
- TEGL 5-25, *Maximizing Innovation in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Programs*, issued November 25, 2025, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/tegl-05-25>;
- TEGL No. 14-18, *Aligning Performance Accountability Reporting, Definitions, and Policies across Workforce Employment and Training Programs Administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)*, issued March 25, 2019, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-guidance-letter-no-14-18>;
- TEGL No. 8-18, *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I and Wagner-Peyser Act Waiver Requirements and Request Process*, issued December 19, 2018, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-guidance-letter-no-08-18>;
- TEGL No. 19-16, *Guidance on Services Provided through the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service (ES), as amended by title III of WIOA, and for Implementation of the WIOA Final Rules*, issued March 1, 2017, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-guidance-letter-no-19-16>;

- TEGL No. 17-16, Infrastructure Funding of the One-Stop Delivery System, issued January 18, 2017, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-guidance-letter-no-17-16>;
- TEGL No. 16-16, *One-Stop Operations Guidance for the American Job Center Network*, issued January 18, 2017, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-guidance-letter-no-16-16>;
- TEGL No. 16-16, Change 1, *Change 1 to Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 16-16 One-Stop Operations Guidance for the American Job Center Network*, issued June 16, 2017, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-guidance-letter-no-16-16-change-1>;
- TEGL No. 28-10, *Federal Financial Management and Reporting Definitions*, issued May 27, 2011, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-guidance-letter-no-28-10>;
- TEGL No. 10-09, *Implementing Priority of Service for Veterans and Eligible Spouses in All Qualified Job Training Programs Funded in Whole or in Part by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)*, issued November 10, 2009, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-guidance-letter-no-10-09>;
- TEN No. 19-24, *Announcing the Disaster Lifecycle from Preparedness through Resiliency: A Guide for State Workforce Agencies*, issued January 17, 2025, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/ten-19-24>; and
- Information Collection Forms and Participant Individual Record Layouts: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Common Performance Reporting - ETA 9169 9170 (OMB Control No. 1205-0526) and DOL-only Performance Accountability, Information, and Reporting System - 9172, 9173 (OMB Control No. 1205-0521) and ETA Form 9130 (OMB).

8. **Attachments.**

- Attachment I – National Dislocated Worker Grant Program Guidance and Application Information
- Attachment II - Policy Explanations and Examples to Support DWG Program Guidance