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Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Issuance

March 31, 2016

- TO:** Chief Elected Officials
- SUBJECT:** Program Year (PY) 2013 statewide Rapid Response funds available for additional assistance
- NUMBER:** 15-04
- PURPOSE:** To provide information on the availability of Program Year (PY) 2013 statewide Rapid Response funds for additional assistance to local workforce development areas for the provision of direct career services to dislocated workers
- REFERENCE:** Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) Sections 133 and 134(d) and (e); Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) Eligibility for Dislocated Workers Policy (Rev. 09/11.2014)
- SUBSTANCE:** As permitted under WIA, once NDOL has adequate funds reserved for statewide Rapid Response activities, NDOL may provide additional assistance to local areas using any remaining Rapid Response Program funds to local areas experiencing layoffs, disasters, or other events leading to substantial increases in unemployment if adequate local funds are not available to assist dislocated workers.

Approximately \$85,000 of PY 2013 Rapid Response Program funds is available to local areas for additional assistance. The PY 2013 Rapid Response Program funds provided by NDOL as additional assistance must be used for direct career services to eligible dislocated workers and **must be expended by June 30, 2016.**

The eligibility of dislocated workers must be based on the criteria established under NDOL's Eligibility for Dislocated Workers Policy (Rev. 09/11/2014).

To be eligible for additional assistance under this issuance, a local area *is not* required to have;

- obligated all of its current year based and advances dislocated worker funds, or
- expended at least 50% of its current year base and advance dislocated worker funds.

Allowable direct career services to eligible dislocated workers include:

- Core services:
 - Initial assessment of skill levels, aptitudes, abilities, and supportive service needs
 - Labor exchange services including
 - job search and placement assistance and career counseling
 - provision of information on local in-demand occupations and their earnings and skill requirements
 - provision of information on non-traditional employment
- Intensive services or training services for eligible affected workers unable to obtain employment through core services or affected workers who are employed but are determined by a one-stop operator to be in need intensive services in order to obtain or retain employment that allows for self-sufficiency:
 - comprehensive and specialized assessments of the skill levels and service needs of affected workers, including:
 - diagnostic testing and use of other assessment tools
 - in-depth interviewing and evaluation to identify employment barriers and appropriate employment goals
 - development of individual employment plans to identify the employment goals, appropriate achievement objectives, and appropriate combination of services for affected workers to achieve the employment goals
 - group counseling
 - individual counseling and career planning
 - case management for affected workers seeking training services
 - short-term prevocational services, including development of learning skills, communication skills, interviewing skills, punctuality, personal maintenance skills, and professional conduct to prepare affected workers for unsubsidized employment or training

- occupational skills training, including training for nontraditional employment
- on-the-job training
- programs that combine workplace training with related instruction, which may include cooperative education programs
- training programs operated by the private sector
- skill upgrading and retraining
- entrepreneurial training
- job readiness training
- adult education and literacy activities provided in combination with services described above
- customized training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of employers to employ affected workers upon successful completion of the training
- Supportive services and needs-related payments for eligible affected workers

Administrative costs are not an allowable expense.

ACTION: Local Workforce Development Areas must submit a completed “Request for Additional Assistance” form **no later than April 15, 2016** to:

- Joan Modrell at joan.modrell@nebraska.gov, and
- WIOA Policy Mailbox: ndol.wioa_policy@nebraska.gov.

The request form is provided with this issuance as a separate document (in Word format) titled “Appendix 1 to Issuance 15-04: Request for Additional Assistance.”

Forms will be accepted April 5, 2016 until April 15, 2016.

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