

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY SYSTEM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Washington, D.C. 20210	CLASSIFICATION WIOA - DWG
	CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL OWI
	DATE August 17, 2016

ADVISORY: TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT GUIDANCE LETTER NO. 6-16

TO: STATE AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE WORKFORCE
INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT
STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARDS AND CHAIRS
INDIAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM GRANTEEES

FROM: PORTIA WU /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Guidance for WIOA Employment Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) Alternative Application Submission Pilot

- Purpose.** The purpose of this program guidance is to provide information and instructions on how to participate in a pilot to test an alternative method for applying for a Layoff Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG).

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) seeks to pilot an alternative method for applying for a DWG through www.grants.gov that better aligns with this agency’s overall grant processes and requirements.

ETA intends to accept nine DWG applications through this alternative method of application submission. Applications under this pilot will be accepted on a first come – first serve basis. Only applicants filing for a DWG from DOL, as authorized by Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Section 170(b)(1)(A) (hereinafter referred to as “Employment Recovery Dislocated Worker Grants for Mass Layoffs and Plant Closures”) may use this pilot. Applications for disasters, trade impacted workers, dislocated service members and emergency dislocations must be submitted using the current DWG electronic application system (e-System) accessible to States and Agencies. Upon receipt of nine fundable applications, ETA will close this submission method and will remove this TEGL from www.grants.gov. At the end of this pilot, ETA will study the effectiveness of using the alternative method for submission and consider the possible effectiveness of the pilot on this and other categories of DWGs.

The current DWG e-System, through which we receive and modify DWG grant applications, will remain available for applicants to apply for DWG grants during and after this pilot period. At the conclusion of the pilot, if ETA finds this method for submission is successful, it will consider phasing out the e-System. Before we make such a phase out, we will officially notify and provide guidance to the workforce system through a TEGL.

RESCISSIONS None	EXPIRATION DATE Continuing
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Please note that WIOA became law on July 22, 2014, superseding Titles I and II of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, and amending the Wagner-Peyser Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Departments of Labor and Education published a set of proposed regulations for implementing WIOA through the posting of five Notice of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs). These NPRMs were open for public comment until June 15, 2015, and the Federal agencies have reviewed, analyzed, and considered all the comments received. The Departments made unofficial versions of the Final Rules, both the Joint Final Rule and the program specific Final Rules, publically available in June 2016 while they were under review with the Office of the Federal Register (OFR) so that stakeholders could begin to prepare for implementing changes imposed by the final regulations. These unofficial versions of the Final Rules may vary slightly from the official published documents if minor technical or formatting changes are made during the OFR review process. The effective date for both the Joint Final Rule for Unified and Combined State Plans, Performance Accountability, and the One-Stop System Joint Provisions (Joint Final Rule) and DOL's Final Rule to implement Titles I and III of WIOA is officially 60 days after the date of publication of the Final Rules in the Federal Register, which is expected shortly.

2. **References.** See Attachment I of this TEGL.
3. **Background.** To continue implementation, the Department is issuing a series of WIOA Operating Guidance documents which inform the workforce system of the important planning and organizational work necessary to comply with the WIOA statutory requirements. The Operating Guidance TEGLs provide a framework for program activities, and this TEGL is one in a series of the WIOA Operating Guidance.

As a condition to the award of financial assistance from the Department of Labor under Title I WIOA, the grant applicant assures that it will comply fully with the nondiscrimination and equal opportunity provisions of the following laws: Section 188 of the WIOA, which prohibits discrimination against all individuals in the United States on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief, and against beneficiaries on the basis of either citizenship/status as a lawfully admitted immigrant authorized to work in the United States or participation in any WIOA Title I—financially assisted program or activity; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, which prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs. The grant applicant also assures that it will comply with 29 CFR Part 37 and all other regulations implementing the laws listed above. This assurance applies to the grant applicant's operation of the WIOA Title I-financially assisted program or activity, and to all agreements the grant applicant makes to carry out the WIOA Title I-financially assisted program or activity. The grant applicant understands that the United States has the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance.

4. **Submission Guidance.** See Attachment II of this TEGL.

5. **Changes.** The DWG program purpose, eligibility requirements and allowable activities remain the same as outlined in TEGL No. 02-15 “Operational Guidance of National Dislocated Worker Grants, pursuant to the WIOA.” However, the application submission requirements under this pilot provides for changes to these parts:
1. The application must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov;
 2. The application must consist of the following:
 - SF-424 “Application for Federal Assistance;”
 - SF-424A Project Budget;
 - Budget Narrative;
 - Project Narrative (limited to 20 double-spaced, single sided, 8.5 x 11 inches with Times New Roman 12 point text font); and
 - Attachments to the Project Narrative. The application requires two attachments – Abstract and DWG Program Summary. These documents will summarize the project scope, outcomes, common measures, and cost per participant.

Attachment II of this document provides detailed instruction for submission of the application and for each of the components listed above.

6. **Inquiries.** Direct questions as follows:
Programmatic - Crystal Antiri at antiri.crystal@dol.gov
Submission – Diane Easterling at easterling.diane@dol.gov
7. **Attachments.**
Attachment I: References
Attachment II: Submission Guidance
Attachment III: Project Summary