Adult Programs Communication

- Partner Express monthly newsletter – email deed.taa@state.mn.us if you would like to subscribe

Dislocated Worker and Federal Adult Programs

Staffing:

- Two new staff recently joined the DW/Federal Adult Programs team as Grant Specialist Seniors: Jennifer Thissen and John Connell

PY21 WIOA Allocation (Initial)

- TEN 14-20-- *Planning Estimate for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Worker Program Allotments for Program Year (PY) 2021* was issued by DOL on 1/14/21.
  - ➢ Provides projected allocations for PY 21 Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs. These are estimates, and we will receive the final information March or April. The estimates look positive over last years allocation.
    - o Adult Allocation: $852M for states and $2.1M for Outlying ($9.0M for MN)
    - o DW Allocation: $1B for states and $3.3M for Outlying ($10.3M for MN)
- TEGL 7-20 – *Effective Implementation of Priority of Service Provisions for Most in Need Individuals in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult Program,* was issued on 11/24/20.
  - ➢ New requirements:
    - o Strengthen state and local policies and procedures that enhance workforce development services to the recipients of public assistance, low-income individuals and individuals who are basic skills deficient(most in need)
    - o At least 75% of participants receiving individualized career and training services must be from at least one of the priority groups
    - o DOL expects this rate to be no lower than 50.1%; effective PY20

Coursera:

- *Would this be an allowable non-credentialed training service to provide to Adult/DW participants, even though Coursera does not fall on the ETPL or is licensed/registered/exempt from OHE?*
  - o Since Coursera is a conglomeration of many universities and their offerings, whether or not we could consider some of the trainings as non-cred is still up for debate. Currently, there is some murky area about ownership of credits/credentials between the delivery platform (Coursera) and their educational institution partners. Until this is resolved or we get additional guidance/clarity from our federal partners and MOHE, Coursera trainings will have to be considered/captured as pre-vocational or work readiness services.
- *Would it be appropriate to use the "Partnering" WF1 activity to document a participant's engagement in Coursera training?*
  - o The only time "partnering" should be used is when another program is partnering with the program the participant is enrolled in that has the partnering activity on it. This means there is another program financially supporting the participant in some way. Since Coursera is a vendor, not a partner program, the activity should not be "partnering."

- *If we are able to document a program participant's engagement in Coursera in WF1 in one of the two examples above, can providers use program dollars to purchase computers for participants who are engaging in Coursera? If yes, is this an allowable expense out of training funds?*
  - o If Coursera training helps the participant improve their skills and even prepare them to enter credentialed training in the future and given that access to computers is more important now than ever before, it makes sense to support the participant in getting a computer. I would recommend that it be paid out of support services instead of training funds since Coursera courses are not going to be considered credentialed training.

MJSP Supplemental Funding Request:

- Supplemental Funding request due 1/29
- MJSP Board Meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2021

CLIMB:

- DW program staff is aware that SBA has changed its user interface, which is negatively affecting CLIMB requirements. Printing a certificate of completion at the end of online training is no longer an option; instead, clients need to complete a 'checklist' of objectives they have completed.
- DEED leadership is aware of this and investigating ways to improve CLIMB requirements.
- In the interim, please have participants provide screenshots of completed objectives as proof of having done the requirement. (Question – how is your organization coping with the changes?)
- Please contact, Rita, the DW staff assigned to CLIMB with any questions at Rita.Apaloo@state.mn.us

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP):

- Federal Monitoring Report was received Dec. 22, 2020 and included 3 findings (all related to case noting); response to report was sent on January 21, 2021. Staff will be in touch if additional information is required.
- DOL announced that the program is fully funded and are working on an allotment TEGL which they hope to send out soon

Adult Career Pathways Programs

Legislative Direct Appropriation Grants/ Competitive Grants SFY20/21

Updated quarterly report templates were sent to Grantees in October with instructions for pulling outcome measurements from WF1. The reports are due the 30th of the month following the end of the quarter (Apr 30, July 30, Oct 30, Jan 30).

Ann Meyers has accepted the permanent ACP Supervisor position beginning December 2020. ACP will backfill the ACP Coordinator position vacated by Ann in the next couple months.

State Legislators have begun meeting. The ACP team is watching it closely as the final budget will determine SFY22-23 program budgets. We expect that RFPs will be released June/July 2021.

SNAP E&T 50/50

DEED has contracted with a total of eight SNAP E&T 50% Reimbursement Grantees for SFY21. This program offers 50% reimbursement on expenses already incurred through ACP's Pathways to Prosperity and Mn Family Resiliency Partnership programs. The goal is to reimburse these organizations up to $200,000 in additional funds in SFY21 to grow capacity and support for participants.

Workforce One Tips

Workforce One rewrite update:
The ACP team has been working closely with the WF1 team to ensure data is captured accurately and the information put into WF1 is useful to both Grantees and DEED. Within the December rewrite some changes/updates impacting ACP programs were made. Including:
- The addition of "*P2P Only*" was added to end of the On-Ramp and IET/Bridge activities
- A *Video* option was added to the case note type of engagement
- An update to reports was made to enable viewing them within Edge and Chrome browsers

The ACP team will continue to work with WF1 and welcome suggestions or comments on how to make the system work better for all users.

ACP Operations Guide

ACP's Operations Guide is now available from the ACP home page. The Guide documents current practices for ACP. The ACP Team meets monthly to discuss suggested additions, updates, modifications, and other changes to the guide and update as necessary. The Guide is intended to be a living document and will be updated as procedures evolve. It does NOT include measures implemented in response to COVID-19, which are listed separately.

ACP Team Message to Grantees

In light of the COVID pandemic, more providers have requested an amendment to their current contracts to include the use of grant funds to purchase computers/laptops or internet access for participants to start or continue participating in training activities. This is an allowable use of grant funds. An Amendment/Modification of the work plan narrative may be needed indicating the specific training program the computers/laptops will be required for successful completion, if it is not already addressed. A reminder that providers must submit the following prior to utilizing funds for these purchases:
- Providers must develop a policy for purchasing and distributing laptops.
- Eligibility requirements a participant must meet in order to receive a laptop/computer,
- A maximum amount of how much will be reimbursed, including documentation required from the participant for proof of receipt of support service.

We encourage you to do your best to ensure that a participant will be engaged with your program before giving out technology. While support services, such as computer support, are an important component of all our grant programs, support service purchases should be used to enable a participant to successfully engage with your program, complete training, and obtain employment- not just to receive a computer. We recommend only purchasing computers for participants who are active participants in your program, such as those being enrolled in credentialed/certificate training and have demonstrated their commitment to keeping engaged.
As a reminder, all information about a computer distribution directly to a participant needs to be specifically case noted in Workforce One and entered in the support service section. Please contact your DEED Grant Coordinator with any questions.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

Program

- Save the Date: Virtual Roundtables for Dislocated Worker Counselors scheduled for April 12-16, 2021.
- In the upcoming months, TAA will update our applications to reflect changes due to the Final Rule. Please always access applications on the Counselor Portal to ensure you're using the most recent documents.
- Received notice of expected FY 2021 Initial Allocation – see TEGL 14-20
- TAA is backfilling a TAA Specialist position that was vacated a couple of years ago.
- DOL is hosting a virtual TAA/DW/Rapid Response Region V Roundtable: March 2021
- Blog from DOL re: Reversion and Sunset Clauses of the 2015 TAA Program
- Please refer TAA-eligible customers (and new DW Counselors) to the online TAA informational session https://www.careerforcemn.com/taa-info-sessions

Petitions

- TAA/Rapid Response staff are researching three (3) companies for possible trade-impacted layoffs
- Pending Department of Labor (DOL) determination: five (5) petitions
- Certified: Toppan Merrill; Buhler Versatile USA, Inc.; ACProducts, Inc. dba Cabinetworks Group; Verso Corporation; Streater LLC; BCBSM, Inc. (Blue Cross Blue Shield); Dura Supreme LLC
- Denied: Johnson Controls, Inc.; United States Steel Corporation