

Dislocated Worker, Adult Career Pathways, and Trade Adjustment Assistance Program Updates

MAWB Job Seeker Services Meeting, March 23, 2022

Adult Programs Communication

[Partner Express monthly newsletter](#)

Our team is working on updating the Partner Express. We want to make the newsletter is informative and relative to your work. We appreciate your patience as we make the Partner Express better for everyone! Please be sure to re-subscribe using this link:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDEED/subscriber/new?topic_id=MNDEED_109

[Staffing Updates](#)

Dawn Andrada recently joined the Adult Programs team as the Administrative Support Specialist. She comes to us with experience as an administrative support person in a variety of settings, most recently as the Office Manager of a girl-focused middle school (Laura Jeffrey Academy), and as an assistant to the Executive Director of the Friends of Saint Paul College Foundation. She attended the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities where she majored in Elementary Education. She lives in Saint Paul with her husband Roger and beloved cat. She has an adult daughter Paxton (also beloved!) who is a recent college graduate. Dawn enjoys travel and is equally thrilled with busy days going on rides at Disney World and quiet days enjoying nature on the North Shore.

Enock Kakuuku BBA,MSA joins the Dislocated Worker team as a Grants Coordinator effective March 23, 2022. Over the past 3 years, Enock has served as a Grant Coordinator within the Adult Career Pathways Program supporting multiple programs including Pathways to Prosperity (P2P), Southeast Asian Economic Disparities Relief, Minnesota Women and High-Wage, High-Demand, Nontraditional Jobs (WESA), Adult Support Services, newly legislatively funded programs such as the African Immigrant Community Economic Relief program. Prior to joining DEED, Enock managed Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and National Institute of Health (NIH) federal grants for more than 10 years, serving diverse and under-resourced populations. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family, listening to audio books, gardening and watching movies. He has a Master of Science Degree in Accounting, and a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Accounting.

Dislocated Worker and Federal Adult Programs

[CLIMB WF1 Activities:](#)

Questions from the Field:

1. Can DEED staff please provide an update on CLIMB WF1 activities and whether these activities are exempting individuals from engaging in required job search for Unemployment Benefits? What needs to be done by counselors/participants to ensure this exemption is applied to their UI benefits? (These activities and exemptions were impacted by COVID-19 UI benefit extensions)

Per the CLIMB Policy:

Impact of CLIMB on Participant's Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UI)

Involvement in CLIMB allows a participant to start his or her own business, earn wages from that business and collect UI benefits at the same time. This impacts the participant's UI benefits in the following ways:

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1. *The participant's requirement to search for unsubsidized employment is waived. This allows the participant to focus on creating a business.*
2. *The cap on the number of hours the participant may work per week is waived. Many participants spend more than the average work week on their business.*
3. *Any income earned from the participant's business does not impact their UI benefits. The participant may retain money earned from the business as well as their weekly UI benefits.*
4. *Any income the participant makes outside of their small business (i.e. working retail part-time) DOES need to be reported and their weekly benefit will be adjusted accordingly.*

Opening a CLIMB activity in WF1 triggers a different UI benefits request process for the DW participant. Participants in CLIMB answer a different set of eligibility questions for their weekly UI benefits based on their entrepreneurial activities and not a search for unsubsidized employment. Due to this requirement, counselors or case managers must open the CLIMB activity in WF1 by the close of business of the Friday of the week the counselor and participant agree on this activity. UI will contact the individual to discuss how to fill out the required weekly paperwork. If a participant calls UI and they are not entered into WF1, they will not be able to fill out the CLIMB UI weekly benefits form.

The participant must apply for UI, even if they are receiving severance benefits. However, if they are enrolled in CLIMB, UI will not contact them about their CLIMB UI reporting until their severance benefits have run out.

UI applicants on the CLIMB program while receiving regular UI benefits are not required to take job offers. Their path to reemployment is to build and work their business.

However, this is true *only* while receiving regular UI benefits. Once that person starts receiving any federal (PEUC) or state/federal (EB) benefits, the rules change. The individual may still be on CLIMB for DW purposes, but is no longer exempted from other UI requirements such as work search, deductibility of earnings from self-employment, or the 32 hours work limitation.

- **NOTE:** CLIMB participants are now requesting their payments online or on the automated phone system. Paper forms are no longer being used.
- A weekly report of new CLIMB participants is run from WF1 and provided to UI and UI then contact the individuals with instructions on how to apply for benefits.
- Questions about CLIMB can be directed to Rita Apaloo at rita.apaloo@state.mn.us

2. How do service providers follow the Federal Disclosure Language format provided in the March 2021 Partner Express when there is a mix of both federal and state funds and different funding levels for each (i.e. WIOA DW & State DW or WIOA Youth & MYP)? Also, what if service providers are in transition from spending one program year grant to the other, where providers are finishing spending PY20 grant funds but have also started spending PY21 grant funds simultaneously?

National and Regional Office have confirmed that this is a requirement, and we cannot bypass it. To make things easier, we suggest charging the development of any outreach promotion/materials to 1 grant versus multiple ones.

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Carry Forward Requests:

- Providers may request a waiver to carry forward more than 20% of their allocated PY20 funds into the next program year using the provided template (attached). Providers who expend or obligate at least 80% of their PY20 formula funds by the end of the 4th quarter do not need a waiver.
- Please submit your waivers by June 7th (preferably sooner) to allow enough time for leadership approval.
- An email will be sent out with this information and request form.

WIOA Adult, WIOA DW and State DW:

- PY20 Funding will expire on 6/30/22.
 - Submit any modification requests by April 29th to allow the team time to process.
 - Submit any transfer requests by April 29th to allow the team time to process.
- PY22 WIOA DW and Adult Planning Allocations were emailed out to local areas. The final numbers will be sent out once we have the final TEG (est. April).

Performance:

- The PY22/23 negotiation tool (Statistical Adjustment Model) was released on March 21, 2022 for the upcoming state performance negotiations with the U.S. Department of Labor. It can be found here [WIOA Negotiations | U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](#).
- PY21 through Quarter Two performance reports are attached to this handout. If you have questions on these counts, please contact Amy.carlson@state.mn.us for assistance.
 - State Dislocated Worker
 - 3,871 participants served through December 31, 2021
 - The state is within successful range on all performance goals
 - WIOA Dislocated Worker
 - 1,255 participants served through December 31, 2021
 - The state is within successful range on all performance goals
 - WIOA Adult
 - 1,317 participants served through December 31, 2021
 - The state is within successful range on all performance goals

Adult Career Pathways Programs

[Legislative Direct Appropriation Grants/ Competitive Grants](#)

The ACP team currently, manages 16 Directly Appropriated contracts and 100 Competitive contracts for SFY22. Just a few contracts have not been executed, but we continue to work with those Grantees to get them completed as soon as possible.

As a reminder, the new SFY 22 Funding Streams will not be available in Workforce One until all parties have signed the contract and the finalized/executed contract has been emailed to the grantee.

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Two Workforce One training sessions specific for ACP programs were held Feb. 22 (for Pathways to Prosperity providers only) and Mar. 1 (for all other ACP providers). Both sessions were recorded and are posted to the ACP webpage. In addition, the WF1 team recorded the ETP Case Management training and those are posted on our webpage.

Internationally Trained Professionals RFP was re-released on Feb. 9; proposals are due Mar. 28, 2022 by 5:00pm (CST).

The ACP team has partnered with CareerForce MN to give our Grantees the opportunity to post their free trainings on the CareerForce website; <https://www.careerforcemn.com/training-programs>. This is an excellent opportunity to market your courses to the thousands of users that visit the site every month.

Feel free to reach out to the CareerForce help desk at careerforce@state.mn.us to request access or any additional assistance.

[SNAP E&T 50/50](#)

In partnership with DHS, we have contracted with 3 new SNAP E&T third party providers for SFY22. If you have a DEED SFY22/23 contract and are interested in learning more about becoming a DEED SNAP E&T provider, please contact Ann Meyers at ann.meyers@state.mn.us.

[ACP Guides](#)

The ACP team continues to update the [Operations Guide](#) posted at [the ACP home page](#). This guide does NOT include [measures implemented in response to COVID-19](#), which are listed separately.

The ACP team has completed and posted an ACP Workforce One Guide. Please check it out on our ACP webpage.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

[Technical Assistance](#)

On April 11 (10:00am-12:00pm) and April 13 (2:00pm-4:00pm), TAA is offering virtual “Intro to TAA” sessions for newer Dislocated Worker Counselors, those with limited experience working with TAA customers, and those who’d like a refresher on 2015 Law. The material will be identical in the two sessions. Registration is open now:

<https://mnit.force.com/license/EventOverview?id=a5Gt00000004M8y&AgencyVar=DEED>

If/when the program is Reauthorized, TAA will offer robust technical assistance for all DW staff. Contact TAA any time your agency would like technical assistance for 2015 Law, Reversion 2021, or other TAA topics.

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RTAA/ATAA Customers

When completing a 60-day check-in for customers receiving Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance/Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA /ATAA), Dislocated Worker Counselors should ask the customer if they are still working the same employment, and if they're submitting RTAA/ATAA paperwork timely. Some customers have been reporting they are still employed but have not recently submitted paperwork. This can often leave a large amount of paperwork the customer has to submit at one time for TAA/TRA to process. If the customer has exhausted benefits, it's important to submit paperwork in a timely manner so the customer can receive prompt payment, and the TAA file can be closed.

Petitions

Here's the link to check the status of petitions with U.S. Department of Labor

https://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/petitioners/taa_search_form.cfm

- **Pending** Department of Labor (DOL) determination: three (3) petitions