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## Fast Facts on Washington's Applications for Federal Dislocated Worker Grants

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### **DISLOCATED WORKER GRANT #1: Disaster Recovery**

Washington has been awarded a Dislocated Worker Disaster Recovery Grant of \$12 million from the US Department of Labor.

This grant category, used most often for areas struck by natural disasters, focuses on preparing and placing dislocated workers into "disaster clean-up and mitigation" jobs, but also allows for investments in longer-term education and training to prepare workers for more stable post-disaster employment.

The state application, filed by the Employment Security Department, and developed in partnership with the state's 12 local workforce development councils and the Workforce Board, requested close to \$54 million to help retrain dislocated workers for occupations that will be in-demand during the pandemic recovery. Partners are currently working on revising the project implementation within the new budget parameters.

### **DISLOCATED WORKER GRANT #2: System Capacity Building**

A second grant opportunity is currently available to states from the US Department of Labor as a result of the CARES Act passage. The Washington Workforce Association (the 12 local workforce development councils), Employment Security Department, and Workforce Board are co-applicants, with Employment Security handling the administrative functions of the grant, seeking more than \$60 million to serve approximately 4,500 additional dislocated workers.

This second grant seeks to build capacity across workforce systems to address wide-spread dislocation in targeted industry sectors: agriculture, construction, manufacturing, retail and trade, transportation and warehousing, food services, and arts and entertainment. Unlike the first grant, this proposal does not necessarily seek to place dislocated workers in "disaster clean-up and mitigation" jobs.

Re-employment services aligned with the above described populations include the following:

- Short-term work readiness training (e.g. digital literacy), in combination with wrap around services, to quickly upskill individuals to fill current in-demand occupations or adapt to changing occupational or business skill requirements.
- Longer-term training resulting in a credential to help individuals gain the skills and education needed to be prepared for economic recovery and enter employment in family-sustaining, in-demand occupations.
- Upskilling of workers [incumbent, including standby employees returning to work in cohort] to make businesses more competitive, resilient and increase opportunities for workers.

- Work experience, OJT or Customized Training in cohort to support job seekers in obtaining employment or if already employed, raise participants to self-sufficiency or to learn appropriate new skills.
- Transitional jobs for individuals with barriers to employment who are chronically unemployed or have inconsistent work history.
- Collaborating and investment in the migration of training and post-secondary curriculum (current and new) to high-quality remote learning environments and supportive services for learners.
- Providing supportive services to assist participants in purchasing computers and related technology equipment to ensure they have equal access to the technology needed to participate in training, education and employment opportunities. Support the purchase of personal protective equipment, if not provided, to safely participate in in-person training, job search or employment.
- Utilizing needs-related payments to support retention and success through training for high-barriered and low-income Dislocated Workers.
- Expanding service capacity required to scale and deliver comprehensive services in support of participant outcomes.