

WORKFORCE SERVICES DIRECTIVE

Number: WSD14-16

Date: June 26, 2015

50:162:cg:17588

TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: PY 2015-16 RAPID RESPONSE ALLOCATIONS AND GUIDANCE ON USE OF THESE FUNDS FOR WIOA TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

This policy announces the Rapid Response (RR) and Layoff Aversion funding provided to Local Workforce Development Areas (Local Areas) for the period of July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. It also provides state guidance on whether Local Areas can retain any of their Program Year (PY) 2014-15 RR funding for use in PY 2015-16, and the potential use of these RR funds for the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) transition activities.

Scope

This directive applies to all Local Areas.

Effective Date

This directive is effective on the date of issuance.

REFERENCES

- WIOA, Sections 3(51) and 134(a)(2)(A)
- [WIOA TEGL No. 26-14](#), *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Transition Authority for Flexible Use of State Rapid Response Funds*
- [WIOA TEGL No. 38-14](#), *Operational Guidance to Support the Orderly Transition of Workforce Investment Act Participants, Funds, and Subrecipient Contracts to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*

STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS

This directive only contains state-imposed requirements.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

Retain this directive until further notice.

The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

BACKGROUND

For PY 2015-16, California received \$41,015,782 of Dislocated Worker RR funding. State policy sets the formula allocation methodology at 50 percent of the RR funds being allocated to the Local Areas and the other 50 percent of the RR funds being set aside for the Governor's Discretionary Additional Assistance account to respond to large dislocations, plant closures, natural disasters, emergencies, and special projects.

Normally, Local Areas can only use these funds to defray the cost of required and allowable RR activities in response to layoffs, business closures, and natural disasters as described in Sections 3(51) and 134(a)(2)(A) of the WIOA. However, for PY 2015-16, the Department of Labor (DOL) has provided additional flexibility to states by authorizing them to use up to 100 percent of previous years' RR funding and up to 50 percent of their PY 2015-16 RR funds to fund the WIOA implementation activities, as long as they meet their statutory responsibility to operate a statewide RR program. States are allowed to provide this one-time, "flexible" RR funding to their Local Areas and must coordinate with them on its use.

In providing this flexibility, the DOL has also identified and prioritized the WIOA implementation activities for which these funds can be used; these include Category 1 activities which focus on "system infrastructure for performance data and reporting," and Category 2 activities which "support short and long-term planning."

Please refer to [TEGL 26-14](#) for more detailed information regarding the WIOA transition authority for the flexible use of RR funds.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The state recognizes that there will be significant local costs associated with the successful implementation of the WIOA. In consideration of this fact, the state is providing Local Areas with flexibility in the use of their RR and Layoff Aversion funds to fund the WIOA implementation activities; see Attachment 1 for a description of which PY 2015-16 RR funds are being made available for this purpose. The use of these funds represents one-time flexibility to support the transition to the new law. However, Local Areas must ensure that mandated RR and Layoff Aversion activities are not compromised due to the alternate use of these funds for the WIOA implementation activities.

Consistent with the DOL provided flexibility for these funds, the PY 2013-14 and 2014-15 RR and Layoff Aversion funds that are unexpended as of June 30, 2015, will be term-extended to March 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016, respectively. Local Areas may carry these funds into PY 2015-16 and use up to 50 percent of these RR funds to finance the WIOA implementation transition activities. The PY 2015-16 RR and Layoff Aversion allocations will be reduced by any "old" RR funding carried into PY 2015-16. This reduction in funds will occur during the distribution of second round RR funding which the state will receive after October 1, 2015. Please note that PY 2013-14 and 2014-15 RR and Layoff Aversion funds carried into PY 2015-16 must be expended in compliance with the *Workforce Investment Act* (WIA) requirements, while the PY 2015-16 RR and Layoff Aversion funds will be subject to the requirements of the WIOA.

Please refer to [TEGL 38-14](#) for more detailed information regarding the operational guidance of transitioning funds from the WIA to the WIOA.

Up to 50 percent of Local Areas' PY 2015-16 RR allocations (see Attachment 2) can be used for the following WIOA implementation transition activities:

Category 1 (Top Priority) Allowable Uses:

- Establishing memoranda of understanding among core programs for sharing of data within the state for performance accountability and evaluation purposes.
- Planning with regard to co-location with *Wagner-Peyser* (which may include costs for terminating leases or modifying space).

Category 2 (Secondary Priority) Allowable Uses:

- Training staff for the new WIOA requirements and activities.
- Conducting new procurements or revising existing contracts.
- Hiring of additional staff to support program implementation.
- Conducting strategic planning efforts, including convening relevant program and stakeholder discussions and meetings.
- Addressing costs associated with the identification of economic regions, which may include statewide economic and labor market information analyses.
- Addressing costs associated with the renegotiating all One-Stop MOUs and resource sharing agreements.

As referenced in Workforce Services Directive [WSD14-3](#), RR funds will continue to be issued to each Local Area in their master subgrant, as grant codes 540 and 541. These formula funds may be spent on the wide range of required and/or allowable activities. Local Areas shall continue to report Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) participant enrollments funded with PY 2013-14 and 2014-15 RR formula funds, under grant code 274. Layoff Aversion based RR funding will be issued under grant codes 292 and 293 in each Local Areas' master subgrant. The layoff aversion funds may not be spent on IWT.

Financial Reporting

RR and Layoff Aversion funding utilized for allowable transition activities must be reported under the "Comments" section in the "WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures" entry screen in CalJOBSSM. The "Comments" section will be used as a temporary method for the Employment Development Department to track costs related to RR and Layoff Aversion allowable transition activities. Nothing else should be accounted for in the "Comments" section except those expenditures spent on the WIOA RR and Layoff Aversion allowable transition activities. These costs should be traceable through the Local Areas accounting system. We suggest that Local Areas use a unique identifier for these expenses for tracking and reporting purposes and input the actual expenditures under section "V. Cumulative Expenditures (Program)" in the "WIA/WIOA Summary of Expenditures" entry screen in CalJOBSSM to allow drawdown of cash.

Any costs incurred for transitional activities must be reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the WIOA and adhere to OMBs Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements that were in effect at the time the monies were awarded. All costs must be supported through sufficient documentation for monitoring and auditing purposes. Funds may not be spent on activities prohibited under WIOA such as purchase of real property.

Consistent with other PY 2015-16 WIOA allocations, these funds will not be available until the state budget is in place.

ACTION

Please share with the appropriate Local Area staff.

INQUIRIES

Contact Viviana Neet at 916-653-9150 if you have any questions regarding this information.

/S/ JOSÉ LUIS MÁRQUEZ, Chief
Central Office Workforce Services Division

Attachments

1. [PY 2015-16 Rapid Response Funding Distribution](#)
2. [PY 2015-16 Rapid Response Funding Allocations](#)