WORKSYSTEMS

COVID-19 Economic Crisis Response and Recovery Framework

March 23, 2020
2:00 p.m.
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

• Prioritize support to the most vulnerable, applying a racial equity lens
• Prioritize support to community-based partners
• Leverage and build on existing networks and assets
• Engage, listen and act quickly
COMMUNITY OUTREACH, ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

Primary Objectives:

• Establish strong structure for crisis management
• Understand community needs
• Ensure coordinated, multi-jurisdiction, multi-sector response
• Organize and share vital information
• Influence funders and policy makers

Actions:

• Establish a COVID-19/economic crisis taskforce of the Workforce Development Board focused on interagency coordination
• Refocus staff and shift to remote service delivery and economic crisis intervention
• Survey businesses and CBOs to understand impacts on workers and customers
• Maintain up to date information on workforce resources
• Analyze regional data
• Monitor and implement national best practices
• Advocate for policy changes that increase funding, flexibility and expand eligibility
TRANSITION TO VIRTUAL SERVICE PROVISION

Primary Objectives:
• Partner agencies are equipped, trained and delivering services remotely
• Job seekers have equipment and technology to access services remotely
• Keep vulnerable populations connected

Actions:
• Identify challenges of addressing surging public needs during a work-from-home mandate
• Develop tech solutions to enable field staff at home to provide high volume, high quality services to the public
• Provide laptops and internet access
• Address the digital divide through community partnerships
• Maintain demand lists for current jobs
• Build out online training capacity
• Ensure field staff have resources and information to provide crisis response services and referrals
Primary Objectives:

• Ensure continuity of essential services – contractor payment, IT, technical assistance, program support

• Support CBO infrastructure to serve most vulnerable communities

Actions:

• Incorporate CBO partners into requests for Federal, State and local disaster relief funding

• Deploy paid work programs to support CBOs such as food access, addressing digital divide, health outreach and awareness

• Provide payment advances to eligible contractors to help with cash flow

• Transition to electronic funds payment

• Develop communication tools to quickly disseminate information, provide technical assistance and respond to questions

• Modify current contracts to allow for changes to service delivery

• Organize Worksystems funding and partner resources to ensure greatest community access to assistance
Primary Objectives:
- Ensure available workforce resources are received and responsive to local needs
- Mitigate business and worker impacts
- Support critical workforce needs

Actions:
- Pursue all available National Dislocated Worker Grants, Rapid Response and other sources of funding to address layoffs
- Promote creative uses of Layoff Aversion funding to help companies keep workers
- Increase Worksystems SNAP 50/50 grant inline with surging enrollment in SNAP
- Increase linkages with OED SNAP 50/50 grant to address spike in support service needs
- Work with local public co-funders to redirect portions of Q4 (Spring) funding toward crisis response where planned programming is stalled due to closures and social restrictions
Primary Objectives:

• Ensure system, partners and resources are prepared to connect people to available and emerging opportunities.

Actions:

• Infuse National Dislocated Worker Grants and stimulus resources into the system
• Organize system partners to pivot from crisis response to economic recovery
• Expand paid work programs for adults and youth
• Analyze economic trends and partner with industry to focus occupational training to support recovery hiring and workforce needs
• Maintain partnerships, programs, systems that work throughout the crisis and recovery cycle
For current information on workforce issues and responses go to: www.worksystems.org

QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS

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