

Suggested Changes to Special Response Grants Process for PY2008

Proposed Changes

1. Dislocated Worker Subcommittee meet 3 instead of 4 times during the program year as follows: mid June for grants July 1-December 31; mid November for January 1 – June 30 and mid-March for final quarter of program year.
2. Minimize/eliminate carry-ins that were laid off prior to start of previous grant year. For PY2008 funds these would be layoffs prior to 7/1/2007.
3. Require a dual enrollment (TAA/WIA) coordination agreement from all WDAs requesting funds to serve a TAA certified group. This agreement should demonstrate how each funding stream is being used to provide services and should emphasize the use of TAA funds for training. These agreements would be jointly reviewed by the Job Service and Workforce Training Bureaus.
4. Require that rapid response worker orientations be held before a target group can be included. This requirement could be waived for exceptional circumstances.
5. Consider raising the minimum number served to be an eligible target group.
6. Require a more detailed analysis of worker needs based on characteristics of affected groups vis-à-vis local labor market. This is included in current process but it is poorly done in some instances.
7. Require WDAs to have in place and submit a description of local processes for prioritizing services to dislocated workers and how the need for Special Response funds is identified.
8. Manage annual allocation in a way that ensures that adequate funds are available to fund dislocations that occur late in the program year.

Implementation

Proposed changes to the applications process include a requirement that all WDAs provide, as a prerequisite for funding, the following information and materials. This would be submitted once during the program year, unless there are major local changes, at the time the WDA first applies for funding for the year.

1. Description of how Special Response funds are coordinated with and used to supplement the services available through the formula funded dislocated worker program and how the need for Special Response funds is determined.
2. Description of local policies and processes:
 - to ensure that all available sources of training funds are identified and used before WIA funds (Pell, veteran's benefits, TAA, etc.);
 - for determining local eligibility for and prioritizing services to dislocated workers;
 - use of labor market information to determine that dislocated workers are unlikely to return to previous occupation or industry and to determine appropriate service options.
3. TAA-WIA Coordination agreement.
4. Justification for any participants carried over from prior year's grant