WorkForce West Virginia, on behalf of the State of West Virginia, has been awarded $1.5 million by the United States Department of Labor for a COVID-19 National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG). This funding provides temporary disaster relief employment and classroom or on-line training in a demand occupation for individuals meet eligibility criteria.

The COVID-19 National Health Emergency grant offers temporary employment opportunities to qualifying participants. To qualify participants must:

Be dislocated (laid off) due to the COVID-19 Pandemic or;

1. Be working reduced hours due to the COVID-19 Pandemic or;
2. Be dislocated (laid off) from any employer or;
3. Be unemployed for any 13 weeks out of the last 26 weeks or;
4. Be underemployed (earning 80% less than prior wages) or;
5. Be a self-employed individual who became unemployed or significantly underemployed as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Qualifying participants can work in the following temporary employment activities for 1,080 hours or 12 months whichever occurs first:

1. Janitor/Cleaner earning $13.00 per hour
2. Receptionist/Information Clerks earning $13.00 per hour (vaccine appts/outreach)
3. Shuttle Driver/Chauffer earning $13.00 per hour (to and from vaccine appts)
4. File Clerks earning $15.00 per hour (contact tracing)

All participants may be eligible for up to $600.00 in Supportive Services. Supportive Services include:

1. Transportation assistance and auto repairs;
2. Child care and dependent care costs;
3. Housing and utility assistance;
4. Groceries and hygiene items (including haircuts);
5. Assistance with medical and prescription (including eyeglasses) services;
6. Interview clothing, uniforms, and other appropriate work attire;
7. Tools or other work or training-related materials;
8. Job-related adult basic education and English as a Second Language training;
9. Translation services;
10. Non-commercial driver’s license training and assistance with driver’s license fees;
11. Work and training-related licenses, permits, and fees;
12. Assistance with special services and materials for individuals with disabilities;
13. Out-of-state job search and relocation to a new job;
14. Legal aid services meant to reduce barriers to employment and establish employment eligibility such as by helping secure a driver’s license, expunging criminal records, and addressing debts or credit reporting issues.

Participants may also be able to have training paid for in demand occupations. Demand occupations are listed at http://lmi.workforcewv.org/LTprojections/LTDemandOccs.html

Please contact Jamie Moore, Project Director at 304-317-7486 or email WVInfo@equusworks.com for additional information

Funding is provided by the United States Department of Labor under a cooperative agreement. This material does not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the United State Government. 100% of total costs of the project or program is financed with federal funds.