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National Dislocated Worker Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training (QUEST) Disaster Recovery Grant Reminders

February 16, 2023

Agenda



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- **Patti Prado** pprado@chicookworks.org
- **Tina Caldwell** tcaldwell@chicookworks.org
- **Quest Grant # 22671007**
- Program Goals
- Eligible Participants
- QUEST Eligibility definitions
- Co-enrollments
- Case Notes
- Underserved-Marginalized Populations
- Stretch 10 Min
- Career Connect Demo
- Questions

QUEST Program Goals



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- Enable individuals who have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the social and economic inequities that the pandemic exacerbated, to enter, return to, or advance in high-quality jobs.
- QUEST DWG funds will enhance the public workforce system's ongoing efforts to empower America's unemployed and underemployed workers through worker and business engagement, elevate equity, and connect jobseekers with high-quality jobs.
- The QUEST DWG program is to be aligned with existing state and local strategic priorities, resources, and programs and not operated as a stand-alone project. The Grantee is to design and carry out the QUEST DWG project to operate in alignment with other state and local programs, including Rapid Response, layoff aversion, other DWG grant awards, and the formula Dislocated Worker program, and to focus on returning dislocated workers and other eligible individuals to sustainable, quality, family-supporting employment.

QUEST Eligible Participants



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- Individuals eligible to receive services through the QUEST Disaster DWG grant must be from one of the following Disaster Recovery DWG eligibility categories **and**, *also be part of an underserved historically marginalized group/community*:
 1. A dislocated worker; (**category 1-8 regular 1D**)
 2. A long-term unemployed individual as defined by the Grantor; (**new relaxed definition**)
 3. An individual temporarily or permanently laid off because of the COVID-19 pandemic disaster; (**new relaxed definition**)
 4. A self-employed individual who became unemployed or significantly underemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic disaster. (**new relaxed definition**)
- NOTE: If a person is eligible as a Dislocated Worker and, also one of the other three eligibility categories, they are to be certified eligible as a Dislocated Worker.

QUEST Eligibility: Long Term Unemployed



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- A long-term unemployed individual, defined by the State for Disaster grants as an individual who:
 - has no work history; has not worked for an extended period of at least six weeks; or has an intermittent, erratic, or day-to-day employment work history (e.g., multiple terminations, employment gaps, temporary/seasonal/day labor employment, justice-touched history, etc.);
 - has an employment barrier (as defined by the State or the local Board) and is unemployed; or
 - is underemployed, including working or needing to work multiple jobs or earning less than \$15/hour;

QUEST Eligibility: Laid Off Due to Covid-19



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- An individual temporarily or permanently laid off as a consequence of the disaster or emergency (e.g., flood, tornado, fire, COVID-19, etc.), including individuals who were fired or voluntarily left their job (quit, resigned) due to the disaster or emergency;
 - Examples of leaving a job due to the COVID-19 disaster/emergency include, but are not limited to, individuals who: contracted or were exposed to COVID and stayed home to quarantine/isolate or to care for a COVID-impacted individual or a child schooling at home; were in an at-risk health category; lacked access to adequate daycare; no longer felt safe in their job/career, in their work environment, or during their work commute due to COVID; experienced a change in work hours or shifts due to reduced schedule of business operations; complied with CDC/State/local COVID requirements (e.g., required vaccinations; quarantine/isolation; testing; masking; etc.).

QUEST Eligibility: Self Employed



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- A self-employed individual who became unemployed or significantly underemployed as a result of the emergency or disaster, including significantly underemployed individuals who experienced a substantial change in the need or demand for, or the ability to deliver their product or service; were unable to find or retain adequate staffing, suppliers, or vendors resulting in significant impact to operations; or experienced a substantial change in their costs or pricing because of the disaster/emergency.

QUEST Employment & Training Services



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- Comprehensive Employment and Training Services will be provided consistent with local policies;

QUEST DWG project is operated similar to regular WIOA

- Career Services
- Training Services
- Supportive Services
- Follow-up



- **Thorough case notes for DWG participants are required.**
 - Initial case notes must explain the circumstances as to why/how the person is eligible as a dislocated worker or one of the other eligibility categories, AND also explain/describe how the participant meets the “underserved or historically marginalized” requirement.
 - **Do not use a “cut and paste” generic description.** The case note is to be descriptive in explaining an individual’s personal circumstances.
 - Case notes **must tell the story** of the participant in terms of their eligibility for the grant and also **service determination** (including assessment, suitability, etc.) and delivery of services, including periodic review and update, as appropriate, of a participant’s IEP and supportive services needs.



QUEST Co-Enrollment



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- Participants may be co-enrolled (co-funded) in other grants if there is a benefit/reason for enrollment in multiple grants.
 - If co-enrolling a current 1D participant into the QUEST grant, it should be done at the next logical break in services (e.g., next semester's training). **Co-enrolled participants must be part of an underserved / historically marginalized population.**
 - Reminder that **ALL QUEST participants must have at least one Career Service associated with the QUEST grant.** For Example:

*If you have a 1D formula participant and begin paying for Training and associated Supportive Services out of the QUEST grant, **at least one Career Service is to be recorded for the QUEST grant.** At the time of co-enrollment, you must enter a case note explaining how the client meets the underserved / historically marginalized criteria.*

Underserved and Historically Marginalized Populations



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- State Defined Barriers to Employment:

Displaced homemakers; low-income individuals; Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian individuals; individuals with disabilities; older individuals (age 55 or over); ex-offenders/justice-involved individuals; homeless individuals; youth who are in or have aged out of the foster care system; individuals who are English language learners, individuals who have low levels of literacy, and individuals facing substantial cultural barriers; eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers; individuals within 2 years of exhausting TANF lifetime eligibility; single parents (including single pregnant women); and long-term unemployed individuals (at least 27 consecutive weeks.)

Underserved and Historically Marginalized Populations Website Look Up



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- Qualified Census Tract and Disproportionately Impacted Area (you'll be reporting these numbers; look up for all participants). Link for participant address look-up: <https://www.illinoisworknet.com/qctdiamap>

- Example:

60099
Zion, IL 60099, USA

Clear Address

Print

Location Qualifications

Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)

Census Tracts are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- 50 percent or more of the households have an income less than 60 percent of the Area Median Gross Income (which is calculated at the MSA or county level)
- The poverty rate is at least 25 percent

Source: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/qct.html#2021>

QCT
Qualification



Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIA)

"Disproportionately impacted area" means those ZIP Codes most severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, to be determined based on positive COVID-19 case per capita rates, and that meet at least one of the following poverty-related criteria relative to other ZIP Codes within that region:

DIA
Qualification



Underserved and Historically Marginalized Reminders



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- Detailed case note explaining how the client meets criteria as an “Under-served and historically marginalized individual”.
- This type of note is needed for each client that will be enrolled in your 1N QUEST DWG
- On the Barrier tab in Career Connect Select Meets Governor’s special barriers to employment if you are using <https://www.illinoisworknet.com/qctdiamap>

Barriers To Employment

Older Individual:	No
* Hawaiian Native:	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Provided
American Indian/Alaskan Native:	No
* Single Parent (including single pregnant women):	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Did not self-ide
* Cultural Barriers:	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Did not self-ide
* Is the individual participating in the National Farmworker Jobs Program (WIOA Sec. 167)?	☐ Yes ☒ No
* Eligible Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Status:	No
* Meets Governor's special barriers to employment:	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Provided

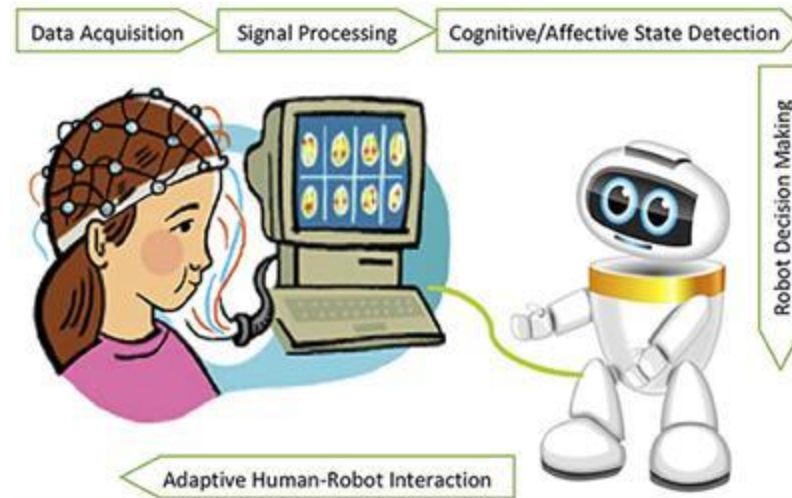
10 min Stretch/Bathroom Break



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Career Connect Demo Data Entry



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Questions?



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