

Disaster Recovery Participant Eligibility Definitions

Disaster Recovery Eligible Participants. Individuals eligible to receive services through a Disaster Recovery grant must be one of the following:

1. A dislocated worker;
2. A long-term unemployed¹ individual, defined by the State as an individual who: 1.) 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.); 2.) has an employment barrier (as defined by the State² or the local Board) and is unemployed; or 3.) is underemployed³, including working or needing to work multiple jobs or earning less than \$15/hour;
3. 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;
 - o 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.).
4. 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.

¹ Not tied to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of *long-term unemployed*.

² State Defined Employment Barriers include the following populations: displaced homemakers; low-income individuals; Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian individuals; individuals with disabilities; older individuals (age 55 or over); ex-offenders/justice-touched 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.

³ Underemployed: An individual who is working part-time but desires full-time employment; who is working in employment not commensurate with the individual's demonstrated level of educational and/or skill achievement; who is employed and meets the definition of a low-income individual as defined in WIOA Sec. 3(36); or who is employed but their current earnings are not sufficient compared to their previous job's earnings from their previous employment.

Note: When determining eligibility, if a client meets any traditional dislocated worker eligibility criteria, the client is to be certified eligible as a dislocated worker rather than one of the alternative eligibility criteria.