

Appendix A Definitions

"American Rescue Plan Act" means American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Section 9901 (P.L. 117-2; 42 USC 802).

"Barrier Reduction Funding" means flexible funding through a complementary grant agreement, contract, or budgetary line to increase family stability and job retention by covering accumulated emergency costs for basic needs, such as housing-related expenses (rent, utilities, etc.), transportation, child care, digital technology needs, education needs, mental health services, substance abuse services, income support, and work-related supplies that are not typically covered by programmatic supportive services. [20 ILCS 605/605-415(b)]

"Complementary workforce or job training grant award or contract" means a grant or contract award that provides workforce or job training services and is awarded to an eligible barrier reduction funding recipient, other than through the Program.

"COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus disease deemed COVID-19 by the World Health Organization on February 11, 2020.

"Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

"Department's 5-year Economic Plan" means the current strategic economic development plan for the State developed by the Department, including any annual modifications thereto, pursuant to 20 ILCS 605/605-300.

"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:

- share of population consisting of children age 6 to 17 in households with income less than 125% of the federal poverty level (FPL);
- share of population consisting of adults over age 64 in households with income less than 200% FPL;
- share of population in household with income less than 150% FPL; or
- share of population consisting of children ages 5 and under in households with income less than 185% FPL.

"Economic development organizations" means local planning or community development organizations and other local organizations and institutions responsible for promoting or assisting in local economic development.

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"Eligible Entities" means employers, private nonprofit organizations (which may include a faith-based organization), federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) administrative entities, Community Action Agencies, industry associations, and public or private educational institutions, that have demonstrated expertise and effectiveness in administering workforce development programs. [20 ILCS 605/605-415(b)]

"Eligible Barrier Reduction Funding Recipients" means organizations that are eligible, as set forth in a NOFO or request for proposal, to receive Barrier Reduction Funding. "Eligible Barrier Reduction Funding Recipients" may include Eligible Entities, if permitted by the applicable NOFO.

"Eligible Training Provider" means an organization (e.g., public or private college or university, an industry association, registered apprenticeship program, a community-based organization) that is approved to provide training services by the appropriate accrediting body. [20 ILCS 605/605-415(b)]

"GATA" means the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act [30 ILCS 708].

"Grant" means a grant issued under the Job Training and Economic Development Grant Program established at 20 ILCS 605/605-415.

"Grantee" means any applicant for a grant award under this program whose proposal is funded by the Department.

"Local" means an economically integrated geographic area where individuals can reside and find employment within a reasonable distance for that area or can readily change employment without changing their place of residence.

"Local level plans" means the portions of the current WIOA regional level plans developed with respect to the corresponding local area within the region, and any regionwide provision of that plan that impacts or relates to the local area.

"Local Workforce Innovation Areas" means the areas designated by the State under WIOA (29 USC 3121).

"Local Workforce Innovation Boards" means the area boards established under WIOA (29 USC 3122) that carries out the designated functions for the applicable Local Workforce Innovation Area.

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"Low-income individual" means an individual who receives, or in the past 12 months has received, or is a member of a family household that is receiving or in the past 12 months has received, assistance through:

- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP);
- Childcare Subsidies through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program;
- Medicaid;
- National Housing Trust Fund (HTF), for affordable housing programs only;
- Home Investment Partnerships Program, for affordable housing programs only;
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
- Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast (SBP) programs;
- Medicare Part D Low-income Subsidies;
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
- Head Start and/or Early Head Start;
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC);
- Section 8 Vouchers;
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); or
- Pell Grants; or
- (i) Has income that is at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) for the size of their household based on the most recently published poverty guidelines by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); OR (ii) has income at or below 40 percent of the Area Median Income for its county and size of household based on data published most recently by the Department of House and Urban Development (HUD).

"Lower living standard income level" means that income level (adjusted for regional, metropolitan, urban, and rural differences and family size) determined annually by the U.S. Secretary of Labor based on the most recent lower living family budget issued by the Secretary.

"Moderate-income individuals" means individuals whose income is: (i) at or below 300 percent of the FPG of the size of their household based on the most recently published poverty guidelines by HHS; or (ii) at or below 40 percent of the Area Median Income for its county and size of household based on data published most recently by HUD.

"Negative economic or public health impacts" means harm that households or populations have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as permitted by the American Rescue Plan Act and the related guidance issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. "Negative economic or public health impacts" includes, but is not limited to, households or populations that:

- have experienced unemployment or increased food or housing insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- are low-income individuals or moderate-income individuals, which experienced

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negative impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

- are living within either a qualified census tract or a disproportionately impacted area; or
- are receiving services or other assistance pursuant to this Part within either a qualified census tract or a disproportionately impacted area.

"NOFO" means Notice of Funding Opportunity.

"One-stop operators" means entities designated or certified by the Local Workforce Innovation Boards under WIOA (29 USC 3151) to operate centers that provide access to career and job training services.

"On-the-job training" means training by an employer that is provided to a paid participant while engaged in productive work in a job that:

- provides knowledge or skills essential to the full and adequate performance of the job;
- is made available through a program that provides reimbursement to the employer of up to the amount set by the Department in the NOFO, for the extraordinary costs of providing the training and additional supervision related to the training; and
- is limited in duration as appropriate to the occupation for which the participant is being trained, taking into account the content of the training, the prior work experience of the participant, and the service strategy of the participant, as appropriate.

"Poverty line" means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in accordance with 42 USC 9902(2)) applicable to a family of the size involved.

"Program" means the Job Training and Economic Development Grant Program established at 20 ILCS 605/605-415.

"Public assistance" means federal, State, or local government cash payments for which eligibility is determined by a needs or income test.

"Qualified Census Tract" means a census tract, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, having 50 percent of households with incomes below 60 percent of the Area Median Gross Income (AMGI) or having a poverty rate of 25 percent or more.

"Regional level plans" means the current plans, pursuant to WIOA (29 USC 3121(c)) prepared by the Local Workforce Innovation Boards and chief elected officials within regions designated by the State.

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"Secretary" means the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor.

"State" means the State of Illinois.

"State's WIOA Unified Plan" means the current 4-year strategy for the core workforce programs of the State that must be submitted and approved by the Secretary pursuant to WIOA (29 USC 3112).

"Supportive services" means services such as transportation, child care, dependent care, housing, and needs-related payments, that are reasonable, necessary and approved by the Department, to enable an individual to participate in activities authorized under the Job Training and Economic Development Grant Program.

"Target Population" means persons who are unemployed, under-employed, or under-represented that have one or more barriers to employment as defined for "individual with a barrier to employment" in WIOA (29 USC 3102(24)) or as set forth in the applicable NOFO. If set forth in the applicable NOFO, a "barrier to employment" may include individuals who reside in or receive services in a qualified census tract or a disproportionately impacted area, or who have experienced negative economic or public health impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. [20 ILCS 605/605-415(b)]

"Target industries" means in-demand industries identified in the Department's 5-year Economic Plan, the State's WIOA Unified Plan and any relevant local or regional level plans, and the funding source for any NOFO under the Program.

"Transitional job training" means time-limited, wage-paid work experiences that are subsidized by grant funds up to 100 percent of the wages. Types of work-based learning opportunities in a transitional jobs program includes, but is not limited to, on-the-job training, work experience and pre-apprenticeships.

"Under-employed individual" means an individual who is:

- working part-time but desires full-time employment;
- working in employment not commensurate with the individual's demonstrated level of educational and/or skill achievement; or
- employed and meets the definition of a low-income individual.

If set forth in the applicable NOFO, "under-employed individual" may include:

- an individual who meets one of the requirements of "under-employed individual" set forth in the first three paragraphs of this definition and resides in, or receives services in, a qualified census tract; or
- an individual who is employed and is in need of job training and other assistance to address the negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the individual's

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occupation or level of training.

"Under-represented individuals" means individuals, groups and communities that have experienced disparities or disadvantages in employment, as specifically defined in the applicable NOFO.

"Unemployed individual" means an individual who is without a job and who wants and is available for work. The determination of whether an individual is without a job, for purposes of this definition, shall be made in accordance with the criteria used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor or as required by the relevant funding source and set forth in the NOFO. If set forth in the applicable NOFO, "unemployed individual" may include:

- an individual who meets the definition of "unemployed individual" set forth above and resides in, or receives services in, a qualified census tract; or
- an individual who:
 - is without a job;
 - wants and is available to work, including someone who has looked for work sometime in the past 12 months; and
 - is in need of job training and other assistance to address the negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic; or
- an individual who is currently employed but received a notice of termination or lay-off from the current employment and will no longer be employed within ninety days.

"Uniform Guidance" means the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200).

"WIOA" means the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 USC 3101 et seq.).

"Youth" means an individual aged 16-24 who faces one or more barriers to education, training, and employment. [20 ILCS 605/605-415(b)]