**Local Workforce Area 10 Policy Letter 19-02**

**Definition of Long-term Unemployed**

**Purpose:**

Define long term unemployed and underemployed individuals for participation in the Opioid Emergency Recovery Grant.

**Effective:**

Effective 10/7/19, Approved by Board 11/19/19

**Background:**

Opioid use disorder and overdose deaths have become the most pressing

public health issue and workforce challenge facing Ohio. According to the

Ohio Chamber of Commerce, half the businesses surveyed report suffering

the consequences of substance abuse in the form of absenteeism, decreased

productivity, and worker shortage. The effects of the crisis in Ohio and other

states prompted the President to declare an opioid epidemic national health

emergency on August 10, 2017. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) then

published Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 4-18 to provide

instructions on how states could apply for Disaster Recovery Dislocated

Worker Grants to respond to the opioid crisis.

In response, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)

applied for and received an $11 million discretionary National Health Emergency Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant.

**Long-term unemployed individual**: A person who meets one of the following criteria, in descending order of priority for services:

1.        Has a substantial employment history (i.e., at least 12 months of full-time or 24-months of part-time work experience), is currently unemployed, and has been unemployed for at least 15 of the past 26 weeks;

2.        Is currently unemployed and has been unemployed for at least 15 of the past 26 weeks;

3.        Is currently employed but had been unemployed for 15 of the past 26 weeks and is not currently self-sufficient based on local policy; or

4.        Is either currently unemployed or working part-time, has not worked over 30 hours per week in any 15 of the past 26 weeks, has been seeking but unable to secure full-time employment, and is not currently self-sufficient based on local policy.

**Underemployed individual:**

An individual who is one of the following:

1. Employed less than full time who is seeking full time employment;
2. Employed in a position that is inadequate with respect to their skills and training;
3. Employed and meets the definition of a low-income individual; or
4. Employed, but whose current job’s earnings are not sufficient compared to their previous job’s earnings from their previous employment which is defined as 80 % of previous wage.