**Local Workforce Area 10 Policy Letter 19-05**

**Opioid Emergency Recovery Grant Eligibility**

**Purpose**

To recruit and serve eligible participants with the Opioid Emergency Recovery grant.

**Effective**

**10/17/19, Approve 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.

**Eligible Participants**

Individuals eligible to receive Opioid Emergency grant services must be one

of the following:

1. A dislocated worker;

2. An individual temporarily or permanently laid off because of the

opioid emergency;

3. A long-term unemployed individual; or

4. A self-employed individual who became unemployed or significantly

underemployed because of the opioid crisis.

The eligible individuals are not required to have a history of opioid use

disorder to qualify for Opioid Emergency Recovery grant services and cannot

be required to disclose whether they have been impacted by the opioid crisis

as a condition of participation. However, to target services to individuals

impacted by opioid use disorder and to make appropriate referrals, OMJ staff may ask applicants or participants the following optional question:

Your answer to this question is voluntary.

“Do you, a friend, or any member of your family have a history of

opioid use? Please answer Yes or No.”

**Storage of Confidential Information**

Applicant and participant responses to the above question must be maintained as confidential information, along with any other medical information or disability information obtained from applicants or participants or shared by partners, mental health providers, addiction recovery centers, or other organizations pertaining to the

individual’s health, disability, or medical conditions. If the above question is

presented on a form, it must be separate from the WIOA intake or

assessment forms. In accordance with 29 C.F. R. § 38.41(b)(3), the

confidential information must be:

• Used only for determining appropriateness for services;

• Maintained in a separate file apart from the WIOA case file;

• Locked up or otherwise secured (such as through password protection

if maintained in an electronic system); and

• Restricted from access by unauthorized individuals.

**Supportive Services**

For those participants enrolled and in need of supportive services above the area policy limitation, the cap may be raised to $2,000 by local OMJ operator decision. If supportive services are beyond $2,000, then Board approval must be requested.