

Rebuild Florida Workforce Recovery Training Program Hurricane Michael



Frequently Asked Questions

October 1, 2020

Q. What entities are eligible to apply for funding from the Rebuild Florida Workforce Recovery Training Program (WRTP) for Hurricane Michael?

A. Only the following types of entities are eligible to submit applications for funding:

- Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) whose service area includes a portion of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD-identified [Most Impacted and Distressed \(MID\) counties and zip codes for Hurricane Michael](#). This includes LWDBs 3, 4, and 5;
- Educational institutions with physical locations within the HUD-identified MID counties and zip codes for Hurricane Michael. Educational institution is defined as any public school, center, institution, or any other entity that is part of Florida's education system under public K-12 schools, public postsecondary educational institution and the Florida Virtual School; and
- Technical centers with physical locations within the HUD-identified MID counties and zip codes for Hurricane Michael. Technical center is defined as a public school or public technical center operated under a charter granted by a district school board or Florida College System institution board of trustees or a consortium, including one or more district school boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees, that includes the district in which the facility is located, that is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and operations, and is managed by a board of directors.

Q. May an applicant submit more than one application?

A. Yes, eligible entities may submit more than one application. An entity may also be a supporting partner for another entity's proposal.

Q. Is there a maximum or minimum amount of funding that an entity may apply for?

A. Yes, the maximum amount of funding that an entity may apply for is \$3,000,000. The minimum amount of funding that an entity may apply for is \$200,000.

Q. What required activities must projects include to be eligible for funding through the WRTP?

A. Applicants must meet the full project requirements provided in the WRTP Hurricane Michael Guidelines, as published on www.floridajobs.org/CDBG-DR. Information provided below is a summary only.

- Provide workforce training in construction occupations and/or customized training tailored to the specific economic revitalization needs of a particular region.
- Provide career services, including job readiness and job placement assistance, to support successful graduates in obtaining employment.
- Serve at least 70% low- and moderate-income (LMI) individuals, to meet the LMI national objective.



Q. May an applicant apply for funding for existing workforce training programs?

A. An existing workforce training program may be eligible for funding if the proposed project meets HUD requirements for public service programs, which must be either a new service or a quantifiable increase in the level of an existing service above that provided through state or local funds in the year before the *Action Plan* was submitted (submitted May 14, 2020). WRTP funds must be used to supplement rather than supplant funds otherwise available to expand participants served. WRTP funds may only be utilized after all other funds available to provide benefits to the participant for the same purpose have been expended.

Q. How is income eligibility determined?

A. Income eligibility is determined based on total household income and total household size. Entities awarded funding through the WRTP are responsible for obtaining documentation verifying income for all applicable household members. Participant income must be documented before assistance is provided. Re-qualification of income is not required after assistance begins.

Q. Does Duplication of Benefits apply?

A. Yes, under the requirements of *The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act*, DEO and its subrecipients must ensure that CDBG-DR assistance does not duplicate the benefits of any other assistance. Funds provided by any federal, state, or local government entity, or non-profit or private source intended for the same purpose as the WRTP are considered a Duplication of Benefit and under federal law must be deducted from the assistance provided by the WRTP. If a Duplication of Benefits occurs, repayment of any duplicative assistance funds will be required.

Q. Does Duplication of Benefits include other workforce training programs that receive federal, state, or local funding?

A. Yes, entities awarded funding through the WRTP must agree to utilize WRTP funds to supplement rather than supplant funds otherwise available. Entities must document that WRTP funds awarded are above and beyond any annual appropriations that are provided for the same purpose, including funding from the Department of Labor, Department of Education, or other federal, state, or local funding.

Entities must also document that WRTP funds expended on any participant are above and beyond any other funding available through other sources for the same purpose, including any funding available through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, or other federal, state, or local funding. WRTP funds may only be utilized after all other funds available to provide benefits to the participant for the same purpose have been expended.

Q. Are participants required to reside in one of the Most Impacted and Distressed areas?

A. Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds are required to be expended in the HUD and state-identified MID areas. Participants are not required to reside in one of the MID areas if the services are being provided and related funds are being expended for participant activities within the MID areas.

Q. Can WRTP funds be used to pay for apprentice or trainee wages?

A. No, income payments, including trainee wages, housing costs, or stipends are not an eligible cost.



Q. Is an environmental review necessary?

A. All CDBG-DR activities are subject to environmental review requirements. DEO has conducted a preliminary review of the eligible WRTP activities. If a subrecipient's activities consist solely of eligible WRTP activities, then in accordance with 24 CFR 58.34(a), the locations associated with WRTP activities are exempt from the environmental review process, except for the applicable requirements of 24 CFR 58.6. Subrecipients are responsible for verifying this preliminary assessment based on their WRTP activities and completing the appropriate environmental review.

R. How long do entities have to conduct WRTP training programs?

A. All training must be completed by May 31, 2025.

S. How will DEO evaluate applications?

A. DEO will apply a two-phased process to review applications. Proposals will first be evaluated for Threshold Compliance Criteria. All proposals that pass this phase will proceed to phase two, where proposals will be reviewed and scored based on Program Scoring Criteria. Complete scoring criteria is provided in the WRTP Hurricane Michael guidelines, Section 2.7 Award Determination.

T. Can subrecipients charge a fee for participation in WRTP programs?

A. No, in accordance with HUD requirements, subrecipient programs and services utilizing CDBG-DR funds may not charge fees to participants, in order to ensure that LMI persons are not precluded from accessing programs and benefits. Responses should confirm that the respondent will not charge fees to participants in programs and/or services provided through the WRTP.

U. Can subrecipients use their own application to screen WRTP applicants?

A. No, subrecipients must comply with the requirement that only completion and submission of the Rebuild Florida WRTP participant application will be considered as an individual's application for program services and benefits. Subrecipients may not substitute any other application for the Rebuild Florida WRTP participant application. Subrecipients may request additional information from WRTP applicants, but additional information must not be required. Applicant refusal to provide additional information or any additional information obtained by a subrecipient cannot be used as grounds to deny program access and/or determine participant eligibility. Only the information in the Rebuild Florida WRTP participant application, including supporting documentation, may be considered for determination of an applicant's eligibility for program services and benefits.