

WORKSYSTEMS

COVID-19 Economic Crisis Response and Recovery Framework

March 23, 2020

2:00 p.m.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Prioritize support to the most vulnerable, applying a racial equity lens
- Prioritize support to community-based partners
- Leverage and build on existing networks and assets
- Engage, listen and act quickly

COMMUNITY OUTREACH, ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

Primary Objectives:

- Establish strong structure for crisis management
- Understand community needs
- Ensure coordinated, multi-jurisdiction, multi-sector response
- Organize and share vital information
- Influence funders and policy makers

Actions:

- Establish a COVID-19/economic crisis taskforce of the Workforce Development Board focused on interagency coordination
- Refocus staff and shift to remote service delivery and economic crisis intervention
- Survey businesses and CBOs to understand impacts on workers and customers
- Maintain up to date information on workforce resources
- Analyze regional data
- Monitor and implement national best practices
- Advocate for policy changes that increase funding, flexibility and expand eligibility

TRANSITION TO VIRTUAL SERVICE PROVISION

Primary Objectives:

- Partner agencies are equipped, trained and delivering services remotely
- Job seekers have equipment and technology to access services remotely
- Keep vulnerable populations connected

Actions:

- Identify challenges of addressing surging public needs during a work-from-home mandate
- Develop tech solutions to enable field staff at home to provide high volume, high quality services to the public
- Provide laptops and internet access
- Address the digital divide through community partnerships
- Maintain demand lists for current jobs
- Build out online training capacity
- Ensure field staff have resources and information to provide crisis response services and referrals

SUPPORT VITAL COMMUNITY ASSETS

Primary Objectives:

- Ensure continuity of essential services – contractor payment, IT, technical assistance, program support
- Support CBO infrastructure to serve most vulnerable communities

Actions:

- Incorporate CBO partners into requests for Federal, State and local disaster relief funding
- Deploy paid work programs to support CBOs such as food access, addressing digital divide, health outreach and awareness
- Provide payment advances to eligible contractors to help with cash flow
- Transition to electronic funds payment
- Develop communication tools to quickly disseminate information, provide technical assistance and respond to questions
- Modify current contracts to allow for changes to service delivery
- Organize Worksystems funding and partner resources to ensure greatest community access to assistance

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & RAPID DEPLOYMENT

Primary Objectives:

- Ensure available workforce resources are received and responsive to local needs
- Mitigate business and worker impacts
- Support critical workforce needs

Actions:

- Pursue all available National Dislocated Worker Grants, Rapid Response and other sources of funding to address layoffs
- Promote creative uses of Layoff Aversion funding to help companies keep workers
- Increase Worksystems SNAP 50/50 grant inline with surging enrollment in SNAP
- Increase linkages with OED SNAP 50/50 grant to address spike in support service needs
- Work with local public co-funders to redirect portions of Q4 (Spring) funding toward crisis response where planned programming is stalled due to closures and social restrictions

RECOVERY

Primary Objectives:

- Ensure system, partners and resources are prepared to connect people to available and emerging opportunities.

Actions:

- Infuse National Dislocated Worker Grants and stimulus resources into the system
- Organize system partners to pivot from crisis response to economic recovery
- Expand paid work programs for adults and youth
- Analyze economic trends and partner with industry to focus occupational training to support recovery hiring and workforce needs
- Maintain partnerships, programs, systems that work throughout the crisis and recovery cycle

QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS

Andrew McGough, Executive Director

amcgough@worksystems.org

503-984-0401

Patrick Gihring, Chief Program Officer

pgihring@worksystems.org

503-841-7809

Tricia Ryan, Chief Operating Officer

tryan@worksystems.org

503-320-3812

**For current
information on
workforce issues and
responses go to:
www.worksystems.org**