

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Dislocated Worker Program



The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Dislocated Worker program provides workforce investment activities that increase employment, retention, earnings, and occupational skill attainment of participants. As a result, the program improves the quality of the workforce, reduces public assistance dependency, and enhances the productivity and competitiveness of the economy.

Who is eligible to participate?

A dislocated worker is an individual who meets one of the following six criteria:

(1) The individual:

- has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment; and
- is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation, or has been employed for a duration sufficient to demonstrate attachment to the workforce, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state's Unemployment Insurance law; and
- is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

(2) The individual:

- has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise; or
- is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
- for purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training services, career services, or support services, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close.

(3) The individual was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters. This includes individuals working as independent contractors or consultants but not technically employees of a firm.

(4) The individual is a displaced homemaker.

(5) The individual is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty, and who has experienced a loss of employment as a direct result of relocation to accommodate a permanent change in duty station of such members; or is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty and who is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment.

(6) The individual:

- is a separated service member with a discharge other than dishonorable, who has received a notice of separation from the Department of Defense and is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation; and
- is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation, or has been employed for a duration sufficient to demonstrate attachment to the workforce, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation.

Where can you find more information?

Federal funds, which must be used to provide career and training services, are allocated by formula to the local Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs). Contact Michigan Works! at 1-800-285-WORKS (9675) or find your local MWA at MichiganWorks.org.

What services are available to dislocated workers?

Basic Career Services

Available to all individuals seeking employment and training services.

- Program information and basic assessment
- Individual job development and employment planning
- Advanced screened referrals
- Group activities
- Job search

Individualized Career Services

Designed for individuals who have been unable to obtain employment through basic career services, and is based on employment needs.

- Comprehensive specialized assessment
- Counseling
- Short-term pre-vocational skills
- Case management
- Literacy activity
- Out-of-area job search
- Relocation assistance
- Internship and work experience

Training Services

Provided to equip individuals to enter the workforce and retain employment.

- Occupational skills
- On-the-job training (OJT)
- Workplace training with related instruction
- Registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship
- Incumbent worker
- Skill upgrading and retraining
- Entrepreneurial
- Adult education/literacy in combination with any other training services

Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Workforce Development

201 North Washington Square, Lansing, MI 48913

Phone: 517-335-5858 | Fax: 517-241-8217 | Website: Michigan.gov/Workforce