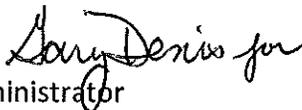


DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMO SERIES

NOTICE: 12-04

ISSUE DATE: May 25, 2012
DISPOSAL DATE: July 30, 2013

To: Workforce Development Board Directors and Job Service Directors in Southeast Wisconsin, Milwaukee County and Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Areas

From: Lisa Boyd 
Division Administrator

Re: Implementation of Wisconsin Workers Win (W3) Pilot Program

PURPOSE: To introduce the Wisconsin Workers Win (W3) program to begin on June 1, 2012 and will operate through June 30, 2013.

BACKGROUND: On March 12, 2012 Governor Walker signed into law 2011 Act 123, which provides for a pilot program for UI claimants known as Wisconsin Workers Win (W3). The program allows individuals receiving unemployment compensation benefits in their first 26 weeks to receive training and demonstrate their skills to potential employers.

This memo is to provide you with information about the program and how it may be coordinated with Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs in your Workforce Development Area (WDA). W3 will be implemented as a one-year pilot program starting June 1, 2012 in three Wisconsin WDAs including Southeast (Racine, Walworth and Kenosha counties), Milwaukee County and Southwest (Rock, Green, Lafayette, Iowa, Grant and Richland counties).

W3 Program providers are:

Southeast

Racine County Human Services
1717 Taylor Ave, Racine, WI 53403-2497
262-638-6620

Milwaukee

UMOS, Inc
2701 S. Chase Street, Milwaukee, WI 53707-1482
414-389-6000

Southwest

Community Action Inc
200 W. Milwaukee Street, Janesville, WI 53548
608-755-2470

These agencies also operate Transitional Jobs programs and are well positioned to expand their services to meet W3 program deliverables. Key aspects of the W3 program include:

- Anticipated project start date is June 1, 2012.
- Up to 500 individuals are expected to participate in the program during the initial year.
- Eligible participants must be within the first 20 weeks of their initial receipt of UI benefits.
- Participation is voluntary; notification about the program will be made to eligible participants by DWD's Unemployment Insurance Division, through RES sessions at the local Job Centers and outreach provided by W3 vendors.
- Training is limited to part-time (20-24 hours per week) for not more than 6 weeks.
- Eligible participants will receive a weekly stipend of \$75 to assist with work related expenses.
- Participants must continue to conduct work search during their training period.
- Employers must have a full-time job opening available during training.
- Employers must submit a Declaration of Insurance to cover Workers Compensation liability.
- Worksites cannot be engaged in current or upcoming layoff activity, or if there have been layoffs in the last 12 months, the W3 training position may not be one that was affected by the layoff.
- Participants will be tracked in ASSET as Title 3 (Wagner-Peyser) special project participants.

W3 Participant Eligibility Verification

W3 participants are eligible when they are currently receiving WI Unemployment Insurance benefits, and are within the first 20 weeks of benefits, as training must be completed by the 26th week of UI. It is the responsibility of W3 agency staff to ensure appropriate referrals are being made to the training worksite.

Employer Eligibility Verification

Training worksites with current layoffs (occurring within the last 12 months) are still eligible to participate; however, W3 participants may only be placed in occupations that were not affected by the layoff. W3 case managers must verify with the local and or state Rapid Response Coordinator that the company does not have any known current or upcoming layoffs. Rapid Response Coordinators for the three regions of the state are shown below.

Milwaukee Rapid Response Coordinator:

Roger Hinkle, Hire Center

414-385-6964 roger.hinkle@milwaukeeewib.org

SE Rapid Response Coordinator:

Kenosha County

Doug Bartz

262-697-4586 doug.bartz@kenoshacounty.org

Racine County

Mark Mundl

262-638-6621 mark.mundl@goracine.org

Walworth County

Maryln Putz

262-741-5274

mputz@kaisergrp.com

SW Rapid Response Coordinator:

Dr. Robert T. Borremans, Ed.D.

Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board

608-342-4220, Ext. 222

r.borremans@swwdb.org

Implications for WIA Title 1 and TAA programs

- Participants in WIA Title 1 and TAA job search activities may be co-enrolled in W3. Participation in W3 by WIA Title 1 and TAA participants in job search activities should be documented in ASSET case notes; it is not necessary to report any additional service in ASSET other than work search.
- Participants in WIA Title 1 or TAA approved training are not eligible to participate in W3 since they are waived from job search requirements and not available for work.
- W3 participants that are in need of additional services may be referred to WIA Title 1 or other job center partner programs during or following W3 activities. W3 participants hired by a training worksite may be enrolled in WIA On-the-Job-Training (OJT) after the W3 training period ends. It is recommended that the allowed OJT weeks be reduced by the number of hours the trainee has already received training. If participants qualify for both WIA or TAA and W3, they should not be closed out of WIA case management for W3 enrollment. Instead, support services delivered under WIA should be tapped to maximize successful employment outcomes.
- Participation in W3 will have no impact on TRA payments since the only individuals eligible for the program will have received UI for 20 weeks or less.

Implications for the W-2 program

In the case of W-2 co-enrollment, W3 staff must coordinate with W-2 staff to assure that both programs' activities and supportive services are complimentary and supportive of the W3 participant's and employer's needs. W-2 and W3 services must not be duplicative. W3 staff is responsible for updating the training plan with all W-2 activities that relate to the W3 plan goals or those that could impact W3 program participation. Enrollment in the W-2 program might make co-enrollees eligible for subsidized childcare to be provided during the hours of W3 work and training. The W3 stipend is countable income for W-2 eligibility purposes. Also, W3 can affect the W-2 placement decision, and may result in the UIT moving into an unpaid W-2 placement.

ACTION SUMMARY STATEMENT: This program goes into effect June 1, 2012. Please make this information available to staff in your WDA involved with employment and training programs.

CONTACT: Linda Preysz, W3 Project Manager, (608-266-8437, Linda.preysz@dwd.wisconsin.gov).

Additional information about the program, including FAQs can be found on DWD's website <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wiworkerswin/default.htm>