

STATE RAPID RESPONSE AWARD PROCEDURES

Background

Funds for Statewide Rapid Response activities are reserved under WIOA section 133(a)(2). Commerce may reserve up to 25% of the annual State Formula Dislocated Worker allocation for Rapid Response activities. After reserving sufficient amounts to fund the activities of the State Rapid Response Unit, the remainder shall be awarded to designated entities (WDAs or local area) upon receipt of an approved Application for Rapid Response Funding.

Funding Priorities

1. The first priority for funding applications are those required **Rapid Response (RR)** activities; including agreements with Local Workforce Development Areas (WDAs) to provide:
 - a. Immediate and onsite contact with the employer, representatives of affected workers, and the local community; which may include an assessment of:
 - i. lay-off schedule and plans of the employer
 - ii. potential for averting the layoff in consultation with state or local economic development agencies
 - iii. background and probable assistance needs of the affected workers
 - iv. reemployment prospects for workers in the local community; including:
 1. Job Fairs, resource fairs, and outplacements activities targeted to impacted employees of a specific
 - v. available resources to meet the short and long-term needs of the affected workers
 - b. The provision of information and access to:
 - i. unemployment compensation benefits,
 - ii. comprehensive One-Stop system services, and
 - iii. employment and training activities, including information on Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
 - c. The provision of guidance and/or financial assistance in establishing a labor-management committee including:
 - i. provision of training and technical assistance to committee members in their role and mission
 - ii. funding the operation cost of the committee to provide advice and assistance in carrying out rapid response activities and in the design and delivery of WIOA authorized services to affected workers. (typically no longer than six months)
 - iii. providing a list of potential candidates to serve as a neutral committee chair
 - d. The provision of emergency assistance adapted to a particular closing, layoff or disaster
2. The second priority for funding applications is for allowable **Rapid Response Enhancement (RRE)** activities*, including:
 - a. In conjunction with other appropriate Federal, State and Local agencies and officials such as government agencies, employer associations, technical or industry business councils and labor organizations, economic development agencies; and education agencies:
 - i. Assisting in devising, implementing and overseeing layoff aversion strategies including:
 1. prefeasibility studies for avoiding a plant closure
 2. incumbent worker training to avert a layoff or reduce/eliminate worker dislocation
 3. strategies and activities to transition workers to jobs with other employers, with the objective of eliminating or significantly reducing any period of unemployment

4. development and maintenance of early warning systems for the exchange of information relating to potential dislocations
- b. In conjunction with appropriate State LMIS and economic development agencies:
 - i. Collection and analysis of information relating to economic dislocation
 - ii. Review and evaluate rapid response and layoff aversion efforts
- c. Capacity building including innovative strategies for serving workers affected by smaller layoffs

*Please refer to the Commerce **Technical Assistance Guide for Layoff Aversion** for additional guidance and activities which may be conducted.

3. The third priority for funding applications, after adequate funding has been reserved for required rapid response and rapid response enhancement activities, is for allowable **Rapid Response Additional Assistance (RRAA)** activities.

Allowable RRAA activities are limited to provision of direct services (e.g., intensive and training) to individuals affected by natural disasters, workplace closings, mass layoffs or other dislocation events.

A local area must demonstrate:

1. increased numbers of unemployed individuals attributable to a specific dislocation event or events, and
2. insufficient local funds to provide direct services to the identified dislocated workers

Eligibility Criteria

Entities eligible to receive State 25% Rapid Response funds are limited to the five (5) WDAs (designated entities) within the state.

WDA Role

WDAs should submit requests for project funding following the same timelines noted in the process flow and timelines document below. Additional Assistance is awarded as funds are available and based on demonstrated need. WDAs should complete the Application for Rapid Response Funding to submit viable projects for consideration of award.

Application for Rapid Response Funding

Rapid Response required activities (RR)

- Applications for Rapid Response (required activities) funds are due by May 15 for the upcoming Program Year.
- Proposals should be based on anticipated need rather than awards amounts available.
- Submit completed applications to workforcesvcs@kansasworks.com with the subject "Application for Rapid Response Funding"

Documents

- Application for Rapid Response Funding

Rapid Response Enhancement Activities (RRE)

- Applications for Rapid Response Enhancement funds are accepted at any time through a program year
- Proposals should be based on demonstrated need rather than state fund amounts available.
- Submit completed applications to: WorkforceSvcs@ks.gov with the subject “Application for Rapid Response Funding”

Documents

- Application for Rapid Response Funding

Rapid Response Additional Assistance (RRAA)

- Applications for Rapid Response Additional Assistance funds are accepted at any time through a program year
- Application for Additional Assistance **must** be based on demonstrated financial need **and** attributable to an event, events or a specific layoff aversion activity.
- Submit completed applications to: WorkforceSvcs@ks.gov with the subject “Application for Rapid Response Funding”

Documents

- Application for Rapid Response Funding

AWARDS

WDAs will receive formal notification of all awards decisions. Decisions in the affirmative will include an award document (Sub-Award Grant Agreement) with any special provisions, assurances and/or conditions for the authorized use of funds. Funds may be awarded incrementally, subject to demonstrated performance including expenditures, and achievement of goals and objectives.