

ETA Coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQs

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has developed a Frequently Answered Questions (FAQs) to address questions related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) to help state and local workforce leaders, and other stakeholders and partners to assist the public workforce system during this crisis.

National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP)

Updated as of 5/15/20)

(New as of 5/15/20) Q: Some NFJP participants may not be able to complete training, or obtain certifications or jobs right now. As NFJP grantees assess participant needs, can grantees shift some training dollars to supportive services?

Response: Under the 2019 appropriations bill, NFJP grantees must spend 70% of their Career Services and Training funds on employment and training services. (This requirement is also incorporated into NFJP grant terms and conditions in the order of precedence section.) The term “employment and training services” means all allowable career services, training services, housing services, and youth services (as explained in [20 CFR 685.340](#), [20 CFR 685.350](#), [20 CFR 685.360](#), and [20 CFR 685.370](#)), including supportive services (defined in [20 CFR 685.110](#) and WIOA Section 3(59)). Please also see page 18 of [TEGL No. 19-16](#), “Guidance on Services provided through the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service (ES),” which provides specific examples of supportive services: https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL_19-16.pdf.

Employment and training services do not include related assistance (as defined in [20 CFR 685.110](#) and further explained in [20 CFR 685.380](#)) or administrative costs ([20 CFR 683.215](#)). Grantees may spend up to 30% of their awarded funds on a combination of related assistance, including emergency assistance and administrative costs, further subject to the administrative cost of limitation of 15%.

Grantees’ approved budgets and budget narratives generally include a breakdown of the costs allotted to training, supportive, and related assistance services. If the grantee’s request to shift program funds requires a program plan or budget update, then grantees should work with their Federal Project Officer to document these changes through a grant modification.

(New as of 5/15/20) Q: NFJP regulations do not allow grantees to provide emergency services for an adult who is in follow-up. Can this requirement be temporarily lifted during COVID-19 so that grantees can assist former participants whose work may be reduced or temporarily terminated? It is difficult to re-enroll them as reportable individuals and provide them emergency assistance since they might no longer meet eligibility requirements if they have been away from farm work for a time.

Response: Grantees must continue to follow the instructions provided in [20 CFR part 685](#) and [TEGL No. 18-16](#). Both participants and reportable individuals must meet eligibility requirements, so re-enrolling participants in the situation described above to receive emergency assistance may not always be feasible. However, there are circumstances where an NFJP grantee can provide emergency assistance. For example, if the only barrier to enrolling an individual is documentation of their current occupation, please note that when an individual receives emergency assistance only (and no other NFJP services), an applicant's self-certification is accepted as sufficient documentation of eligibility. Only participants enrolled in NFJP may receive supportive services. As described in TEGL No. 18-16, NFJP grantees may provide emergency assistance to H-2A temporary agricultural workers to address an immediate and short-term need.

(New as of 5/15/20) Q: Is the eligibility verification process for NFJP changing?

Response: Eligibility determination is a critical and non-waivable function of ETA programs. Grantees can adjust their processes and policies for application and eligibility verification process, *e.g.*, moving from hard copies to paperless and electronic submissions that protect Personally Identifiable Information. Grantees should continue to follow WIOA regulations and ETA guidance. Please note that in addition to the documents often used to verify farmworker status and low-income status, self-attestation and case notes are acceptable when no other documentation is available. Selective Service documentation is often available as electronic records, which should be used whenever possible. ETA plans to publish updated data validation guidance soon, including detailed information on when self-attestation is appropriate.

Q. Will the National Farmworker Jobs Program competition be waived?

Response: The Workforce Investment Act Section 167(c)(4)(B) provided authority for the Secretary to waive the NFJP grant competition once during a 4-year period if a recipient of such a grant has performed satisfactorily under the terms of the grant agreement. WIOA does not have this provision. At this time, interested organizations should prepare for the competition as planned. MOUs and letters of support may be obtained through email.