Policy Letter #24

TO: **All Staff**

FROM: **Samantha Wullenwaber, Director**

SUBJECT: **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Policy**

PURPOSE

This communication serves to convey the guidelines for, and implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds awarded to the Mid-Carolina Local Area.

BACKGROUND

Enacted on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) aims to alleviate the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, and local governments. Part of ARPA is the State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF), providing resources to North Carolina to combat the pandemic's effects and foster a robust and equitable recovery. Aligned with North Carolina's "First in Talent" Plan and Governor Cooper's NC Job Ready Initiative, these programs seek to address economic challenges.

Each ARPA grant offers an opportunity to engage with new partners and deliver innovative services beyond the current Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) guidelines.

1. **NCWorks Small Business Work-Based Learning Grant**:
   - Target small- and micro-businesses for work-based learning opportunities.
   - Prioritize Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) and businesses in economically distressed areas.

2. **NCWorks Substance Use Disorder Recovery Grant**:
   - Enhance programs addressing the opioid epidemic and substance use disorders.
   - Increase workforce participation and job retention for individuals in recovery.

3. **NCWorks Reentry Support Grant**:
   - Provide comprehensive services to Justice-Involved (JI) individuals post-release.
   - Include information on expungement clinics, vital records, certificates of relief, and resume writing.

ACTION

All ARPA grant participants must be registered in NCWorks.gov. **WIOA Title I enrollment is optional**. Specific participant eligibility details for the grant initiative must be accurately entered in NCWorks.gov, following guidelines. It is crucial to distinguish ARPA activities and charges from WIOA codes to ensure accurate tracking and performance evaluation.

A. Reporting Requirements:
   - Monthly and quarterly status reports must be submitted internally by the 5th and submitted to DWS by the 10th of each month.

- Reports to cover partnership updates, implemented solutions, challenges, participant demographics, expenditures, and other relevant details.

B. Project Evaluation:
   - Quarterly check-in calls and semi-annual on-site visits by Grant Program Managers.
   - Upon grant closure, submit a final evaluation and project summary to respective grant contacts, including an analysis of challenges, successes, expenditures, and potential for local sustainability and replication in other regions.

REFERENCES

OG 09-2022: American Rescue Plan Act Business Work-Based Learning Grant
OG 09-2022, Change 1: American Rescue Plan Act Business Work-Based Learning Grant

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: ARPA Work Experience (WEX) Guidelines
Attachment B: ARPA Work Experience (WEX) Agreement
Attachment C: ARPA Travel Waiver for Mobile Work Assignments

CREATION DATE

January 2023

REVISION DATES

January 2024
December 2024