

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FIELD INSTRUCTION (WIFI) No. 12-09 CHANGE 2

DATE: March 16, 2011

TO: Local WIA Grant Recipients, MESP Green Navigators

SUBJECT: Maryland Energy Sector Partnership (MESP) Initiative Eligibility Clarification

REFERENCES: SGA/DFA PY-08-20 ARRA 2009: State Energy Sector Partnership and Training Grant – Scope of Work

WIFI # 12-09 Maryland Energy Sector Partnership Grant

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

WIFI # 12-09 provided operating instructions for the Maryland Energy Sector Partnership Grant (MESP). This initiative has provided funds to Maryland's Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) for an energy sector green jobs training initiative. These funds are to be used for training, job placement, and related activities. The initiative is designed to lead to increased employment in energy efficiency and renewable energy which cuts across a wide range of industries including construction, manufacturing, power generation, and those that are environmentally related.

There has been some uncertainty surrounding the participant registration policy requirements associated with services under the MESP initiative. Funding for the MESP initiative is derived from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 which helps to fund the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Section SEC. 171 - DEMONSTRATION, PILOT, MULTISERVICE, RESEARCH AND MULTISTATE PROJECTS. This section of WIA is separate and unique from the regular WIA Adult, Youth, and Dislocated Worker programs that LWIAs work with on a day to day basis. Most importantly, eligibility in WIA SEC 171 is extended beyond what is typically required under those programs.

MESP requires Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWE) registration and service documentation at a minimum. While MESP participants are WIA eligible, they don't need to be adult or dislocated worker eligible for this program. Statewide MESP policy does not require registration beyond MWE, but local policy may require registration beyond MWE. In addition, as stated in WIFI 12-09 Change #1, employer provision of the Form I-9 will suffice as a basic eligibility document for incumbent worker participants to be retained for review purposes. This is an option and does not supersede local decisions to obtain copies of driver's licenses, social security cards, etc. Policy related to individual documentation of veteran's or disability status is unchanged.

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**ACTION TO
BE TAKEN:**

Local WIA grant recipients should review this policy update which provides clarification on eligibility provisions under the Maryland Energy Sector Partnership (MESP) grant. While local program registration policies will still take precedence, LWIAs must ensure that, at a minimum, Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWE) registrations are fully completed and any MESP services and/or training are properly documented

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EFFECTIVE:

Immediately



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