

Job Orders in WorkInTexas.com

Please update Workforce Center staff that job orders taken from the Employer Disaster Hotline ("800" number) are now being keyed into WorkInTexas.com and assigned to the local areas. We have taken numerous out of state job orders that are being assigned to "Office 9000" and available for all available Katrina evacuees.

Job Fairs

The Employer Disaster Hotline ("800" number) is receiving many calls from employers requesting information concerning any upcoming job fairs to be held in Texas. Please email Kathy Turney with any job fair information for Hurricane Katrina evacuees. We'll include those on TWC's Katrina website at http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/disaster_response.html

Child Care Funds for Hurricane Katrina

NEG funds may be used to purchase necessary child care services for persons participating in NEG activities. TWC continues to encourage Boards to use the NEG funds for necessary child care services. The automation changes to add a new funding code, "National Emergency Grant," have already been made to the child care service delivery application (CCSD) and the child care budget and payment application (BAPA). Instructions for loading and implementing these automation changes are being emailed directly to each Board's child care IT contact.

TWC has released an NEG Q&A with information on child care (see email from Luis dated 9/8/05 6:08pm). Below is the excerpt from the Q&A:

28. Question: Will the Commission rules regarding child care services apply to parents participating in NEG-funded activities?

Answer: The National Emergency Grant will be considered a special project and will be implemented under section 809.124 of the Commission child care rules. As such, the Commission will implement the program based on the NEG requirements for support services.

29. Question: How will Boards determine eligibility for NEG child care?

Answer: Since the Commission is considering the NEG a special project under section 809.124, the NEG requirements, not CCDF requirements, will be used to determine eligibility for child care services. Therefore, as long as the parent participates in an eligible NEG-funded employment and training activity, the parent will be eligible for child care support services funded through NEG. However, since the NEG funds are limited, the Commission encourages the Boards to use the NEG funds for child care as a last resort and only if the participant does not have access to other free community- or family-based resources for child care.

30. Question: Will the Boards use the current child care system to implement NEG-funded child care?

Answer: Yes. In order to simplify the implementation of NEG child care services, the Commission encourages the Boards to utilize the existing child care infrastructure for providing child care services. New codes have been set up in the CCSD and BAPA systems for NEG-funded child care. See attached instructions.

We also need to make you aware of a request from the federal Administration for Children and Families. They have asked that all states track any CCDF funds used for Hurricane Katrina victims. TWC is modifying the CCSD to track CCDF funds used for this purpose. If a Board chooses to use CCDF funds for Hurricane Katrina victims, please note that all of the requirements contained in TWC's child care rules (Chapter 809) will apply (for example, PRAs). In addition, all Board child care policies will apply (for example, income limits). If Boards choose to use CCDF funds for Katrina Evacuees, rather than using NEG funds, the new CCDF Katrina codes will need to be installed into the CCSD system. TWC will send instructions on installing new codes into CCSD directly to the Board's child care IT contact.

Success Stories from FL

Florida is passing along some Florida Hurricane Tips and experiences, including some analysis they have done on "before and after" hurricane workforce impacts on industries and occupations, and some NEG tips. This first installment offers a 12 page "In the Eye of the Storm" set of best practices by several of our local Boards affected by our series of 2004 hurricanes, particularly featuring effective use of NEG temp jobs employing displaced workers to help with cleanup, workforce services, humanitarian aid and rebuilding. Note the nimble responsiveness of the Ocala area board in putting together a JIT (just in time) roofing training program. And to see the location of the featured boards and contact info, go to the following link for a directory of our 24 Regions.

<http://www.workforceflorida.com/wages/wfi/boards/index.htm>

Voice Mail Boxes

Southwestern Bell has provided the following update regarding the availability of free voice mail boxes. Attached are the materials utilized by SBC volunteers to assist evacuees with getting their SBC provided mailboxes established. SBC has confirmed that they still do have volunteers at the major shelters providing assistance in this regard. We have also confirmed that approximately 15,000 mail boxes have been issued to date and out of that number about 8,000 have been activated.

The following is the info passed out at the shelters:



Setup.doc (47 KB)



D.I.D. Talking
Points for DID ...

We have not identified free 1-800 service at this point, but the local access is free. SBC's messaging division has identified another 2,000 mailboxes per major shelter that could be made available to TWC for issuance to the evacuees.