



PUBLIC POLICY No.: WIOA-06-2020-A

DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC POLICY ON TELEWORK IN CONNECTION WITH ACTIVITIES DIRECTED TO CUSTOMERS, PARTICIPANTS, EMPLOYERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS.

REFERENCE: M-20-17, OE-2020-020, OE-2020-23 and RESOLUTION OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MAYORS TO AUTHORIZE TELEWORK FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS, PARTICIPANTS AND EMPLOYERS.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is aimed at supporting the occupational success of our program participants, providers, and service suppliers. The Honorable Governor of Puerto Rico Wanda Vázquez-Garced, issued Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-020, on Thursday, March 12, 2020, by which she decreed a state of emergency related to the impact of COVID-19. Then, on Monday, March 15, Governor Vázquez-Garced issued Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-020.

After these Executive Orders, in order to extend the measures to control the risk of contagion, on March 30, 2020, Governor Vázquez-Garced announced the government shutdown, among other measures, through Administrative Bulletin No. EO-2020-029, extending it until April 12, 2020, unless further notice. Subsequently, on April 12, 2020, Governor Vázquez-Garced issued Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-033, which was extended until May 3, 2020, unless further notice.

To minimize the impact of these measures on the services offered to participants, employers, service providers and suppliers, the Local Workforce Development Board (Local Board) and the Board of Directors of Mayors agreed to authorize the offering, through Telework (remote-online), of activities aimed at workers, job seekers, participants, and employers. Likewise, they authorized providers to adjust the services they offer to participants so that services are not interrupted while ensuring faithful compliance with the service plan and federal laws and regulations for such purposes.

Memorandum M-20-17 issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on March 19, 2021, establishes that federal agencies may grant flexibility to recipients of funds. This authorizes payment for services provided to participants in different programs. Among the flexibilities is the possibility of continuing to pay salaries and fringe benefits, in accordance with the recipient's policy of paying these items under unexpected or extraordinary circumstances. Therefore, Teleworking (remote-online) is authorized as a viable option to continue offering services, without harming the physical integrity and health of the staff and participants.

II. AMENDMENT

Section **V. PUBLIC POLICY** is amended to add item No. 21 to read as follows:

The Local Board's interpretive regulations and the WIOA Act provide that the Local Board shall develop strategies to maximize the effectiveness and accessibility of the services offered to workers, job seekers and employers through the use of technology. Therefore, the use of **existing¹ and newly created technology²** (digital and educational platforms) is adopted for the continued provision of the services offered according to the proposal submitted and approved. This ensures that participants, providers, and service suppliers can complete the objectives and goals that have been proposed as part of the plan.

This authorizes the payment for the services provided since the approval of EO-2020-20 of any service provider that complied with the requirements established by federal law in accordance with the work plans that were requested by the Manatí/Dorado Local Workforce Development Board to comply with the requirements. Likewise, the retroactive payment for support to the participants active in the system virtually at the time of the approval of this amendment is authorized.

Section **VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE** is amended to read as follows:

This public policy shall be retroactive to the approval of EO-2020-20 meaning Thursday, March 12, 2020 to address the continuity of services, and all matters pertaining to payments for services provided to participants by providers in the midst of the COVID-2019 State of Emergency decree. This Public Policy shall be effective upon approval by the members of the Manatí/Dorado Area Local Workforce Development Board and the Local Board of Directors of Mayors. It supersedes any other Policy, Procedure or Statement, which, in whole or in part, is incompatible with the provisions herein, to the extent such incompatibility exists, until the end of the emergency period.

¹ An educational platform or academic platform is understood as a platform that allows the teacher to have a virtual space where he/she can publish all the course materials, hold conferences, include forums, receive student assignments, develop tests, promote debates, chats and obtain evaluation statistics. All the digital resources that the teacher believes necessary can be included in the virtual classroom, and will be arranged from a previous design. This allows the teacher to establish teaching and learning sequences, with activities that help students to achieve the objectives set for the course or school year.

² Produce or create something that does not exist.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

Public Policy WIOA-06-2020 in its origin and the amendment are made retroactive to the approval of EO-2020-20 meaning Thursday, March 12, 2020.

This amendment shall be effective upon approval by the members of the Local Workforce Development Board and the Board of Directors of Mayors of the Manatí/Dorado Local Workforce Development Area. The remaining portions of Public Policy WIOA-06-2020, approved on April 27, 2020, shall continue in effect.

IV. APPROVAL

Signed and approved on Friday, August 20, 2021, in Barceloneta, Puerto Rico.

SIGNED

Mrs. Agneris Laureano-Vega
Acting President
Local Workforce Development Board
Manatí/Dorado

SIGNED

Hon. María Vega-Pagán
President
Board of Directors of Mayors
Manatí/Dorado

Note: In this document the masculine gender will be used to refer to both genders in order to facilitate the reading of the document. This style of writing is not intended to imply the supremacy of one gender over the other.