



PUBLIC POLICY No.: WIOA-07-2020

DATE: MAY 13, 2020

SUBJECT: PUBLIC POLICY TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF WAGES TO ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN PAID WORK EXPERIENCE ACTIVITIES, TRANSITIONAL JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

I. INTRODUCTION

The Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vázquez-Garced, issued Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-020, on March 12, 2020, whereby she decreed a state of emergency related to the impact of COVID-19. Later on March 15, the Governor issued Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-020 to enable the closure of government and private operations to combat the effects of COVID-19, from March 15 to 30, 2020. In order to extend the measures to control the risk of contagion, on March 30, 2020, through Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-029, it extended until April 12, 2020 and/or unless further notice, the governmental closure, among other measures. Subsequently, on April 12, 2020, the Governor issued Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-033, which extended the shutdown until May 3, 2020 and/or unless further notice. These last three orders apply to public employees who do not provide essential services. The One-Stop Centers and the services offered within the System were not considered essential services.

The Manatí/Dorado Local Workforce Development Board, in coordination with the chief elected official, is responsible for ensuring the proper use and administration of funds for youth, adult and dislocated worker activities, as well as the Local Workforce Development Area's One-Stop Center.

II. LEGAL BASIS

- Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-020 issued by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vázquez-Garced, on March 12, 2020.
- Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-023 issued by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vázquez-Garced, on March 15, 2020.
- Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-029 issued by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vázquez-Garced, on March 30, 2020.
- Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-033 issued by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vázquez-Garced, on April 12, 2020.
- Section 679.370 (i) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Regulations.

- ETA Coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQs issued by the Workforce GPS, updated April 13 and 14, 2020.

III. PUBLIC POLICY

The payment of salaries to active participants in paid work experience activities, transitional jobs and internships cancelled due to COVID-19 is authorized. In order to do so, a contract must have been signed with the employer and in relation to the participant the Appointment and Authorization of Benefits prior to the closing order issued by Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-O23 issued by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vázquez-Garced, on March 15, 2020. Payment will be made for the outstanding amount as established in the Certification of Appointment and Authorization of Benefits, which must be consistent with the provisions of the contract. The following method will be used to issue the payments:

- A first disbursement of the payments that would have been due for the period from March 16 through the date this policy is approved.
- For subsequent payment periods, monthly payments will be made until the end of the government shutdown and the participant returns to his or her place of employment or the contract ends, whichever occurs first.

This does not apply to payrolls pending payment prior to the closing order issued by Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-023 issued by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vázquez-Garced, on March 15, 2020. The regular process as approved shall be used to pay these payrolls.

IV. AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC POLICY

When policies promulgated by the Workforce Development Program or directly from the Federal Government represent a need to amend part or all of the content of this public policy, the Executive and Planning Committee of the Local Workforce Development Board may amend it to conform to the promulgated policies.

V. REQUIRED ACTION

The Executive Officer of the Local Board shall be responsible for informing the appropriate governing bodies of the approval of the policy so that the latter may orient the personnel under their supervision and execute the policy as established.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Public Policy shall be effective upon approval by the members of the Local Workforce Development Board and the members of the Board of Directors of Mayors.

VII. APPROVAL

Signed and approved on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, in Barceloneta, Puerto Rico.

SIGNED

Mr. Erasmo Rafael Lamberty-Sánchez
President
Local Workforce Development Board

SIGNED

Hon. Wanda Judith Soler-Rosario
President
Board of Directors of Mayors

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.