

To: WIA Administrative Entity
One Stop Operators
From: John B. Weber, Chief, Bureau of Workforce Services
Subject: Providing WIA Assistance to Hurricane Katrina Evacuees
Date: September 7, 2005

As the rescue operations continue in the Gulf states impacted by Hurricane Katrina many of the victims will be relocating to other states. Ohio has already begun to see a limited numbers of evacuees from Katrina and more are expected as emergency relocation efforts continue.

These families and individuals will be in need of many of the important support services which our programs offer. At the least they may need temporary shelter, support services for food and clothing, etc. Many will also need to find employment and may need training services. The USDOL is in the process of developing guidelines to assist these evacuees.

One Stops are encouraged to coordinate their efforts to serve these individuals with the local CDJFS and other community programs which may be able to provide shelter, food and other support services. Many of these individuals will have limited, if any, documentation with them. When providing services under WIA or Labor Exchange self-attestation should be used.

For the most part Katrina evacuees who will be seeking new employment will be dislocated workers. Areas may wish to review their dislocated worker funding to determine whether they will need to apply for additional Rapid Response funding based on the increased number of these individuals arriving in their locations. Local areas may want to review their ability to provide core services, OJT's and other short term training Areas which currently have National Emergency Grants in place may wish to modify them to provide for more short term employment opportunities.

The Office of Workforce Development and Family Stability will be working together to coordinate assistance and provide information. Additional guidance and instructions may be provided in the coming days and weeks as receive more information.

Cc: Suzanne Alexander, CCAO
Judy Chavis, Director's Association
E-Alert