



## **REVISED Updates for WDD Report to WDC for Nov 28 WDC Meeting**

**(Updated Maui NDWG 11/22/23)**

### **Update on QUEST National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG)**

- **As of September 30, 2023, 34 QUEST participants were enrolled statewide in the QUEST NDWG.** While this is below planned levels due to a late start, the forward momentum indicates that goals will be attained and majority of funds will be spent by end of the grant period. However, it is anticipated that a no-cost extension will be requested next year to help ensure that all funds are used for the purposes and activities stated in the grant.
- Contract with The Kalaimoku Group (TKG) for a media outreach campaign became effective July 1, 2023 following their selection from an RFP. QUEST priority groups were targeted: Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, long-term unemployed, low-income, women, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and persons with low basic skills. TKG contacted each local AJC to get feedback on their outreach efforts and challenges they encountered.
- Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii continued to conduct separate sector partnership meetings in IT, Healthcare, and Engineering, with business representatives of each sector, University of Hawaii Community Colleges, Department of Education, and DLIR to develop career pathways including internships towards jobs embodying “good jobs” principles.
- County of Maui executed its contract with Goodwill Industries effective July 1, 2023 to implement QUEST on Maui. Goodwill Industries also is Maui County’s WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth provider. They targeted the private sector and Maui County for QUEST internship sites while WDD Maui targeted state agencies.
- County of Hawaii was unable to contract Goodwill Industries as planned to operate QUEST. Because Goodwill Industries is the County’s WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth

provider, the County initially planned to procure Goodwill by applying an exception allowed under state procurement requirements. However, they were told the exception did not apply and the County was required to conduct an RFP instead. The RFP is expected to be posted with selection by end of this year and provider's contract executed in January 2024.

- WDD Administration provided HireNet training for QUEST staff of WDD and Counties to ensure that QUEST data was accurately entered.

### **Maui Wildfire Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG)**

- **The Maui Wildfire Disaster Recovery NDWG began August 25, 2023. Activities during September consisted primarily of administrative tasks and during October and November focused on outreach and enrollments as** summarized below.
- DLIR's contract with Maui Economic Opportunity Inc (MEO) was developed and executed for the provision of services on Maui, effective October 1, 2023. As an established community-based organization, MEO is well positioned within a large network of public and private social services and employment-related service organizations. It is also a recipient of several non-DOL funded grants, including TANF outreach, that serve Maui wildfire victims. MEO is a current DLIR provider for SCSEP services on Maui.
- Under the Maui NDWG, MEO focuses on developing temporary jobs in the private sector for clean up, restoration, and humanitarian services related to the wildfires. MEO contracted a staffing agency, Employer Options, to act as the employer of record for their temporary jobs. MEO also provides various employment related services to participants, including comprehensive assessment, development of Individual Employment Plan, supportive services, and vocational counseling.
- DLIR WDD Maui Branch, as another service provider for the Maui NDWG, focuses on creating temporary jobs with state agencies related to wildfire clean up, restoration, and humanitarian services. As with MEO, WDD Maui provides various individualized career services and applicable supportive services as needed.
- Both MEO and WDD Maui staff participated in numerous recurring disaster related activities

and disaster relief sites.

- 20% of Lahaina residents have limited English proficiency with Latino Spanish and Ilocano (a Filipino dialect) being the primary languages. As immigrants, and lacking visas or other documents, they were fearful of being deported by government agencies and therefore were reluctant to seek government assistance. This was a major issue at the time, but with the Philippine Consulate and Hispanic organizations sponsoring resource fairs with service providers, including FEMA, County of Maui, MEO, and WDD, some of the fear was gradually dispelled and trust was slowly built.
- Normally RESEA participants and UI claimants are a major source of potential participants for WDD's workforce services, but the Governor's emergency proclamation waived the work search requirement for UI claimants and mandatory RESEA participation on Maui. Internet and phone lines also were down at first. Therefore, MEO and WDD Maui relied more on in-person community outreach than emails or phone calls in the first few months after the disaster.
- **To date, 259 jobseekers applied, including 32 participants enrolled in HireNet Hawaii, of whom 14 are now working at host agencies. A total of 21 host agencies with over 90 potential temporary jobs have been identified for consideration under the Maui NDWG.**