

ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR  
DISADVANTAGED PERSONS

CHAPTER 375

ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
FOR DISADVANTAGED PERSONS

22 VAC 40-375-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this regulation will have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Chronically unemployed” means an individual who performs no work and earns no wages for 12 months or longer.

"Custodial parent" means the biological, adoptive or stepparent with whom the child resides.

["Demographics" means the population distribution of urban-versus-rural areas/regions.]

“Department” means the Virginia Department of Social Services.

“Disadvantaged” means individuals [~~(other than individuals with disabilities)~~] who have economic or academic disadvantages and need assistance and services to enable them to succeed in career development and economic independence.

“Hard-to-employ” means [~~a public assistance recipient or a person returning to the community from a federal or state correctional facility~~] individuals who face barriers to employment such as substance abuse, physical disabilities, domestic violence, learning disabilities, mental health issues, language barriers, chronic health problems and criminal convictions].

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“Minor child” means a child who is under the age of 18, or if 18 and not yet 19, is enrolled and attending a secondary school or vocational/technical school of secondary equivalency and is expected to complete the high school or vocational/technical program prior to or in the month he attains age 19.

“Participant” means an individual who has been determined to be eligible to receive services under the Economic and Employment Improvement Program for Disadvantaged Persons and who is enrolled and receiving services under this program.

“Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)” means the program administered by the Virginia Department of Social Services and based on Title IV-A of the Social Security Act as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation [ACT] [Act] (PRWORA) and § 63.2-600, et seq. of the Code of Virginia.

22 VAC 40-375-20. Program description.

A. In order to improve the employability of and provide assistance to disadvantaged, certain hard-to-employ and chronically unemployed persons through education and job skills programs:

1. The department ~~must~~ may] administer the Economic and Employment Improvement Program for Disadvantaged Persons program ~~pursuant to § 63.2-700, et seq. of the Code of Virginia].~~

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2. The program is designed to assist eligible participants to secure employment and move from minimum wage jobs to employment or college, or [a combination of ]both that will facilitate career development and economic independence.

B. Grant program project awards.

[1. The Grant Awards Committee, composed of nine members pursuant to § 63.2-702 A of the Code of Virginia, makes grant awards pursuant to § 63.2-702 B of the Code of Virginia and Program funding availability.]

[2.] [1.] No more than 10 grants will be awarded [pursuant to § 63.2-702 C of the Code of Virginia].

[3.] [2.] Of any grant amount awarded for the program, no more than 15% of the total award may be used for administrative costs.

[4.] [3.] Grant applicants may include, but are not limited to, local workforce investment boards, local departments of social services, public and private colleges and universities, disability community organizations, community action agencies, and private entities such as community development corporations, both non-profit and profit.

[5.] [4.] Funds will be equally distributed geographically [and demographically] throughout the Commonwealth [taking into consideration demographics].

[6.] [5.] [The Grant Awards Committee can renew grants Grants can be renewed] for a period not to exceed 12 months upon satisfactory evaluation of the program project performance.

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22 VAC 40-375-30. Grant applicant eligibility.

[Grant applicants must satisfy the eligibility criteria pursuant to § 63.702 C of the Code of Virginia. Priority for awarding such grants shall be given to those whose proposals will benefit individuals satisfying the following criteria:]

[1. historically underrepresented in Virginia institutions of higher education, and in management and at administrative levels in the business community;

2. residing in counties, cities, and towns with high local stress indicators and in economically depressed regions of the Commonwealth;

3. disproportionately represented in the workforce in minimum wage jobs and occupations requiring minimum education, training, and skills;

4. ineligible to continue to receive public assistance under state and federal laws;

5. eligible to participate in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program;

6. returning to the community from state and federal correctional institutions;

7. chronically unemployed or hard-to-employ;

8. displaced by technological advances in industry; or

9. subject to any combination thereof.]

22 VAC 40-375-40. Grantee responsibility.

1. Grantees must operate their programs in accordance with, but not limited to,

[\$63.702 D of the Code of Virginia the requirements of this regulation]; and

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2. Grantees must, through performance outcomes, show that they meet the TANF objective of ending dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage pursuant to 42 U.S.C §§ 601-619.

22 VAC 40-375-50. Participant eligibility.

In order to be eligible:

1. Participants must have at least one minor child and be either a custodial or non-custodial parent [and have an income below 200% of the current federal poverty level as published by the federal Office of Management and Budget; or; and,]
2. Participants must [meet other eligibility requirements as determined b the department have an income below 200 percent of the current federal poverty level as published by the federal Office of Management and Budget].

22 VAC 40-375-60. Participant responsibility.

A. Participants in the Program that are not participating in the Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare are required to work a minimum of eight hours per week in paid employment [pursuant to § 63.2-702-D of the Code of Virginia].

B. Participants are required to comply with the guidelines established by the individual grantees.

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I certify that this regulation is full, true, and correctly dated.

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Debra Price Andrews, Chair  
State Board of Social Services  
June 18, 2003