

NY WORKS: NEIGHBORHOOD REBUILDING CORPS

National Emergency Grant Facts for Disaster Impacted Areas

What is the Disaster NEG?

The United States Department of Labor awarded the New York State Department of Labor (NYS DOL) a disaster National Emergency Grant (NEG) for up to \$16.1 million to hire temporary workers to assist in recovery of damages caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, and to assist with humanitarian efforts to aid the community, in the following disaster-impacted New York State counties:

Albany, Broome, Bronx, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Essex, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Kings, Montgomery, Nassau, New York, Oneida, Orange, Otsego, Putnam, Queens, Rensselaer, Richmond, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Suffolk, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington and Westchester.

This initiative will aid in the recovery of disaster-impacted areas, restoring public infrastructure and services so that regular business and employment activities can be resumed, as well as to work on projects that provide humanitarian assistance to victims of the disaster.

What services are available?

NEG workers can be hired for construction/laborer positions on public worksites where authorized clean-up, restoration, and service (humanitarian) activities are performed related to the covered disaster. Duties may include debris removal, clearing roadways, buildings/grounds clean-up and other projects as required. NEG workers also can be hired for humanitarian efforts such as those associated with

providing housing, clothing, food, and community outreach to ensure people are aware of benefits and services available to them and support to complete paperwork.

What is a qualified worksite?

Worksites include, but are not limited to: roadways, county/municipal buildings and grounds, state and local parks, school buildings and grounds, libraries, public utilities (e.g., water and sewage treatment facilities) and other sites where a public entity has authority to perform such services.

Worksites must be:

- 1) located in the geographic area covered by a FEMA declaration eligible for public assistance
- 2) fully documented and approved projects with the New York State Department of Labor.

The state will prioritize the worksites for temporary jobs with the highest priority given to public facilities that have been most severely damaged, consistent with the strategic plans of the community. Generally, worksites will be limited to public and private non-profit facilities.

Who is eligible to hire NEG workers?

Counties, towns, villages, government agencies, public education entities, and non-profit organizations assisting in recovery efforts all can directly hire NEG workers.

Or, these entities can tell NYSDOL the types of workers needed and the Department will deploy these

workers to qualified worksites through contracts with temporary staffing agencies. The temporary agency is the employer of record and will work with NYSDOL to find eligible workers through our talent bank. The entity will make the hiring decisions and must provide proper supervision.

Can the NEG be used to offset the cost of supervision?

YES. The employer of record can use grant funds to pay (offset) wages of existing employees who directly supervise NEG workers, determined by the percentage of time they spend on such supervision.

Who is eligible to be hired as a NEG worker?

One-Stop Career Centers will assist with recruitment and identification of eligible NEG workers. There is no residency requirement for NEG workers. Eligibility requirements are:

- Individuals who temporarily or permanently lost their employment as a result of Hurricane Irene or Tropical Storm Lee. Give priority to this group of individuals.
- Eligible dislocated workers, as defined under the Workforce Investment Act, who are unemployed.
- Long-term unemployed individuals (defined as jobless for 27 weeks or more).

What is the maximum duration of employment for NEG workers?

Employment of a NEG worker cannot exceed 6 months (or 1,040 hours). Once that duration is reached, a new NEG worker can be brought on to complete work on the project.

What are wage requirements for NEG workers?

Total wages paid to a NEG worker cannot exceed \$12,000, excluding the cost of fringe benefits. Wages

must be paid at the higher of the Federal, state or local minimum wage, or the comparable rates of pay for individuals employed in similar occupations by the same employer.

The employer of record is also required to provide NEG workers the same benefit package provided to workers hired in comparable job titles. If the employer has different policies for temporary employees than for full-time employees, these policies may apply to NEG workers since the jobs under this grant are classified as temporary.

Can the Grant be used to purchase work-related items for NEG workers?

Yes. Work-related and personal safety equipment such as work gloves, steel-toed boots, hard hats, uniforms, and small tools can be purchased under the grant.

In addition, State and Federal health and safety standards are also applicable to working conditions of NEG workers engaged in this temporary employment.

Can private property be a qualified worksite?

Disaster Relief work by NEG workers may be performed on clean-up of private property impacted by the covered disasters if workers from units of general local government are also (a) authorized to conduct such work and (b) are performing such work. Garbage or limb removal is an example of government work authorized to be done on private property.

If the government is not authorized to perform work on private property, the property owner will need to complete a release form to authorize both the local government and NEG-funded workers to perform disaster-related work.

For more information:

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