

II. Program-Specific Recovery Plan for Recovery.gov (Q 2.8 of Guidance)	
DOL Agency MAX ID and name: Employment and Training Administration (ETA)	
Recovery Program: National Emergency Grants for Health Coverage Assistance	
Does this program align with an existing PART program?	10009003 Dislocated Worker National Emergency Grants
Does this program align with an existing CFDA program?	17.260
1. Objectives:	
Program Purpose	The Recovery Act appropriated \$150 million to the Department of Labor for National Emergency Grants (NEGs) that will allow states to provide for 80 percent of the cost of qualifying health insurance coverage for eligible individuals, until such time as they can be enrolled in the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) program. Eligible individuals include workers who are certified as eligible for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, as a result of becoming unemployed because of increased imports from, or shifts in production to, foreign countries. States can pay this benefit for eligible individuals for up to three months, until they can receive assistance through the HCTC program operated by the IRS. The health insurance assistance provided with NEG funds cannot supplant other Federal, state or local assistance for which the individual is eligible.
Public Benefits	These targeted NEGs will help eligible individuals and their families pay for health insurance. States use the grants to provide health insurance coverage assistance to eligible TAA-certified workers and other eligible individuals, as authorized under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 2002 and the expansion of the program in the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009.
2. Projects and Activities:	
Kinds and scope of projects and activities to be performed	The Department of Labor will provide NEGs to states for health coverage assistance to eligible individuals.
List of Projects and Activities	<p>NEG funds may be used for infrastructure and bridge and gap-filler payments to individuals. Funding will be provided as discrete grants to states. Applications are submitted on an as-needed basis. Applications are reviewed by the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training and approved by the Secretary of Labor.</p> <p>Infrastructure: Funds are available to assist states in establishing the infrastructure needed to ensure eligibility of individuals for assistance, proper referral to and enrollment of eligible individuals in qualified coverage, and effective verification of benefit payments.</p> <p>Bridge Payments: Funds may be used to help pay the cost of health insurance premiums for eligible individuals until such time as the infrastructure and mechanisms are in place to enable individuals to receive the health insurance coverage assistance through the tax credit mechanism.</p> <p>Gap-filler Payments: Funds may be requested to cover up to three months of gap payments to support 80 percent of</p>

	the qualified premium for eligible individuals. The gap period is defined as the months required for the IRS to enroll, process and pay a candidate's first payment under the HCTC program. This period is usually one month, but depending on the timing and other factors, may take up to three months. NEG funding for gap periods is predicated on the fact that the individual remains eligible for the HCTC for all gap months.
3. Characteristics:	
Types of Financial Awards to be used.	B Project Grants
Type of Recipient	Government – State
Type of Beneficiary	Individuals
4. Major Planned Program Milestones:	
Issue Guidance	Issue a Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) describing policies and guidelines for use of NEG Recovery Act funds for health insurance coverage assistance for eligible TAA-certified workers. This TEGL will attempt to consolidate and update all previous policy related to the eligibility, application, and utilization of NEGs to provide temporary funding for health coverage assistance in a straight-forward and easy-to read manner.
	Expected Completion Date: June 30, 2009
Technical Assistance	Conduct outreach to states and other eligible applicants to communicate policies and guidelines.
	Expected Completion Date: December 31, 2010
Training	Provide training to potential state grantees on Health Coverage Assistance NEGs, via the three TAA forums scheduled for this summer on the provisions of the new TAA program authorized by the Recovery Act. The forums will address all the components, provisions and benefits associated with the new TAA program, including health coverage assistance. The forums will also cover participant eligibility for health coverage assistance, including that of Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation pension beneficiaries. Representatives from the IRS and TAA program will jointly present on the health coverage assistance portion of the forums.
	Expected Completion Date: August 31, 2010
Outreach	Promote and encourage potential and existing state grantees to participate on monthly conference calls sponsored by the IRS. Representatives from the Office of National Response (ONR) will participate on the monthly calls to provide additional information or field any questions on the NEGs. Participation on the monthly conference calls will also help facilitate communication and coordination between ONR and the IRS.
	Expected Completion Date: December 31, 2010
Review Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Accept grant applications and review according to established procedures o Make grant awards
	Expected Completion Date: December 31, 2010
Monitor Progress and Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Review grant activities and outcomes through quarterly reports o Share information about Recovery Act-funded Health Coverage Assistance NEGs through Recovery.gov
	Expected Completion Date: June 30, 2011

5. Monitoring and Evaluation:

The Department has established reporting systems and Office of Management and Budget-approved forms that grantees use to track, document and report expenditures and performance on a regularly scheduled basis that provides updated information to the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) at a minimum of once a quarter. Grantees are required to certify the accuracy of these reports prior to submitting them to ETA through the established electronic reporting systems.

ETA uses its Grants Electronic Management System (GEMS) and other related electronic data collection systems to conduct and document quarterly desk reviews of financial obligations, expenditures and program performance. Grantees identified as “high risk grantees” through these reviews are given priority attention for on-site monitoring. ETA’s quarterly desk reviews along with on-site reviews are used to identify potential risks and encourage program improvements through technical assistance and training.

ETA Regional Offices will be conducting “Readiness Consultations” with state and local areas during April and May 2009. The results of the consultations will be analyzed and will inform ETA of specific technical assistance needs required for states and local areas to successfully implement Recovery Act-funded programs.

To further ensure that funds are spent on the intended purpose and accurately reported, the Department requires all grantees to submit single audits annually. ETA works with grantees to resolve any audit findings through additional reviews and the development and implementation of corrective action plans.

ETA conducts a final review of each grantee’s expenditures and performance during the grant close-out process.

As for program evaluations, the Department is in the process of developing a plan for evaluating several components of the Recovery Act-funded programs. These evaluations will likely be implementation studies.

6. Measures:

Measure Text	Total Participants Enrolled in Health Coverage Assistance NEGs
Measure Type	Output
Measure Frequency	Quarterly
Direction of Measure	Increasing
Unit of Measure	Number of Participants
Explanation of Measure	Health Coverage Assistance NEGs are used by state agencies to help eligible individuals temporarily pay for 80 percent of their health insurance coverage costs. This measure reflects the cumulative number of eligible participants enrolled in Recovery Act-funded NEGs to receive temporary assistance with health care premiums. All participants are receiving assistance funded by the Recovery Act.
Year	2009
Original Program Target	NA
Revised Full Program Target	TBD
Targeted ARRA Increment	

Actual	
Goal Lead	Erica Cantor
7. Transparency and Accountability:	
<p>Consistent with the transparency and accountability objectives of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), states will submit supplemental monthly reports in addition to continuing to submit current quarterly and annual reports. The supplemental monthly reports will provide more detailed information on training and other services delivered than is available in current quarterly reports. The supplemental report will not require a new data collection.</p> <p>ETA will post monthly, quarterly, and the annual summary of program data on the ETA website, the DOL Recovery webpage, and Recovery.gov.</p>	
8. Federal Infrastructure Investments:	
NA	
9. Barriers to Effective Implementation:	
NA	
10. Environmental Review Compliance:	
NA	