



SEP 20 2005

VETERANS' PROGRAM LETTER NO. 08-05

TO: ALL REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS (RAVETS) AND DIRECTORS
FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (DVETS)
ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCY ADMINISTRATORS (SWAs)
ALL STATE ONE-STOP SYSTEM COORDINATORS
ALL REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS, EMPLOYMENT AND
TRAINING ADMINISTRATION (INFO)

FROM 
CHARLES S. CICCOLELLA

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR STATES AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

PURPOSE: To provide guidance for States affected by Hurricane Katrina. This guidance provides impacted States with increased flexibility to respond to the needs of workers and businesses in hurricane-affected areas and in areas receiving an influx of evacuees. Included is an explanation of the flexibility provided by this guidance.

REFERENCES: Veterans' Program Letter (VPL) 3-04, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-2009 Solicitation for Grant Applications, Jobs for Veterans State Grants for Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) Staff dated April 16, 2004, Enclosure 8, VPL 3-04, Special Grant Provisions for Jobs for Veterans State Grants and Enclosure 9, VPL 3-04, General Grant Provisions, VPL 5-05, Direct and Indirect Charges to the FY 2005-2009 Jobs for Veterans State Grants, and VPL 7-05, and Staffing, Reporting Requirements and Roles and Responsibilities of the DVOP and LVER Under the Jobs for Veterans State Grants.

BACKGROUND: Given the disaster in the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama caused by Hurricane Katrina, it is expected that the State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) in these directly impacted States will need the flexibility to use DVOP specialists and LVER staff in capacities other than their primary roles, to effectively meet the demand for services to the population at large. In addition, the flexibility provided by this guidance also may be needed by SWAs in other States that have impacted indirectly, as a result of an influx of evacuees from the directly impacted States.

GUIDANCE: Effective immediately SWAs in the the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama are granted flexibility to assign DVOP specialists and LVER staff to serve workers, business representatives, and others members of the population at large who seek employment services and/or benefits. The costs incurred for staff effort that DVOP specialists and LVER staff expend outside of their normally authorized areas of activity are to be reimbursed from the appropriate funding source(s). While operating under the flexibility provided by this guidance, standards of performance applicable to services and outcomes for veterans will be waived.

An SWA in a State indirectly impacted by an influx of evacuees may apply for flexibility under this guidance by submitting a written request to the VETS State Director. If the flexibility requested is approved, the costs incurred for staff effort that DVOP specialists and LVER staff expend outside of their normally authorized areas of activity are to be reimbursed from the appropriate funding source(s). While operating under the flexibility provided by this guidance, standards of performance applicable to services and outcomes for veterans will be waived.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

1. An SWA in any of the three directly impacted States may request an extension of this guidance by submitting to the VETS State Director, no later than COB on December 2, 2005, a written request that includes a justification for the extension requested. SWAs will be notified of VETS' action in response to extension requests no later than December 16, 2005.
2. An SWA in a State indirectly impacted by an influx of evacuees may apply for guidance authority by submitting a written request to the VETS State Director, no later than October 5, 2005. This request for flexibility under the guidance must be justified on the basis of: a) the estimated number of evacuees in the State; b) the projected increases in specified service and/or benefit activities required to meet the needs of the evacuees; and, c) the projected level of DVOP/LVER staff effort (expressed as FTE over the period October 17, 2005 through December 31, 2005) that is expected to be diverted from normal workload to meet evacuee needs. If approved, the flexibility requested under the guidance will commence on October 17, 2005 and will expire on December 31, 2005.
3. An SWA in any of the indirectly impacted States that is granted flexibility under may request an extension of this guidance by submitting to the VETS State Director, no later than COB on December 2, 2005, a written request that includes a justification for the extension requested. The justification will include an update of the three estimates and projections included in the original request. SWAs will be notified of VETS' action in response to extension requests no later than December 16, 2005.

INQUIRIES: Grantee questions should be directed to the appropriate DVET or RAVET. DVET or RAVET questions can be addressed to Patrick Hecker at the VETS National Office at (202) 693-4709 or by e-mail to Hecker.Patrick@dol.gov.

EXPIRATION DATE: December 31, 2005.