**CARES Act**

**Priority Participation**

The Delta, Twin Districts, Mississippi Partnership, and Southcentral MS Works Local Workforce Development Boards are the recipient of CARES Act funds for the purpose of providing funding that supports:

1. Short-term training programs.
2. Necessary equipment and supplies necessary for short term training.
3. Increase the capacity of training programs that are already in place so that employees and others who have been displaced due to the COVID-19 public health emergency can be more competitive and trained for the job market that emerges after the COVID-19 public health emergency.
4. On the job training, and
5. For other related purposes.

**PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY**

Under this program priority will be given to employees who have been furloughed, unemployed, underemployed, or otherwise displaced due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. In accordance with the priorities of the Back to Work program, ***participants must meet*** ***one*** of the following criterion:

**Furloughed** – terminated, temporarily laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff from employment on or after March 14th.

**Unemployed** – not working and is eligible for or has exhausted unemployment, or

not working but is not eligible for unemployment due to insufficient earnings.

**Underemployed** - working in a lower capacity than one in which they are qualified or for a limited number of hours.

**Otherwise displaced** - 2020 graduate from high school, community college, or university who had their job offers revoked or their job search adversely impacted due to a depressed job market, or a member of a family experiencing economic hardship as a result of COVID-19.

Provide additional information if needed:

**EMPLOYER ELIGIBILITY**

Under this program priority will be given to those employers who  have been forced to reduce its labor force due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. In accordance with the priorities of the Back to Work program, ***employers must meet*** ***one*** of the following criterion:

Experienced closure due to non-essential designation.

Experienced business slow down due to supply chain interruption.

Experienced business loss due to reduced orders or reduced consumer demand.

Shut down due to COVID outbreak on employer site.

**ON-THE-JOB TRAINING**

For on the job training for employees displaced due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

1. Under this program, employers are provided a reimbursement of up to 75 percent of wages paid to help defray the cost of training with priority given to furloughed, unemployed, underemployed, or other similar individuals who were displaced due to the public health emergency.
2. The amount of wage reimbursement is determined by the hourly rate of pay and number of hours worked for each employee trained.
	1. Employers are eligible to receive a 75% reimbursement of wages for employees that earn $15.00 per hour and higher for up to 320 hours.
	2. Employers are eligible to receive a 50% reimbursement of wages paid for employees that earn $8.00 to $14.99 per hour for up to 320 hours.
3. The maximum amount of wage reimbursement allowable under this program is $30 an hour, regardless of compensation rate.