






## American Job Center

### **PUBLIC POLICY TO AUTHORIZE THE PAYMENT OF WAGES TO ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORK WITH PAY EXPERIENCE ACTIVITIES IN TRANSITIONAL JOBS, AND INTERNSHIPS CANCELED DUE TO THE COVID-19**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

  
  
The Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vázquez Garced, promulgated the Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-020, on March 12, 2020, by which decree a state of emergency related to the impact of COVID-19. Subsequently, on March 15<sup>th</sup>, she promulgated the Administrative Bulletin No. OE- 2020-020 to make feasible the closure of government and private operations to combat the effects the COVID-19, from the fifteenth to the 30<sup>th</sup> of March of 2020. With the purpose of extending the measures to control the risk of contagion with COVID-19, on March 30<sup>th</sup>, through the Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020- 029, it was extended until April 12, 2020, and/or unless further notice, the

government closure, among other measures. Subsequently, on April 12, 2020, the Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-033 was promulgated in which extended the closure until May 3, 2020, and/or except further notice. These last three orders apply to public employees who do not provide essential services. The One Stop Management Centers and the services rendered in the System were not considered essential services.

The Local Board, in coordination with the principal elected official, is responsible for ensuring the appropriate use and the administration of the funds for the youth, adults, and displaced workers activities, as well as the One Stop Management System for the Local Area and the Development of the Labor Workforce.

## **II. LEGAL BASIS**

Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-020 issued by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vazquez Garced, the 12<sup>th</sup> of March of 2020,

Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-023 issued by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vazquez Garced, the 15<sup>th</sup> of March of 2020,

Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-029 issued by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vazquez Garced, the 30<sup>th</sup> of March of 2020,


Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-033 issued by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon.

Wanda Vazquez Garced, the 12<sup>th</sup> of April of 2020,

Section 679.370 (i) of the Regulations of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (per the English acronym),

ETA Coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQs issued by "Workforce GPS" updated on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### **III. PUBLIC POLICY**



The payment of wages to the active participants of the work with pay experience activities in transitional jobs and internships, canceled due to covid-19. For these purposes, there must be a signed contract with the employer and in relation to the participant's appointment prior to the closure order issued by Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-023 issued by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vazquez Garced, on March 15, 2020. The participant will be paid for the pending payment as established in the appointment that must be consistent with what is established in the contract. To issue the payments the following method will be used:

- A first disbursement of the payments that would have corresponded for the period elapsed since the 16<sup>th</sup> of March until the date on which this policy is approved.
- For subsequent payment periods, biweekly payments will be made until the end of the government shutdown and the participant returns to their place of employment or

terminates the contract, whichever happens first.

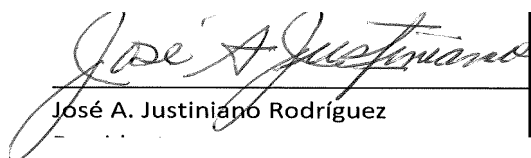
This does not apply to payroll pending from previous periods to the government closing order issued by the Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2020-023 issued by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vazquez Garcia, on March 15, 2020. To pay these payrolls, the ordinary process will be used as approved.

#### **IV. APPROVAL AND VALIDITY**

This public policy was approved by the Executive Committee of the Local Board in a virtual meeting held on April 24, 2020. Given the urgency that it be approved and put into practice, information will be distributed electronically to the members of Local Board, as approved. It has immediate effect after its approval.

It will be responsibility the Board Executive Director to inform and send copy to the personnel through electronic means as soon as it is approved.

For the record, we sign the present public policy on Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, today 24<sup>th</sup> of April of 2020, on Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.



Handwritten signature of José A. Justiniano Rodríguez in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.

José A. Justiniano Rodríguez

President

Local Board for Labor Development