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**Transcript of Webinar**

**H-1B 2021 Amended PIRL Webinar, Scaling Apprenticeship & Apprenticeships, Closing the Skills Gap Grants**

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GRACE MCCALL: And welcome to "H-1B 2021 Amended PIRL Webinar, Scaling Apprenticeship & Apprenticeships, Closing the Skills Gap Grants." So without further ado, I'm going to turn things over to today's moderator, Zodie Makonnen, workforce analyst/program lead, United States Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration. Take it away, Zodie.

ZODIE MAKONNEN: Thank you so much, Grace. Good afternoon, everyone and welcome to our H-1B 2021 Amended PIRL webinar. As Grace mentioned, my name is Zodie Makonnen and I'll be serving as the moderator for our session today. Today with me I have two of my colleagues, Ayreen Cadwallader and Dani Abdullah who will be guiding us through our presentation today.

In addition, we have Kristin Milstead and Breck Shea with us as well. And welcome to everyone, thank you for coming with us. Before we get into the nitty-gritty of our presentation, I wanted to go over today's objectives and our agenda. We will be providing reporting guidance for the quarter ending September 30, 2021.

We will also provide information on what has changed from PIRL 2018 to PIRL 2021, review how these changes affect your report submissions and also discuss why these changes took place. Finally, we'll review next-steps and action items for the period August to November, 2021. So we have a lot of information to share with you.

As a reminder, I would like to kind of point out the use of the 2018 PIRL ended with the quarter ending June 30, 2021. For the quarter ending September 30, 2021, grantees will need to split to the 2021 PIRL when submitting their Quarterly Performance Report, or QPR. That report is due November 14, 2021. Now I'm going to turn it over to Dani to get us started. Dani?

DANI ABDULLAH: Thanks, Zodie. Welcome, everyone. I'm excited to be here with you today to go over this amended 2021 PIRL. I know everybody is probably anxious to see what has changed and what it means for you. So we'll just go over really quickly what the PIRL is. I think you all are familiar with the PIRL, it's the Participant Individual Record Layout.

It's not anything new, for those of you reporting participants and hopefully you all are reporting participants now, it contains reporting calculation specifications and quarterly work templates that have been provided by the Office of Management and Budget for the collection of this data. The PIRL contains all of the required individual data elements and code values that should be tracked and recorded for WIOA Formula and discretionary grants.

Now H-1B grants will use a subset of 90 of these data elements. Previously, it was 89. And with the 2021 PIRL, I just want to emphasize that no new information is being collected, but rather the current information is being recorded a little bit differently in this new 2021 PIRL and we are -- you know, that's why we're here today, we're going to go over those changes with you.

Here we have what's the H-1B schema for the 2021 PIRL looks like. The tabs within the schema are the same for the 2018 and for your purposes, you probably will be more into the tab 2, which is the H-1B only PIRL and tab 6, which has the logic rules listed in it. Right here we see a snapshot of the changes in the 2021 PIRL.

So we have five removed changes and those were the previous quarter services received. There are 6 added, that's training leading to an associates degree and apprenticeship-specific data elements and there are 15 revised data elements and they're all listed there. If you look down at the FileShare here, we are sharing some files with you.

One of those files does capture the summary of changes and that's the number three, new H-1B PIRL 2021 PDF and that goes into a little bit more detail about which data elements were removed and added. So you want to make sure you take a look at those. Also, in this FileShare, we have the 2021 PIRL, the new one, we have a recording toolkit and WIPS technical guide for the SAA and CSG grantees.

We also have a sample case management data file that will reflect the changes to the -- to it from the 2021 PIRL and we also have this PowerPoint for you. So those are some good resources for you to look at once the webinar is over. Let's get into how the PIRL affects apprenticeship-specific grants.

So right now you will need to update your current data file to retroactively recept these changes. That includes removing columns and adding columns and revising the code value that is appropriate to correspond with your accurate grantee information. Now, as some of you may well know, when you go to submit your data files, you might receive an error saying you have an incorrect number of files.

Let's make sure that we have appropriately updated your file to have the 90 columns in there so that we can avoid having any errors and your submission is smooth. The data elements affecting how apprenticeship is report these include the PIRL 105, PIRL 931, PIRL 2908, PIRL 2909 and PIRL 2911 and we'll get into those a little bit more in the next section of this webinar.

PIRL 2109 and PIRL -- I'm sorry, PIRL 2901, sorry for my dyslexia there, and PIRL 2907, the pre-apprenticeship program status and the apprenticeship program status data PIRL elements will not be used. So you can leave those blank, but again, just make sure that you have your columns in there so that when you go to submit your report you don't come back with an error.

Grantees will continue to use your PIRL 106 to report pre-apprenticeship. PIRL 2908, this is a new data element that we have and it is date entered apprenticeship. Previously, apprenticeship grantees who start RTI before being hired into an apprenticeship by an employer could not report the date that they actually started the apprenticeship until the participant is hired by the employer into the apprenticeship. I'm sorry, I kind of lost network connection. Is everything okay? Can you all still hear me?

AYREEN CADWALLADER: We can still hear you, Dani.

MS. ABDULLAH: Okay. I just wanted to make sure we're still connected. To continue, so the apprenticeship grantees now will use this new data element to report the start date of apprenticeship with the grant-funded portion of the apprenticeship training for incumbent workers when the participant is hired by the employer into the apprenticeship.

This means that they can report the RTI start date in PIRL 1302, date entered training number 1, as soon as it occurs. Just a reminder that incumbent workers will use PIRL 2908 without needing to wait to be hired since they are already employed. So one other change that we have is in your performance reporting handbook.

We have updated your handbook. We have now combined scaling apprenticeship and closing the skills gap handbooks into one, as most of all of -- most of the grant information is the same. There are a few points in there where there are some differences between scaling apprenticeship and closing the skills gap and we have tried to make that very apparent in the handbook.

The updates also include -- you know, they include to reflect the changes from the 2018 PIRL and we also reorganized it a little bit better. So it now corresponds to how the data is recorded as opposed to being -- you know, the PIRL elements were all just in numerical order. I do want to emphasize that even though we've reorganized it this way it does not change the order of the data elements and how they need to be in your WIPS data file.

So when reporting in WIPS, your data file elements will still be reported sequentially, that's PIRL 100, PIRL 101, PIRL 105, etc. You may have noticed that we don't have this updated handbook attached to your FileShare here. We are still working it out a little bit, have a few minor edits to finalize and once we have that all finalized and done, we will be sending it out to you and we will post it on your resource pages. Well, I think Zodie has a question for you all next. Zodie.

MS. MAKONNEN: Thank you, Dani. So this is our second poll question of the webinar and you can see it on the screen and the question is, how many data element columns will be in the data file you submit for the quarter ending September 30, 2021? And your choices or options are 79, 90, 89 or we have to submit a data file? That was a question.

So if you could pick the answer that best reflects you, and it looks like a lot of people are sharing. Give it a minute. Okay. I think that we've gotten most of them and excellent, the correct response is answer number 2, which is 90. Thank you for participating in the poll. I want to just pause for a minute to see if there are any questions, please put your questions in the chat and we'd be happy to respond to them.

And we'll have opportunities for your questions as we move along the webinar as well, but please enter your questions in the chat. So I'm going to turn it over to Ayreen now.

MS. CADWALLADER: Thank you, Zodie and good afternoon, everybody. Let's go into this next session to just quickly review what's changed between PIRL 2018 and PIRL 2021 and I know Dani has provided a brief overview of what those were. And so this is where we can go into a little bit more detail on what's changed.

Specifically, a lot of the slides for this is on how we report your apprenticeship programs. So PIRL 105, Special Project ID Grant Program, if you remember, and the 2018 PIRL, the PIRL 105 was used to report the apprenticeship model of your specific H-1B grant projects. And so now PIRL 105 will be used to specify the H-1B grant program that you were awarded.

So you'll see in the code values here for scaling apprenticeships it's SAG1111, for CSG, it's CSG2222 and then you'll see the code values for rural healthcare and One Workforce grants here that you obviously won't use in your data files unless, of course, you have one of these grants and then in that case, you'll be uploading a separate data file for those two programs if you are a recipient of those two grant programs.

Next slide is -- you know, again, you're wondering then how or where do I report the apprenticeship types. So instead of PIRL 105 you will now use PIRL 931, apprenticeship type. You might recall that in the previous PIRL we did not have a code value to report industry-recognized apprenticeship programs and now we have a code value to do that.

So the next slide, let's see, there we are. So you'll see the code values to report the type of apprenticeship programs that you are providing. Registered apprenticeship programs are code value one, IRAPs, or Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs, are code value two. If your program is neither a RAP or an IRAP, the code value is three and it's the -- code value four is the participant did not enter an apprenticeship program or was not a participant in any apprenticeship programs at the time of entry.

The next slide will talk about how to report pre-apprenticeship training. Grantees will continue to use PIRL 106 to report pre-apprenticeship training activities. There is a PIRL data element that's been added, PIRL 2901, pre-apprenticeship program status and as well as PIRL 2907, apprenticeship program status.

Those are required PIRL data elements, but you don't have to submit a code value for those data elements. So you won't report pre-apprenticeship training in PIRL 2901, you will report it in PIRL 106. Just want to note here for CSG grantees, pre-apprenticeship training is allowable if you use leveraged resources.

If a combination of those leveraged resources and CSG grant funds are used to support that individual, you may report them in this PIRL data element 106. If you have more questions, please reach out to the CSG mailbox or your FPO for that information. So the next slide is date completed apprenticeship, which is the new PIRL 2911.

And so earlier, Dani did talk about PIRL 2908, date entered apprenticeship training. And so there is also a new data element, it's called PIRL 2911, date completed apprenticeships to report the date in which the participant completed the apprenticeship training and you might recall that previously grantees reported apprenticeship program completion in PIRL 1813, that was the date completed program.

You know, again, this data element PIRL 2911 is used to report the completion date of the apprenticeship that was reported in PIRL 931 apprenticeship program. If a participant is reported as having completed an apprenticeship, the apprenticeship must have -- the apprentice must have a start date in PIRL 2908, date entered -- or date started the apprenticeship program.

Participants cannot count as having completed an apprenticeship in PIRL 2911, date completed apprenticeship, until they are reported as having completed all required components of their apprenticeship program in PIRL 1813. That's the data program completion that leads to a recognized secondary credential or employment.

In addition, the apprenticeship completion must occur before the date reported for program completion and if the participant enters more than one apprenticeship as one of their training components during the grant period, only the first apprenticeship type should be reported in PIRL 931 and this should correspond with the information reported in PIRL 2908, date started apprenticeship, PIRL 2909, expected completion date for the apprenticeship and PIRL 2911, date completed apprenticeships are used.

I do want to note here PIRL 2909 is optional data element to report against and just as a reminder that this data element should not be used to report the completion date of a pre-apprenticeship training activity. So the next slide is referencing the PIRL 2109 to 2117 data element series. These are unique to H-1B grants and they're really used to -- for their specified training activities for those WIOA PIRL data elements to report type of training service, 1303, 1310 and 1315.

All of you are aware of this -- you know, these series. I think the only change is that we removed the code value eight, registered apprenticeship. It's been removed, because that is now reported in PIRL 931. And that's what we have here. Next slide. Another sort of non-related update here to apprenticeships but obviously you -- you know, these incumbent workers are enrolled in apprenticeship programs, this is the PIRL data element 2121 to report --

I'm sorry, 2120, I believe, to report incumbent workers that retained their employment after 1 quarter of completion. We have changed this policy requirement that incumbent workers need only to retain employment after the first quarter after completion and we changed this logic rule to only count that first quarter retention.

And so note that incumbent workers cannot count as both retaining employment and advancing in employment. So there will be changes that you'll need to make in your data file when that person -- that incumbent worker's employment status changes in future reporting quarters. So there -- I do want to highlight the resource in the FileShare, which is new H-1B PIRL 2021, it's a PDF, it's number 3.

That has the list of all the changes that we're talking about here to, again, quickly go over in real time what those edits and changes were in a one-pager format. The next slide is just on some WIPS tips here. Again, inactive users will be automatically logged out after 30 minutes of inactivity. So make sure you're hitting those buttons in WIPS to let them know that you're still on and trying to enter your WIPS data.

So H-1B grants will not generate an H-1B QPR using the WIOA Full PIRL. And so definitely you have to select the PIRL schema for H-1B grants. If you use a .csv file or a comma-separated values file, it must have 90 columns. Again, if your organization was awarded multiple H-1B grants, you must submit the performance data in WIPS as a separate data file for that specific program.

We do want to continue to encourage you to establish a strategy to track and receive and validate your participant-level data from your partners. Really, only one data file is submitted for each grantee that, again, incorporates all of the participant-level data from your partners and it is also cumulative grant-to-date, meaning all the information about that individual is reported up until that latest reporting quarter and you will just continue to update those data file code values as the information becomes available.

We do want to encourage you, again, and I think a lot of you this is not new, to really continue to submit the submission process that's specifically for your data file early so that you could start to resolve any data file errors that you might have. And so with that, I think we have another polling question. So I'll turn it back over to Zodie.

MS. MAKONNEN: Thank you, Ayreen. So another polling question for you and it is a question that looks at what PIRL data elements is used to report apprenticeship programs and you have a choice of PIRL 2021, PIRL 106, PIRL 931, PIRL 2908, PIRL 105 as your options. You can pick what you think is the correct response, that would be great.

I'm just going to give it a few more seconds. It seems like most people picked PIRL 931, which is the correct response for the polling question that we had. Thank you for participating. So I'm going to pause for a moment to see if there are any questions that may have come up as we have gone through our presentation. Please put it in the chat and we'll be happy to respond to any of your questions.

While you're thinking of your questions, if you do have any, I want to talk about next-steps and your action items that you should be doing. So during the period of August, 2021 and November, 2021, there are several action items for you that you should be doing. First one, you will need to review the updated performance reporting handbook and other PA materials that are available to you.

Both Ayreen and Dani have talked about the resources that are in the FileShare and I will talk a little bit about and provide information on the resources in a minute as well. Of course, we encourage you to attend the Performance Reporting Office Hours, which will be scheduled for late October, early November. We do really encourage you to attend those.

You need to revise your data file to accommodate PIRL 2021. This includes formats and code values and include information from quarter ending September 30, 2021. You need to submit and certify your grant's QNR and data files in WIPS and as Ayreen mentioned a few minutes ago, we want to encourage you and remind you to start early so you can do this successfully.

And of course, as always, please contact us via the appropriate grant mailbox, scalingapprenticeship@dol.gov or closingtheskillsgap@dol.gov for any performance reporting technical assistance and of course, please make sure to CC your FPO. Moving along, our last polling question for you, and I hope all of you participate in this, the question is, how prepared are you to use the 2021 PIRL for this next reporting quarter?

And your first option is Eeks, 2021 PIRL what, we're not ready, the second one is whew, we're almost there, we might need some help and three, feeling great, we're ready to use 2021 PIRL. And I am actually very interested to see what the responses are. A couple of eeks, that's okay, we're here to help.

Most people are saying we're almost there, we need some help and that's great to hear and quite a few, actually, feeling great, we're ready to use 2021 PIRL. Great.

We are, of course, available to support you and offer any kind of technical assistance that you may require and as promised, these are the performance reporting resources that are available to you, H-1B Performance Reporting Handbook, the H-1B 2021 PIRL for both SAA and CSG grants, the H-1B Reporting Toolkit and WIPS Technical Guide and the sample case management and data file, all great resources that will be helpful to you.

So before I close it out, are there any final questions? I'm going to be looking at the chat to see if anything comes up. Thank you, Kristin for giving additional information in the chat. Seeing that -- I see a couple of people typing. So let me give it a minute. Oh, thank you, Julie for your comment. It looks like Kristin answered Jessica's question, thank you for asking a question.

I don't see anybody else typing. I would really like to thank you for joining us today. We appreciate you taking the time to understand the Amended H-1B 2021 PIRL. As I mentioned, please contact us via the appropriate grant mailboxes for any performance reporting technical assistance questions you may have. I am going now turn it over to Grace to close us out. Thank you so much for attending. Grace?

(END)