



ID&R 2013 Statewide Training Event

Eligibility Questions...

Common Questions from ID&R Office regarding COEs



Eligibility Questions from the Field

One of my families indicated they went from FL to GA in June for work. The father was hauling watermelons (driving the truck) from the field on the farm to the warehouse on the same farm.

Is this a qualifying activity?



Eligibility Questions from the Field

According to the 2010 Guidance (Chapter II):

G26. Is hauling a product on a farm, ranch or other facility considered agricultural work?

Yes. The Department considers hauling a product **on** a farm, ranch, or other facility an integral part of production or initial processing and therefore, is agricultural work. However, it does not consider transporting a product to a market, wholesaler, or processing plant to be production or initial processing.



“Shipping and trucking” is work that is often carried out by a third-party retailer, wholesaler, or contractor paid to transport various products. Therefore, the service these companies or contractors provide is “shipping” or “trucking” and not production or initial processing.



Eligibility Questions from the Field

Based on your email, it seems that the hauling is being done on the farm and may be considered an integral part of production or initial processing. Therefore, if the rest of STAMP of Eligibility is present the child may be eligible for the MEP.



Eligibility Questions from the Field

Mom and daughter moved to Texas (year ago) so mother can pick onions. While in TX daughter meets boyfriend. She and boyfriend move to Mexico, without mother's blessing. Mother later returns to Florida to pick tomatoes. A month ago, daughter moves from MX to live back with mother.

Is this a to-join move?



Eligibility Questions from the Field

The reason why the child joins the mother appears to be because she broke up with the boyfriend. In other words, the child's move did not at any time enable the worker to obtain qualifying work.

The child is not eligible on this move; however, she might still have eligibility left from the previous move to Texas.



Eligibility Questions from the Field

A qualifying family moves into the area. The children are traveling with their Aunt Graciela and their mother. The mother does not work and the aunt takes care of the children and the sister financially. On the COE.....

- ▶ *What names go in Section I, part 1 Legal Male and Legal Female?*
- ▶ *What names go in Section I, part 2 Current Male and Current Female?*
- ▶ *I believe that in Section III, part 2b, worker name would be the aunt's name and the guardian box would be checked.*



Eligibility Questions from the Field

- ▶ The "current parent" depends on who is playing the role of guardian of the child when the recruiter is conducting the interview.
- ▶ In this case, was the mother residing with the child and aunt when the eligibility interview took place? If so, then you will want to capture the mother's name as "current parent" and as "legal parent."
- ▶ I do understand that the aunt is providing support for both the mother and child; however, the child's mother is actually the child's guardian regardless of who is "paying the bills."



Eligibility Questions from the Field

- ▶ The recruiter should identify aunt as the qualifying worker, and must check "Guardian" in Section III, number 2 of the COE.
- ▶ Lastly, include a comment explaining why the qualifying worker is different from the current parent and legal parent.
Example: "The eligible child and her mother live with the qualifying worker (aunt) and both moved to enable the qualifying worker to obtain/seek qualifying work."



Eligibility Questions from the Field

If a family moves to pick tomatoes in Georgia for 5 days and it is determined that the move is due to economic necessity, must a series of short moves have taken place (within six months or a season) for the family to be eligible (considering all other STAMP requirements are met)?



The "M - Move" component of STAMP has 5 conditions that must be met:

- ▶ Worker and child move,
- ▶ Across school district lines,
- ▶ Resulting in a change of residence,
- ▶ Due to Economic Necessity, and
- ▶ Within past 36 months.



Since this move was only for 5 days, the recruiter should provide comments to support that there was a change of residence and economic necessity.

Questions that can help are:

- ▶ Was the family planning on traveling for only five days?
- ▶ Where did the family live while in GA? Was it a hotel, employer provided housing, with a friend?
- ▶ Does the family have history of moving to GA to pick tomatoes?
- ▶ How did the family know about available work in Georgia picking tomatoes?



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- ▶ Provide documentation that supports the idea that the family actually planned to reside in GA and that there was an economic necessity.
 - ▶ If the recruiter can document that there was a change in residence and that there was economic necessity, and all other STAMP of Eligibility criteria are present, the recruiter can make an eligibility determination on a move that occurred for only 5 days.
 - ▶ Is the recruiter “satisfied” that the eligibility criteria was met.



Please review these COEs that I scanned for you. My concern is that they are for OSYs and the COEs show as if they serve as guardians to each other.



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- ▶ Per FERPA and FL-DOE regulations, we cannot open your email. We are deleting the attachment and we ask that you delete the email and it's attachments as well.
 - ▶ Documents with personable identifiable information cannot be sent electronically. We can only accept your documents in one of two manners:
 - ▶ Password protect the documents then contact our office by phone to provide the password; or,
 - ▶ Fax the documents to our office. Before faxing please call to make sure that authorized ID&R Office staff will be available to receive the fax as soon as it is sent.



*Is this an allowable move - from
Haiti to Florida?*



In Florida, a move from any country qualifies *if* one of the purposes of the move was to enable the youth, parent, guardian, or spouse to seek or obtain temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity *and* all other STAMP of Eligibility Factors are met.



D31. May a worker's move to the United States from another country qualify for the MEP?

Yes. A worker's move from another country to the U.S. may qualify if one of the purposes for the move was to seek or obtain qualifying work.... The workers are not disqualified if they have other reasons for moving to the U.S., even permanent relocation, so long as one of the purposes of the move is to obtain qualifying work and the other conditions are met.



I have received a signed COE from one of our recruiters and she has used white-out on it in several places. Is white-out acceptable on the COEs? Do I need to send it back to have her redo the COE or is it acceptable with the changes initialed?



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- ▶ The recruiter needs to redo the COE. Using correction fluid (white-out or liquid paper) is not acceptable. Corrections should be crossed out and changes must be initialed by the person making the change.
 - ▶ Please refer to the Florida ID&R Manual (www.flrecruiter.org) for further comments.



When we update the COEs, if the family made no new move, do we need to notate that on the COE and initial? If we have a list that indicates the date of the phone call or visit to each family, is that sufficient documentation? Of course we also enter the date of the COE update in our information system as well.



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- ▶ Contacting the families to update the COEs every year is referred to as "re-certification" and are to be conducted every year. Through this visit or contact, the program tries to determine whether or not the family has made a new qualifying move.
 - ▶ If a new qualifying move is reported by the family, then the recruiter needs to conduct an eligibility interview and may complete a new COE (since there is a new eligibility data).



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- ▶ However, if the family/youth does not report a new qualifying move, then districts need to be **consistent** in the manner in which re-certifications are documented.
 - ▶ Currently, districts follow one of two procedures in regards to re-certifications:
 - ▶ A new COE is completed that includes all the information from the original COE but with new signature dates, or
 - ▶ A copy of the original COE is used to update any information that doesn't change eligibility (such as address, grades, etc.).



Either procedure is acceptable, but the key is for districts to be consistent and always use the same procedure. In addition, with either circumstance, the recruiter should enter the current school year and check the re-certification box on the top right section of the COE.



When a child was born after the move or did not make a qualifying move in the past, do we put their information on the Section II: child data with a note on line 16 stating the situation? Or, do we put their name and date-of-birth on section 16 and situation statement. Example: Ray Melecio - dob:01/01/13 was born after move.



Only children that **have made** the qualifying move should be **listed** in Section II: Child Data (#s 1 - 5). However, if there is a child in the family unit that **did not make** the move, such as your example of a child born after the move, they should **only** be documented in #16 of Section II: Child Data. The suggested format of documenting children in #16 of Section II: Child Data is:

- ▶ Full name,
- ▶ DOB, and
- ▶ "born after move" **or** "child did not make this qualifying move"