TESDA CIRCULAR

Subject: Implementation of the "Bayanihan 2" through the TESDA Scholarship Programs towards the "New Normal"		Page 1 of 4 page/s Number 125, series of 2020
Date Issued: October 24, 2020	**Effectivity:** Immediately	**Supersedes:**

In the interest of the service and pursuant to Republic Act No. 11494, otherwise known as the "Bayanihan to Recover As One Act" or herein referred to as "Bayanihan 2", the following guidelines are hereby issued.

I. Background/Rationale/Legal Basis

Bayanihan 2 was enacted into law on 11 September 2020 to urgently respond to the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to our economy. Under Section 10(l) of R.A. 11494, Php1,000,000,000.00 was appropriated to TESDA which shall be utilized for the retooling, retraining and upskilling of the target beneficiaries under this program. Through its scholarship programs, TESDA shall be able to provide recovery interventions and economic assistance to all displaced workers in support of the government's efforts to bolster the resilience of the Philippine economy amid the continuing national emergency.

II. Scope/Coverage

A. Programs Covered

These guidelines shall cover all qualifications/training programs which are already included in the existing coverage of the TESDA Scholarship Programs such as Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP) and Special Training for Employment Program (STEP).

B. Priority Target Beneficiaries under the Bayanihan 2

1. Locally Displaced Workers; and
2. Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)

C. Scholarship Coverage

1. Each scholar shall be entitled to the following scholarship benefits provided by the TESDA Scholarship Programs:

    a. Free skills training;
    b. Free competency assessment for qualifications with Training Regulations and Competency Assessment Tools;
    c. Training Support Fund;
    d. Insurance Coverage under the GSIS Group Personal Accident Insurance;
    e. Internet Allowance;
    f. Health/Personal Protective Equipment Allowance; and
    g. Starter Toolkits, if applicable and as far as practicable.

2. The approved standard fees based on the latest Schedule of Cost for TESDA Scholarship Programs shall strictly be applied. The company/TVI shall not exact any additional training fees from the beneficiaries.

3. For training programs not covered by the Schedule of Cost:
   a. A training proposal/project proposal that includes the proposed costing shall be prepared and used as basis in determining the approved program costing.
   b. The final cost of the proposed training program shall be subject to the approval of the Director General.

III. Implementation Mechanics

A. Management and Distribution of the Bayanihan 2 Fund

1. As the office that takes the lead role in the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of the TESDA Scholarship Programs, the Regional Operations Management Office (ROMO), under the supervision of the Deputy Director General for TESD Operations, shall be responsible for the overall management of the Bayanihan 2 Fund, in close collaboration with all the Executive, Regional, and Provincial Offices (EOs/ROs/POs) under TESDA.

2. The ROMO shall prepare and recommend the basis in the equitable distribution of the Bayanihan 2 Fund. The recommended distribution will determine the fund allocation per sector & per target client including the target number of beneficiaries per sector & per priority client.

B. Procedures in the Implementation of Scholarship Programs under Bayanihan 2

1. All procedures and activities involved in the implementation of scholarship programs funded under the Bayanihan 2 shall strictly adhere to the latest guidelines relevant to the implementation of TESDA Scholarship Programs as per TESDA Circular No. 11, s. 2020 and TESDA Circular No. 78, s. 2020 including its amendments. These shall include the following:

   a. Preparation and Approval of the Qualification Map (QM) or Project Proposal;
   b. Issuance of Scholarship Grant Certificates (SGCs);
   c. Implementation of the Scholarship Program and Flexible Learning in TVET;
   d. Multiple Availment of Scholarship;
   e. Monitoring and Evaluation;
   f. Administrative and Financial Procedures;

i. Downloading of funds to the region shall be initiated once the Qualification Map/Project Proposal is approved by the Director General

g. Violations and Sanctions.

2. Consultations shall be undertaken with National Government Agencies such as DA, DTI, NEDA, and TVET stakeholders as basis for the identification of training programs to accelerate recovery and bolster resilience of the economy.

C. TVET Arrangements towards the New Normal

1. All institutions offering TVET must strictly adhere to the latest guidelines issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) and by TESDA on the permitted TVET activities and TVET qualifications allowed to be implemented depending on the community quarantine level of the area.

2. There must always be strict compliance with minimum public health standards, training/health protocols, and consultation with local government units especially during the conduct of face-to-face training and assessment.

3. The conduct of training for all qualifications covered under this Circular may be implemented through any of the current delivery modes (Institution-Based Training, Enterprise-based Training, Community-Based Training) and flexible training delivery modes allowed under the IATF/TESDA Guidelines and corresponding consultation with the LGUs. There shall be a "No Containment Policy" for training programs implemented through Full-Online and Distance Learning Delivery Modes;

4. For Community-Based Training, TTIs with institution-based programs may offer the programs covered in this Circular through Extension programs in the community/ies, construction sites, fish farms, agricultural farms, and other areas needing TESDA services in partnership with LGUs, NGOs, cooperatives, or companies/MSMEs. For this purpose, trainings may be conducted "Off-Campus" on property/facility where the clients are situated, upon approval by the Regional Director. In accordance with the Operating Procedures on Program Registration, a Memorandum of Agreement shall be required in case the facilities (e.g. construction site/agricultural land) are owned by another entity.

D. Reportorial Requirement

The ROMO, in collaboration with the EOs/ROs/POs, shall consolidate and submit a monthly report to the Director General every last Monday of the current month on the actual accomplishments relative to the implementation of the Bayanihan 2.

E. Fund Utilization

Pursuant to Section 18 of Republic Act 11494, the funds for this purpose shall be utilized on or before 19 December 2020.

IV. Separability Clause

If, for any reason, any part or provision of these guidelines is declared invalid or unconstitutional, any part or provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

This Circular shall supersede all issuances inconsistent herewith, and shall take effect as indicated.

SEC. ISIDRO S LAPEÑA, PhD, CSEE
Director General