

SECURITY CLEARANCE NEWS- MARCH 2020

The novel coronavirus 2019's (COVID-19) effect on the U.S. economy is monumental. It is reaching all sectors, from the small parts supplier to the large defense contractor, and has placed financial pressure on millions of families. Every individual granted a U.S. government security clearance understands the importance of fiscal responsibility and maintaining one's finances. Indeed every counterintelligence briefing advises us how an individual; who is perceived to be financially irresponsible is also perceived to be an attractive target to hostile foreign intelligence For this reason, in a statement released March 23rd, the director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC), William Evanina, acknowledged how the COVID-19 crisis may cause unexpected financial hardship to some holders of a security clearance.

STATEMENT BY WILLIAM EVANINA, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER (NCSC) REGARDING COVID-19 AND SECURITY CLEARANCES:

“During this time of unexpected challenges to our nation as a result of COVID-19, we are acutely aware of the potential for economic hardships on security clearance holders. It is imperative that we ensure trusted security clearance holders, or applicants, who may suffer financial hardships as a result of the virus, are not unduly penalized because of circumstances beyond their control.

“With the implementation of “Trusted Workforce 2.0,” and the incorporation of Continuous Evaluation (CE), we are committed to our “Whole Person Concept” approach when vetting personnel for positions of trust. Hence, I want to emphasize and call attention to mitigating factors which are contained in Security Executive Agent Directive 4 (SEAD 4) Guidance F; Financial Considerations:

(b) the conditions that resulted in the financial problem were largely beyond the person’s control (e.g. loss of employment, a business downturn, unexpected medical emergency, a death, divorce or separation, clear victimization by predatory lending practices, or identity theft), and the individual acted responsibly under the circumstances.

“I will notify Departments and Agencies for their attention to mitigating condition (b) listed above. This guidance applies not only to existing clearance holders, but also to applicants being processed for initial security clearances.”

Please do not hesitate to notify any member of the WBSI Security Team (below) if you have any questions or need additional guidance. Thank you!

Any Questions? Please contact us:

Holly Higgins/FSO: holly.higgins@wbsi.com

John Deffenbaugh/AFSO: John.Deffenbaugh@wbsi.com

Sarah Del Cid/AFSO: Sarahk@wbsi.com