

The Workforce Connection Board

Policy Title: Supportive Services

Reference Number 2016-400-04

Approved: 06/07/2016

Effective: 06/07/2016

Status: Active

**Modifications: 1 11/01/2016
05-2017 Name Change**

Purpose:

To ensure the appropriate use of supportive services and to ensure that eligible individuals receive the supportive services necessary to enable them to participate in activities authorized under WIOA.

References:

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Sec. 3 Definitions;
- WIOA Proposed Rules: 680.900 – 680.970 and 681.570

Background:

Supportive Services enable registrants to overcome barriers that would otherwise prohibit their participation in activities authorized under the WIOA or reduce their opportunity to successfully achieve the goals established in their Individual Employment Plans (IEP) or Individual Service Strategies (ISS). The policy is also meant to promote effective management of services and to prevent misuse of WIOA funds.

Responsible Party:

One Stop center program directors and staff responsible for WIOA funded programs must verify and document eligibility for supportive services for Dislocated Worker, Adult and Youth program participants.

Policy/Procedures:

- **Participant Eligibility-** Supportive Services are available for WIOA program enrollees. Supportive Services needed by individuals will be identified and documented as necessary for individuals to participate in activities authorized under the WIOA, to include Basic Career Services, Individualized Career Services, and Training based on the Demand Occupation list for EDR5 or Statewide or an occupation (not on the demand list) that is part of an occupational career pathway identified through an approved individual employment plan (IEP) that will lead to a demand occupation. Other eligible activities include On the Job Training (OJT) and Apprenticeships. Individual programs will establish procedures to document the participant's need for supportive services and verify that such services are not available through other programs or sources. Documentation of the participant's need for supportive services will be maintained by the programs and staff will ensure case notes reflect the need and receipt of such support.
- **Training-** Participants attending training will be eligible for assistance under this policy if the program/classes they are attending lead to occupations identified on the Demand Occupation list for EDR5 or Statewide, or an occupation that is part of an occupational career pathway identified through an approved individual employment plan (IEP) , whether or not that training is actually being funded by WIOA. Other eligible training activities include One the Job Training (OJT), Apprenticeships and pre-vocational training classes.
- **On-Going Supportive Services-**The availability of On-going Child Care and Transportation assistance is based upon the availability of funds and the participant's demonstrated need. **All rates (Child Care rates for Licensed Day Care Center, License-Exempt Day Care Center, Licensed Day Care Home or Licensed Group Day Care Home, and License-Exempt Day Care Home or Care in Child's Home) are based on the State rate. If the State rate for these categories changes, the**

TWC-approved rates will be adjusted to remain consistent with the State rate. Child Care reimbursement to a custodial or non-custodial parent will not be approved.

CHILD-CARE for Boone and Winnebago Counties (not-to-exceed payments)*

| | Under 2 Age | | Age 2 | | Age 3 and Older | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| | Full-Day per child | Part-Day per Child (less than 5 hours) | Full-Day per Child | Part-Day per child (less than 5 hours) | Full-Day per Child | Part-Day per Child (less than 5 hours) | School-Age Day |
| Licensed Day Care Center | \$46.49 | \$23.25 | \$36.73 | \$18.37 | \$27.55 | \$13.78 | \$13.78 |
| License-Exempt Day Care Center | \$40.50 | \$20.25 | \$32.00 | \$16.00 | \$24.00 | \$12.00 | \$12.00 |
| Licensed Day Care Home or Licensed Group Day Care Home | \$31.57 | \$15.79 | \$29.34 | \$14.67 | \$26.93 | \$13.47 | Same as Part- Day |
| Non-Licensed Care | \$16.22 | \$8.11 | \$16.22 | \$8.11 | \$16.22 | \$8.11 | Same as Part- Day |

CHILD-CARE for Stephenson County (not-to-exceed payments)*

| | Under 2 Age | | Age 2 | | Age 3 and Older | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| | Full-Day per child | Part-Day per Child (less than 5 hours) | Full-Day per Child | Part-Day per child (less than 5 hours) | Full-Day per Child | Part-Day per Child (less than 5 hours) | School-Age Day |
| Licensed Day Care Center | \$33.53 | \$16.77 | \$28.46 | \$14.23 | \$23.77 | \$11.89 | \$11.89 |
| License-Exempt Day Care Center | \$29.20 | \$14.60 | \$24.80 | \$12.40 | \$20.70 | \$10.35 | \$10.74 |
| Licensed Day Care Home or Licensed Group Day Care Home | \$29.39 | \$14.70 | \$27.25 | \$13.63 | \$24.96 | \$12.48 | Same as Part- Day |
| Non-Licensed Care | \$16.22 | \$8.11 | \$16.22 | \$8.11 | \$16.22 | \$8.11 | Same as Part- Day |

* Child Care figures-- effective for WIOA and Trade participants: 7/1/15. See <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=75772> (updated figures as of 7/1/15).

TRANSPORTATION

Participants in Training who need WIOA-transportation assistance to attend training will receive a transportation allowance of \$55 or a RMTD monthly bus pass (cost: \$55) according to the schedule listed below.

- If a participant begins training on or before the 15th day of the month, he/she will receive a transportation allowance of \$55 for this month.
- If a participant begins training after the 15th day of the month, he/she will receive a transportation allowance of \$27.50 for this month.
- If a participant ends training on or before the 15th day of the month, he/she will receive a transportation allowance of \$27.50 for this month.
- If a participant ends training after the 15th day of the month, he/she will receive the full \$55 transportation allowance for this month. If a participant is receiving a monthly RMTD bus pass, he/she will receive the bus pass for the full month he/she begins training, regardless of when in the month this occurs.
- If a participant is receiving a monthly RMTD bus pass, he/she will receive the bus pass for the full month he/she ends training, regardless of when in the month this occurs.

Exception: Participants using Freeport area public transportation will receive transportation assistance equal to the amount of the fare needed to attend their scheduled training classes; assistance for one round trip per scheduled training day will be allowed. Proof that the participants attended training on the days for which they receive assistance must be submitted.

For WIOA and other grant program participants utilizing the RRTC bus, transportation, costs will be reimbursed to RRTC based upon the miles traveled reimbursed at the current federal mileage reimbursement rate plus a pick-up and drop-off fee of \$5.00 per participant. The total mileage for the trip will be divided by the number of participants to get a per participant cost of travel plus the pick-up and drop-off fee. This reimbursement arrangement will only apply to program enrollees who live or must travel to work-related training, job fairs, and worksites in Boone County, Stephenson County or points outside of LWA3. Winnebago County / Rockford area RRTC bus trips will be paid based upon the already established participant rate.

If a WIOA participant is co-enrolled in the TAA program, the amount of transportation assistance that the participant receives will be based on the federal TAA transportation assistance regulations. Transportation assistance for WIOA/TAA participants will be paid from WIA funds only in instances when TAA funds are exhausted.

Transportation assistance in the form of limited ride bus passes or gas stipends are available for individuals actively engaged in job search. The job search and interview records will be the documentation needed to secure additional transportation assistance.

SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT ITEMS

These items are Supportive Services purchased as a one-time option, based upon individual need. ***NOTE: Case files must document that these supportive services cannot be secured from other programs or sources prior to purchase with WIOA funds. If items are provided by employers with work-place established re-payment procedures, WIOA funds will not be used for the purchase.***

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Maximum Paid by WIOA</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Automobile related needs* (This item includes car repairs, licenses, car insurance.) | \$ |
| Auto Repairs | 500 |
| Auto Insurance/License/Registration | 700 |
| Clothing | 250 |
| Eye exam & glasses | 250 |
| Job Related Tools / Uniforms | 500 |
| Protective Shoes | 200 |
| Utilities* | 300 |
| Occupational certification exam fees and occupational license fees ... | actual cost |

* To be eligible for an assistance with Automobile related needs (repairs, insurance, license, or registration) or utility payments, the vehicle or residence must belong to or be leased to the individual enrolled in the program and must be documented. Utility payments will be made to the utility company, not an individual.

Car Repairs

During a participant’s enrollment in WIOA, automobile related needs described above will be paid up to a total (cap) of \$500. Car repairs will be provided for a participant only with proof of insurance, copy of registration and a valid driver’s license. The repairs to the vehicle must make it able to provide reliable transportation.

Auto Insurance/License/Registration

If a participant has access to a vehicle that is in working order, but does not have the vehicle registered or is not carrying insurance on the vehicle, the program can assist with costs for these items if other transportation options are not suitable for the individual (i.e. public transportation).

Job Related Tools / Uniforms

Normal procurement policies will be followed to purchase job related tools and/or uniforms. If the tools and/or uniforms are being purchased by the employer for a program participant the employer’s procurement will be accepted.

Job Search Assistance

All Job Search activities must be documented and reflected in the participant file and appropriate case notes maintained. No Job Search assistance supportive services will be provided without proper documentation of need and case notes.

Participants enrolled in Staff-assisted Job Search and/or Job Development may request a \$ 30/month job search assistance stipend to cover activities such as dry cleaning interview clothes, getting a haircut, etc. Participants may also request bus tokens or bus passes to help them during their job search. If the individual has access to a properly registered and licensed vehicle and has a valid driver’s license, they may receive a monthly transportation stipend. The stipend will be paid in the same manner as transportation stipends for individuals participating in training activities (identified in the Transportation Section above).

Background checks, drug screening, and physicals may be identified as needed supportive services for job search or job placement. These supportive services are allowable and can be paid as long as job search and job placement activities are properly documented.

Approval

All requests for On-Going Supportive Services/Supplemental Support Services will be approved in writing by the Case Manager's supervisor. Any item other than those listed above must have prior written approval from the fiscal agent to ensure grant fiscal compliance, in addition to that of the supervisor before authorization can be given to purchase the item. The written approval of the Program Director will be included in the documentation submitted to the Accounting Department.

Documentation

Proper justification for a participant's receipt of on-going supportive services/supplemental support services must be documented in the case notes of the participant and correspond with the participant's *Individual Employment Plan*. As required by law, the case notes should also support the Case Manager's attempts to find funding for the participant's needs through other sources.

Day Care Providers and participants must sign a *Day Care Attendance Sheet* for each child whose day care costs are entirely or partially paid by WIOA supportive services monies.

Action Required:

This information should be disseminated to The Workforce Connection WIOA One-Stop Operator and all WIOA program directors/staff and partner agencies. Ensure that procedures for approving and paying for supportive services are fully in compliance with this policy.

Inquiries:

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to The Workforce Connection Board Executive Director

Effective Date:

Immediately