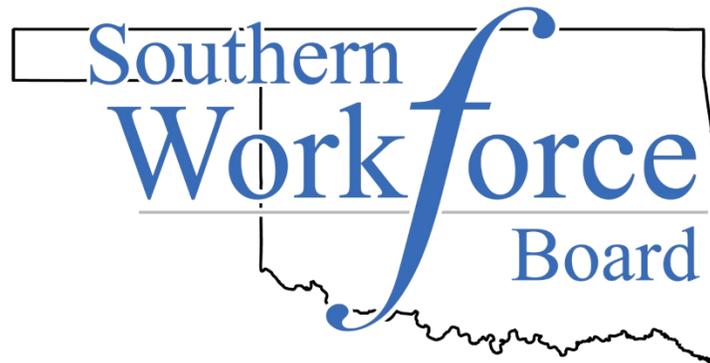


SOUTHERN WORKFORCE BOARD



YOUTH ACTIVITY INCENTIVE POLICY SWB – #111

September 28, 2005
(Revised June 13, 2006)
(Revised May 26, 2009)
(Revised December 15, 2010)
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I. Purpose: To transmit the Board’s policy concerning awarding Non-Cash and Cash Incentives or stipend to WIOA Youth Participants for Participation, Recognition and Achievement in WIOA Related Activities. Incentive payments to youth participants are permitted for recognition and achievement directly tied to training activities and work experiences. The award of incentives must ensure that such incentive payments are tied to the goals of the specific program outlined in writing before the commencement of the incentive payment. Incentive paid for with WIOA funds must be connected to recognition of achievement of milestones in the program tied to work experience, education, or training. Incentive payments may be provided to both ISY and OSY as long as they comply with the requirements of 20CFR§681.640

II. Background:

As described in Section 129 of the WIOA, local elements and requirements include utilizing the Title I Youth Program (Youth Program) funds for:

- i. activities leading to the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or a recognized postsecondary credential;
- ii. preparation for postsecondary educational and training opportunities;
- iii. strong linkages between academic instruction and occupational education that lead to the attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials;
- iv. preparation for unsubsidized employment opportunities, in appropriate cases; and
- v. effective connections to employers, including small employers, in in-demand industry sectors and occupations of the local and regional labor markets

Section 681.650 of the Workforce and Innovation and Opportunity Act and compliant with 2 CFR 200, 20 CFR§681.640 stipulates that all youth engaged in a WIOA youth funded program tied to work experience, education, or training may be awarded cash incentives for participation, recognition and achievement in WIOA related activities. The policy is designed to reward WIOA youth participants for academic achievement and participation in WIOA youth activities. Awarding of incentives is a means to encourage participation, achievement, and attainment of individual goals that lead to success and completion of a secondary school diploma or its equivalent.

III. Description:

All WIOA Youth Contractors are to adhere to this Board approved WIOA Youth Activity Incentive Policy. Cash incentives and/or stipends shall be awarded to WIOA youth for participation and achievement in WIOA related activities and must not exceed the specific amount of \$1000.00 per program year – per participant, as approved by the Southern Workforce Board. Additional activities may be eligible for an incentive however, the youth service providers must submit in detail, a written request to Board staff for any additional stipends or incentives not described in this policy, and specific reasoning thereof for prior approval.

IV. Procedure:

For this system, the incentive/Stipend amount awarded per participant is limited to \$1000.00 for the entire program year (July 1 to June 30). The incentive/stipend point system awards shall not exceed the amount of \$1000.00 in any circumstance. The incentive/stipend may also award cash incentives as well

as non-cash incentives according to the WIOA allowable youth activity. The following is a list of amounts of cash and/or non-cash incentives that may ~~to~~ be awarded for a combined amount of any items not to exceed \$1000.00 per program year per youth participant.

Work Experience:

Work experiences are a planned, structured learning experience that takes place in a workplace for a limited period of time. Work experience may be paid or unpaid, as appropriate. A work experience may take place in the private for-profit sector, the non-profit sector, or the public sector. Labor standards apply in any work experience where an employee/employer relationship, as defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act or applicable State law, exists. Consistent with § 680.840 of this chapter, funds provided for work experiences may not be used to directly or indirectly aid in the filling of a job opening that is vacant because the former occupant is on strike, or is being locked out in the course of a labor dispute, or the filling of which is otherwise an issue in a labor dispute involving a work stoppage. Work experiences provide the youth participant with opportunities for career exploration and skill development.

Work experiences must include academic and occupational education. The educational component may occur concurrently or sequentially with the work experience. Further academic and occupational education may occur inside or outside the work site.

The types of work experiences include the following categories:

- (1) Summer employment opportunities and other employment opportunities available throughout the school year;
- (2) Pre-apprenticeship programs;
- (3) Internships and job shadowing; and
- (4) On-the-job training (OJT) opportunities as defined in WIOA sec. 3(44) and in § 680.700 of this chapter.

Participants may be awarded a stipend for attendance of classroom training or other organized event such as the STEM, Extreme Youth Summit. In addition, an incentive may be awarded at the end of the activity based on successful completion of the work experience component activity and/or goals and academic enrichment activities. The Service Provider staff must provide a copy of timesheets and other required documentation in order for the participant to be eligible for an incentive or stipend payment for their participation in the summer employment opportunity activity. Those youth who are “hired” in unsubsidized full-time or part-time employment with the same “work experience” company with retention of 91 days may also receive an incentive payment of \$100.00. The activities must be documented in the participant’s ISS for documentation of “need” and career correlation as well as the Work Experience agreement completion documentation and documentation of hire and retention, if applicable.

High School Equivalent Certification:

Participants may not be awarded cash incentives for attending Adult basic education classes but may be awarded up to \$200.00 in a cash incentive/stipend for obtaining their High School Equivalent

Certification. The Service Provider staff must provide a copy of the High School Equivalent Certification or letter from the adult basic education provider or school principal or school counselor, for documentation. Also, the activity must be documented in the participant's ISS for documentation of "need".

Life Skills Training:

Cash and non-cash incentives may be paid for youth attending and completing leadership development or specified activities as described for Life Skills Training/ Leadership in the *Youth Community Resources for Coordination of Elements*. Activities and/or training that assist youth to develop marketable skills. May included modules/training/curriculum instruction in: (a) personal finance and budgeting, (b) computers, (c) parenting/pregnancy prevention, (d) self-leadership (e.g. conflict resolution, public speaking, and anger management), (e) work behavior training, (f) banking, and other training that develops independent living skills. For Life Skills Training activities, the amount of the cash incentives shall not exceed \$100.00 Non-cash incentives may also be used for attending and completing this activity, such as school supplies or any other item that may be of interest and appropriate for youth Life Skills Training/leadership development – not to exceed a purchase price of \$100.00, including tax. Also, the activity must be documented in the participant's ISS for documentation of "need" and documentation attesting to such attendance and completion.

Tutoring:

Cash and non-cash incentives may be paid for youth attending tutoring sessions and can demonstrate an increase in test, quiz or homework scores as a result of attending such tutoring sessions. For tutoring participation, the amount of the cash incentives shall not exceed \$25.00 for any one subject of tutoring. Non-cash incentives may also be used for attending and completing this activity, such as school supplies or any other item that may be of interest and appropriate for youth – not to exceed a purchase price of \$25.00, per each tutoring subject, including tax. Also, tutoring must be documented in the participant's ISS for documentation of "need" and education correlation as well as documentation of the subject, test, quiz or homework increase.

Limited Internship:

Participants enrolled in Limited Internship activities shall be paid prevailing wage. Also, the activity must be documented in the participant's ISS for documentation of "need" and career correlation as well as the Limited Internship agreement completion documentation.

Cash Incentives for Attainment of a Skill Goal (Basic Skills, Work Readiness, or Occupational Skills)

Youth participants with deficiencies in basic skills, work readiness and occupational skills may be awarded an incentive with successful attainment of a goal not to exceed \$100.00. Also, the activity must be documented in the participant's ISS for documentation of "need". Documentation must be provided for attainment of a skill goal, such as pre and post testing results.

Attainment of Post-Secondary School Degree, License or Credential:

Youth participants who at the time of registration in WIOA youth services that had **not** attained a post-secondary degree, license or credential and *are awarded* their post-secondary degree, license or credential during WIOA program participation or follow-up are eligible for an incentive. Participants may

not be awarded cash incentives for attending post-secondary training, but may be awarded up to \$200.00 in a cash incentive for obtaining their post-secondary degree, license or credential. The Service Provider staff must provide a copy of the post-secondary degree diploma, credential, license or letter from a school official for documentation. Also, the activity must be documented in the participant's ISS for documentation of "need" and career correlation.

Attainment of Governor's Career Ready Certificate (CRC)

Youth participants who at the time of registration in WIOA youth services that have not obtained the **Governor's Career Ready Certificate (CRC)** utilizing the ACT Work Keys assessments for Reading for Information, Locating Information and Applied Mathematics, are eligible for the cash incentive ~~not~~ to exceed \$300.00 for a platinum or gold, \$200.00 for a silver and \$100.00 for a bronze – as determined by the WIOA Service Provider. The Service Provider staff must provide a copy of the Certificate for documentation. Also, the activity must be documented in the participant's ISS for documentation of "need" and career correlation.

V. Contractor/Service Provider Responsibility:

Supporting documentation must be uploaded in each participant's OSL file of all cash and non-cash incentives made to WIOA participants. Award of all cash or non-cash incentives must be documented on the participant's ISS and supporting documentation of incentives awarded to the participant also placed in each individual participant file.

Incentives will be based upon availability of WIOA Youth funds. All procurement policies and procedures must be complied with for the procurement of all non-cash incentives.