

WIOA Ohio Area 8 Local Workforce Development Board Policy

In response to the Opioid Emergency Recovery Grant Area 8 Implementation Plan, the Ohio Area 8 WIOA Workforce Development Board (WDB) enacts the following policies:

Determining Grant Eligibility

I. Identifying individuals who have been impacted by substance use disorder:

A WIOA caseworker may make voluntary identification by three different methods:

- a. Identification may be made by a voluntary statement of the WIOA participant within conversation, including explanation of current employment, housing or financial situation.
- b. Identification may be made by WIOA participant's disclosure of any criminal record involving substance abuse.
- c. Identification may be made by personal knowledge of a WIOA participant's social history.

An acceptable question is: "Your answer to this question is voluntary. Do you, a friend, or any member of your family have a history of opioid use?"

II. Response: Upon a WIOA caseworker identifying as an individual who has been impacted by substance use disorder, the caseworker shall document the method of identification and indicate the identification in the participant's file with a blue sticker.

III. Safekeeping: The WIOA caseworker shall remove the documentation of the identification and secure same in an envelope with the WIOA participant's name and store the envelope in a locked cabinet, separate from WIOA intake and assessment forms, with access only to WIOA supervisors and caseworkers.

Funding Priorities

Due to the limited time frame of fund availability and the loss of funding if not spent in the area, funds will be allocated on a first come-first serve basis within Area 8. All Opioid Emergency Recovery Grant spending needs to be reported to the fiscal agent as soon as funds are committed. If the funding request exceeds the initial county allocation, the fiscal agent will transfer funds from the other counties in proportion to their allocation. If funding requests exceed the Area 8 total allocations, the fiscal agent will notify the Area 8 WFD Director who will request additional funding from Columbus.

Current Policy Amendment

In keeping with the providing services under the Opioid Emergency Recovery Grant (OERG), the Ohio Area 8 WIOA Workforce Development Board (WDB) enacts the following policy for a temporary amendment to Policy 190 regarding On the Job Training (OJT) and adding supports for participating individuals:

- I. **Purpose:** WDB is participating in the state-wide Opioid Emergency Recovery Grant by providing allowable activities and supports to area employers who are struggling to maintain workforce due to the impact of opioid use.
- II. **Individual Participants:** WDB has the responsibility to implement programs to support individuals who have been identified as being impacted by opioid use to serve adult, dislocated workers and youth by providing paid work experience to encourage the development of experienced workforce, and overcome barriers by adding supportive services.
- III. **Temporary Amendment to WDB OJT Rate:** For the timeline of the Opioid Emergency Recovery Grant, that being April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2021, WDB shall reimburse employers participating in OJT programs involving impacted individuals up to 100% of wages expended for the training of an identified WIOA participant, up to 520 hours, not to exceed the sum of \$7,750 per participant. OJT participants must receive wages, benefits, and working conditions that are equal to those provided to regular employees who have worked a similar length of time and are doing the same type of work customary wages earned by employees doing the same work.
- IV. **Documentation:** Area 8 shall utilize all state provided forms for documentation of OJT activities, including, but not limited to, eligibility determination, time sheets, contracts and notices.

Board Action Item

Date: October 17, 2019

Policy Effective date: September 1, 2019

Motion made by: Rob Radway

Motion seconded by: Art Swain

Vote 10 aye 0 nay 0 abstain X motion carries _____ motion rejected