

WIA YOUTH STIMULUS
Technical Assistance Conference
March 18, 2009
Attendees Questions

Is there a percentage of money for summer youth programs and in-school youth programs?

It is anticipated that 45% will be allotted for Out-of-School youth and the remainder is split between summer youth and in-school youth.

Is a student eligible for the program if they are at risk of dropping out of school?

The student must meet the other eligibility and barrier requirements to be eligible?

Does summer youth need to be from specific area (i.e. from one city, one school district)?

No, they can be from an area or region (i.e. Hillsborough County-or a group of towns or cities).

In school youth vs. Out of school youth – do we need to write different responses to the Request for Proposal's (RFP's)?

For year round programming, yes; for summer youth, no.

With a student currently enrolled in a formula funded program that is a follow-up student not enrolled in school and has graduated from high school, are they In-school or Out-of School youth?

This student would be an out-of-school youth for they are not enrolled in high school at point of applying for the stimulus funding. There is no reference to college or advanced training. If the student was in follow-up and is enrolled in school, s/he would be an in-school youth.

The program has 10 hours academics and 20 hours work. How is the student paid? Can he/she be paid for academics?

Yes

Can follow-up students rollover into stimulus funds?

We are waiting for guidance from US Dept. of Labor as to whether a new application will be required.

Where is the occupational or work experience in high demand occupations skills list in the RFP?

Page 7 under bonus points. Occupations in this category include health care, green jobs, weatherization, information technology, and advanced manufacturing.

Can transportation costs (i.e. taxi, bus passes) be paid through these funds?

Yes

Who certifies eligibility? And what constitutes eligibility?

Information and supporting documentation is gathered by the contractor personnel and forwarded to the Department for review and final certification. Eligibility certification training will be provided to contractors in May; however, the program requirements describe eligibility requirements – for example, In-School Youth Program Requirements, pages 1-3.

Is the whole IEP document needed for the application?

No, at minimum we need the SPEDIS Number and any accommodations that need to be provided during the program?

What is the academic rate of pay?

Minimum wage for all students in all program options is the rate of pay.

What is ETEAM system?

E-TEAMS is the electronic web-based system for intake, assessment, case management, services, and outcome reporting. Access to the system will be provided to the system after contractor training in May.

Do you have a monthly cost report to use?

We will provide you with a monthly invoicing reporting system.

How long does it take to put together an application for a child 14-18?

It varies; in some instances it can take an hour or so. This occurs when the contractor has sent home specific information indicating students need to bring to the program the respective forms and their parent if student is under 18. (Parent's signature is needed for the application.) In other cases, we have seen the application process take over 45 days and a new application be required. The key is the student/family motivation in wanting to participate in the program.

Do you have a chart to go by for eligibility?

Yes, there are charts reflecting what materials are needed for eligibility certification as well as a chart reflecting the income dates for the past 26 weeks and when the 45 day period ends. Once an application is started it must be certified with 45 days or a new application will be required.

For an In-school youth with disability – does economic or disability come first in determining eligibility?

Usually disability would come first in determining eligibility for the individual's income only would be used in determining economic status. The family's estimated income would be needed but not documented.

Will additional technical assistance be given if proposal is not approved? Could the proposal be resubmitted for later review and considered?

Yes

Do you have any suggestions regarding staffing?

Recruitment and eligibility certification can be challenging if someone does not already know the students and/or families. Possibly hiring a special education teacher or teacher's aide in a part-time after school position has found to work successfully. You might want to think about including some older WIA eligible youth (aides, college students) to be junior program supervisors (They would be working at \$7.15 and count in your enrollments.) There are no specific guidelines on class/staff size ratio but advantageous to ensure sufficient staffing. US Dept. of Labor reports, "If you didn't document it, it didn't happen." Systems can be designed and we can share what has worked for tracking provision of services. You might want to hire a part-time person exclusively for reporting and note entry.

Questions received via Email:

Are municipalities eligible for funding?

Yes

Are the income eligibility requirements for youth summer employment the same as year-round WIA?

YES

I believe our program would qualify under all of the requirements with one exception. As you know the model is designed to provide paid summer employment to youth whom have completed Phase 1 and 2 (Academic Year Programming). Not all of the enrolled youth meet the restrictive income eligibility requirements. Is there a minimum percentage of youth that must meet requirement or is it 100%.

Unfortunately all of the youth need to meet the income guidelines to be funded by these funds. One of the options though is for WIA to pay for the WIA Students and a third party pay for the non-WIA eligible students. The program and administrative costs would be pro-rated. For example, let's say the program costs \$60,000 to operate in the summer. 20 students are certified WIA eligible; 10 students are not WIA eligible. WIA contract could pay \$40,000 and a third party pays the \$20,000.