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I. APPLICABILITY/SCOPE

This policy applies to all Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I-B subrecipients and sub-awardees delivering workforce development Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth and Arizona Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant (QUEST DWG) programs and services.

II. PURPOSE

This policy addresses the use of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds for supportive services to eligible individuals enrolled in the Youth program.

III. BACKGROUND

Supportive services, such as transportation, childcare, vision care, work-related clothing, and certifications can be provided to eligible individuals while participating in WIOA Youth Title IB career or training services to assist in the removal of obstacles that are hindering their efforts to successfully secure and retain permanent employment. In addition to being necessary to participate, the provision of supportive services must also be allowable and reasonable, per general cost principles, both in cost and in the item/service being purchased; not otherwise available to the participant; and tied to a specific service. Supportive services are based on financial need and not an entitlement.

IV. DEFINITIONS

AJC Service Dictionary – is a published list of all services and definitions available to WIOA Title IB Youth .
The list is categorized as a Youth program design element service.


V. POLICY

A. Requirements

Supportive services must be made available for participants who may need additional assistance as determined through comprehensive assessments. These assessments, and all supportive services provided, must be documented in the participant’s Individual Employment Plan (IEP) or Individual Service Strategy (ISS), as well as appropriately recorded in the Arizona Job Connection service and training plan and justified in case notes. Supportive services are one of the 14 program elements in the Youth program.

Supportive services must only be provided through WIOA Title IB Youth program when the individual is unable to obtain supportive services through other programs that provide such services. The provision of them must be necessary and reasonable.

1. To be necessary, there must be documentation of the need for the particular supportive service that is tied to a career or training service.
2. To be reasonable, the product or service must be consistent with comparable market prices by a comparison of the product or service from at least two or more vendors. In some instances, commonly used supportive services may have already been determined reasonable by the

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subrecipients and subgrantees through their formal procurement processes with specific vendors.

3. Supportive services cannot be the first or the only service provided.

B. Eligibility

WIOA authorizes the use of Youth funds for the provision of supportive services to eligible individuals who are:

1. Actively participating in career or training services to secure and retain employment;
2. Unable to afford such services;
3. Unable to obtain supportive services through other programs that provide such services; and
4. Complying with program requirements.
5. Supportive services that allow the youth to participate in a work experience program can count toward youth service provider’s required 20 percent minimum work experience expenditure.

C. Follow-Up Services

The Youth program does allow the provision of supportive services as a follow-up service to ensure the youth is successful in employment and/or post-secondary education and training. As noted in Policy #300.309 Supportive Service Categories, there may be additional eligibility criteria based on the specific service.


D. Allowable Supportive Services

Supportive services include, but are limited to, the list below. Additional requirements and guidelines can be found in [Policy #300.309, Supportive Service Categories and Cost Guidelines](#).

1. Linkages to community resources;
2. Transportation assistance;
3. Child care and dependent care assistance;
4. Lodging;
5. Needs-related payments;
6. Education testing assistance
7. Reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities;
8. Referrals to health-care;
9. Work-related expenses;
10. Training-related assistance;
11. Payments and fees for employment and training-related applications, tests, and certifications;
12. Rental and utility assistance;
13. Reimbursement for cellular or internet service needed to create a wireless connection for distance learning, searching for employment, and job retention;
14. Software needed for career services, training related activities or job placement.

The following list of supportive services, while not commonly used, is allowable:

1. Car insurance for up to one calendar quarter or three months (requires detailed justification and assurances of proper vehicle registration and licensing);

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2. Vehicle registration and licensing (requires detailed justification that the vehicle is the only means of transportation available and that public transportation cannot meet the participant’s needs);
3. Haircuts, personal grooming and hygiene needs; and
4. Membership fees if required to obtain a credential.


E. Supportive Service Prohibitions

1. Payment toward goods or services incurred or received prior to the participant’s enrollment in a WIOA Title IB Youth program;
2. Fines and penalties such as traffic/moving violations, parking tickets, fines for late utility payments, other late finance charges, and interest fees;
3. Taxes, except for sales taxes and gasoline taxes, such as income taxes, and business/payroll taxes (for employers);
4. Child support;
5. Entertainment, including tips;
6. Titled or deeded items or when recovery of the expense is anticipated (*Examples include vehicle or mortgage payments; rent or housing deposits; homeowners’ insurance; and property taxes.*)
7. Alcohol, tobacco products or firearms;
8. Legal fees, such as bail and restitution;
9. Debts that have been turned over to a collection agency;
10. Union dues and dues for any organization substantially engaged in lobbying;
11. Business start-up costs; and
12. Other career services and training services, when the actual service provided meets the definition of another career or training service on the AJC Service Dictionary.

F. Reimbursements

Although most payments for supportive services are to be made directly to the vendor through the issuance of a Supportive Services Authorization voucher, there are situations where the Supportive Services Authorization voucher is not accepted by a vendor, can cause a delay or hardship in the service being provided timely, payment can only occur online, or payment must occur in order to access or enroll for the service (such as online exams or testing for certification). In these situations, reimbursement to the participant is appropriate. Guidelines for reimbursements include:

1. Reimbursements can only occur when discussed ahead of the provision of or receipt of the service.
2. Backdated requests are prohibited as are requests for reimbursements for items already purchased.
3. Reimbursement should not exceed \$1,000 and must be supported by documentation indicating that the participant incurred debt as a result or made special arrangements to obtain the funds. One of the criteria as noted in Section B is that the participant cannot afford to pay for such services.
4. Requests for reimbursement that exceed \$1,000 must have supervisory approval accompanied by detailed case notes as to the justification for doing so. An example would be that the actual cost of the testing for certification exceeds \$1,000.

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5. Examples of common requests for reimbursement include: fees for occupational testing for certifications or licenses; internet access; immunizations, drug screens, and physicals; fingerprint and background checks; and specialized uniforms or clothing for training or work.

G. Needs Related Payments

Needs-Related Payments (NRP) provide financial assistance to Youth program participants for the purpose of enabling individuals to participate in training activities. Individuals must be enrolled in a WIOA training program to receive needs-related payments. Payments can be provided if the participant has been accepted in a training program that will begin within 30 calendar days.

Documentation for NPRs To receive needs-related payments a youth must:

1. Be a low-income individual and;
2. Be unemployed and;
3. Not qualify for (or have ceased to qualify for) Unemployment Insurance; and
4. Be enrolled in a program of training services.
5. Youth concurrently enrolled in the WIOA Title I-B Adult Program and the WIOA

Title I-B Youth Program must be eligible under criteria applicable to the respective program and the services received. Cash assistance (i.e. incentives) and needs-related payments are not allowable follow-up services after exiting the program.


H. Documentation

There are two types of documentation required for supportive services, source documentation and service provision documentation:

1. **Source documentation** – establishes the details that substantiates the action, providing the basic facts such as date, purpose and amount of the service/purchase; includes such things as a cost estimate, utility bill, or for reimbursements, the actual receipt. The Supportive Services Authorization voucher is part of source documentation as it includes the relevant participant information as well as supervisory approvals. Self-disclosure or applicant statements are not source documentation.
2. **Service provision documentation** – evidence that the service has been received, such as a receipt, invoice for payment, signature of receipt for a bus pass, etc. This also includes appropriate data entry into Arizona Job Connection and case note justification.

All documentation that supports the issuance of supportive services, such as receipts, invoices, estimates, and billing statements, must be retained in the electronic participant file or uploaded into the participant’s file in Arizona Job Connection. Other documentation requirements can be found on Policy #300.309, specific to the type of supportive service. In addition:

1. Case notes must indicate why the service(s) is/are necessary and the determination of need; and
2. Case notes must indicate other attempts to secure the services.

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VII. POLICY MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Administrative revisions to the policy may be made by the Phoenix Business and Workforce Development (PBWD) Board Executive Director, with notice to the PBWD Board’s Executive Leadership Committee. All other substantive revisions will go to the PBWD Board’s Executive Leadership Committee for review and recommendation to the PBWD Board for approval.

VIII. ADDITIONAL OR MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

[DES/WIOA Supportive Services Policy, Section 400](#)