

	Subject	
	Youth Supportive Services Policy ARIZONA@WORK-Yuma County	
	Original Issue Date May 23, 2002	Revision Date March 10, 2021
Authorized by: Yuma County Workforce Development Board		

Background/Purpose: This policy for the Yuma County Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) provides guidance on Support Services for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title 1-B Youth programs. The policy is to ensure all program managers, staff, and service providers understand the requirements for providing supportive services. The WIOA Title 1-B Youth Program includes supportive services as one of the 14 program elements that enable participants to participate in WIOA Services. Supportive Services cannot be the first or the only service provided.

LWDAs may fund support services for participants, who cannot afford to pay for such services and to participate in WIOA authorized activities.

References:

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014: (P.L. 113-128), 20 CFR: 680.910, 680.920, 680.930, 681.570, 2 CFR: 200, WIOA Policy Manual: Chapter 2-Section 400, Training and Employment Guidance Letter: TEGL 21-16

Policy:

The Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) has established this policy to ensure the highest quality, most comprehensive service provision that prevents duplication of resources and services in the area. The LWDB has authorized a limit award amount to each supportive service category described in this policy and must not be exceeded when provided to a participant during program participation including follow-up. This policy will be reviewed every program year or as deemed necessary, and the amounts for supportive services may change based on availability of funds.

Supportive services are only provided on the basis of need as determined by the LWDA; and when the participant is unable to obtain the support service through any other resource or community program agency providing such services. Service Providers must explore with the participant viable alternatives before providing supportive services. Supportive services are not entitlement services or automatic assistance; but rather based on the unique financial and employment/training needs of each participant provided as a temporary assistance.

Support Service Requisites:

1. Supportive services must be made available for participants who may need additional assistance, as determined through comprehensive assessments.

2. Assessments and/or supportive services provided to the participant (including services provided by partner agency) must be documented in the participant's Individual Service Strategy (ISS) and case noted accordingly in the Arizona Job Connection system (AJC).
3. All attempts made to obtain other resources before expending WIOA Funds must be documented in participant's ISS and case noted in AJC.
4. Supportive Services provided to the participant must be necessary and reasonable.
5. Documentation to justify the need of the supportive service is required.
6. The item or service provided as a supportive service must be consistent with comparable market prices. When providing supportive services two quotes are required from the vendor to compare the market price of the item or service with the exception for items with well-established prices (*i.e. bus pass, utility bills, clothing, occupational license fees, certification*).
7. Costs must be on par with comparable market prices for the service or commodity, both in cost and in the item being purchased, per 2CFR Part 200.404.

Procedure and Documentation Requirements for Supportive Service Assistance:

1. All participants must be actively engaged and enrolled in the program to receive supportive services.
2. Justification for providing the need of support service must be documented on the ISS, case noted, and appropriate service entered in AJC within 15 calendar days from the date service was provided.
3. When using the "Supportive Service-Other", the type of support service must be identified in the note section of the AJC service record.
4. The Request for Support Services Form will be completed and submitted after the service has been provided to the Fiscal Department within 3 days. The Request for Support Services Form must be signed by staff and approved by the Service Provider management staff.
5. The Support Service Assessment Form (SSAF) and Support Services Transaction/Timesheet must be completed for participants in need of transportation and/or needs related assistance. SSAF should identify the type of service the participant is enrolled in. If the participant becomes ineligible for assistance, a SSAF is required to identify the reason for denial in the explanation area. SSAF must be submitted to the Fiscal Department within 3 days.

6. Any additional supporting documentation such as the supportive service voucher, sales receipts (*signed by participant*), etc. must be submitted with the Request for Support Services Form and case noted in AJC.
7. Two quotes from the vendor must be submitted along with the Request for Support Services Form on those items or services that do not have a well-established price.
8. Prior to approval and fiscal submission, Service Providers' management staff must review documents for completeness and ensure required back-up supporting documentation is being attached.
9. Service Providers must retain copies of fiscal documents and have procedure in place to facilitate the State program audits when scheduled.
10. Service Providers are responsible for tracking the current total of supportive services spent to date on each participant to prevent exceeding the maximum award amounts and resulting in a disallowed cost.
11. Reimbursement of payment for supportive services must be made directly to the vendor and not the participant.

Allowable Types of Supportive Services:

Supportive Services as described in 20 CFR 681.570 for youth include but are not limited to the items listed below.

- Linkages to community services;
- Transportation assistance;
- Child care assistance;
- Housing and utility bill assistance;
- Lodging;
- Needs-related payments;
- Educational testing assistance;
- Reasonable accommodations for individual with disabilities;
- Referrals to healthcare;
- Work related expenses;
- Training-related assistance including electronic devices;
- Payment and fees for employment and training-related application, test, and certifications;
- Reimbursement for cellular or internet service to maintain wireless connection for distance learning and job retention; and
- Software needed for training related activities or job placement.

Supportive Services:

I. Child Care Assistance

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program Auxiliary Aids and Services Are Available Upon Request To Individuals With Disabilities.

Child care assistance may be provided based upon need and only on a one time or limited basis to ensure a successful outcome while receiving training and education services. The provision of child care assistance should not exceed the LWDB allowable support service cap and **will only reimburse child care up to \$75 per week, per child for a maximum of two weeks, and or until first paycheck is received by participant.** Child care payments using WIOA funds must be aligned with current State Child care Allowances. Participant will be referred to DES-Child care Services Program to determine if eligible prior to providing child care assistance.

1. Payment and eligibility for Child Care services will follow the guidelines set forth by the Department of Economic Security (DES) Child Care Services program. Income eligibility and maximum reimbursement rates can be found at <https://des.az.gov/documents-center> form number CCA-1227A.
2. The child care provider must be an approved DES contractor. A list of child care providers contracted with DES can be found at Child care Resources & Referral Service, <https://azccrr.com>
3. Two quotes are required for these services if participant is not eligible for DES Child care Services Program.
4. The Child Care Agreement, Child Care Monthly Invoice Timesheet, Supportive Service Voucher, and Request for Support Services Form must be utilized when providing child care assistance to a participant.
5. The participant's Child Care Notice of Denial letter from DES must be attached as back up documentation when submitting required documents to accounting department.
6. Participant must maintain appropriate attendance while enrolled in training and education services.
7. Child care will be discontinued if participant has 3 unexcused absences reported from the training and or education program.
8. Child care will be discontinued when child/children have 3 unexcused absences reported from the child care provider. Participants will be informed of such action taken by the child care provider.

II. Lodging Expenses

Lodging may be provided on a one-time occurrence and **not exceed the limit amount of \$1,000.00** to a participant when traveling to attend a short-term training (one month or less); or scheduled to take a training-related examination where the training/testing site is more than 50 miles from the participant's place of residence. Training and examination must result in a Recognized Post-

Secondary Credential and lead participant to successful employment opportunities.

1. Service Provider must consult with participant to assess and determine whether participant has any other alternatives that he/she can utilize for lodging such temporary residence with a friend or family member prior to providing lodging assistance as a supportive service.
2. Service Providers must go by the General Services Administration nightly lodging rates set for each City/State and not exceed the listed limitation amount. Refer to the following website for lodging rates; <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates>.
3. The Cost of nightly lodging rate and distance from the training/testing site must be reasonable and comparable to other nightly lodging rates.
4. Lodging that offer weekly rates or housing that is rented on a monthly basis may be considered depending on the length of training. Documentation will be required for submission to indicate length of training.
5. Two quotes must be attached to the Request for Support Service Form along with lodging sale receipt signed by participant and supporting documentation indicating participant is enrolled in a short-term training or taking training-related exam.
6. Any additional charges such as mini-bar and snack, parking, Wi-Fi fees, etc. that are not included to the cost of nightly lodging rate will be at the participant's own expense. This applies to any additional charges when lodging in a rental house.

III. Work And Training Related Expenses

A participant may receive work and or training related assistance as a type of supportive service when an employer, instructor, or institution deems that all students participating in the training must have the items in order to complete the course.

Licenses, certifications, and testing fees may be paid when required to legally work in the occupation, is mandatory by the employer for participant to obtain employment, or when resulting with a Recognized Post-Secondary Credential.

Types of Work and Training Related Support Service Expense, but not limited to:

1. *Eyeglasses. Cost Limit: **\$150.00**/Vision Exam: **\$75.00**. This includes protective eye wear, and prescription glasses. Service Provider must verify participant is ineligible for medical/vision insurance prior to providing such service.

2. Clothing, uniforms, boots, helmet, and or gloves. Cost Limit: **\$150.00**;
 - (a) To aid in job search activities;
 - (b) Is required by employer; or
 - (c) Choice of occupation has changed and requires new work attire.
3. *Tools required for training or employment. Cost Limit: **\$500.00**.
4. Testing Fees: Occupational licensing/Certification/Educational. Cost Limit: **\$500.00**
5. Child care (refer to the Special Guidelines for child care assistance on page 4 of this policy).
6. Background and fingerprinting/clearance card, drug testing, health screening, and other work related testing. Cost Limit: **\$300.00**. A one-time occurrence may be provided to assist with fingerprint clearance card. Staff must obtain copy of fingerprint clearance card for participant's electronic file.
7. Transportation Assistance:
 - (a) May be provided at the beginning of a Work Experience (WEX)/ Internship or On-the-Job Training (OJT) to ensure the mobility between home and the worksite location (until 1st incentive or paycheck is received by participant);
 - (b) May be provided with a total of 3 bus cards to aid in job search services;
 - (c) May be provided with a one-time gasoline purchase;
 - (d) May be provided to attend classroom training with a daily transportation award of a single fixed rate in the amount of **\$4.00 or** bus card;
 - (e) *May be provided with a one-time purchase of a bicycle **not to exceed the limit of \$175.00** as the source of transportation.
8. *Mobile Hot Spots. Cost Limit: **\$300**, not to exceed six months of hot spot service and SIM (*Subscriber Identity Module*) card activation may be provided when;
 - (a) Participant is enrolled in distance online learning (Training or Education Service);
 - (b) Participant is enrolled in a WEX/Internship, OJT employment opportunities; or
 - (c) Participant's employment requires internet access.
9. *Software Products. Cost Limit: **\$150.00**, such as Microsoft products- Office, Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat, etc. Service Provider must first consult with participant to assess and determine whether he/she has access to the required software prior to purchase. Supporting documentation should indicate software product is a requirement for the following:
 - (a) To complete an education service or training program as indicated on the training program description listed on the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL);

- (b) Necessary for the job placement; or
 - (c) Necessary for WEX/Internship/OJT employment opportunities. **Note:** Services Provider must first confer with employer if software product will be supplied by the employer prior to spending WIOA funds.
10. *Electronic Devices. Cost Limit: **\$350.00**, such as laptop or tablet may be provided for participants enrolled in training/education services when needed to successfully complete a program, or when participating in a WEX/Internship/OJT service. Electronic devices will be provided as a supportive service only when not available through other resources. The following is requested when providing this type of support service;
- (a) Service Provider must consult with participant to assess and determine whether participant has internet connection, and owns or has access to the required device prior of purchase. This must be documented on program notes and ISS.
 - (b) Program Notes and ISS must indicate the electronic device is a requirement for participant to complete training.
 - (c) If device is required by a training provider for a training program listed on the ETPL, a copy of the training program description from the ETPL specifying requirement will be submitted and scanned into ISDS as part of supportive service documentation.
 - (d) Participant will be required to sign the Electronic Device Borrowing Agreement form taking full responsibility of device and will return the electronic device upon completing training/education service.
 - (e) Service Provider must first confer with employer if electronic device will be supplied by the employer when participant is enrolled in a WEX/Internship/OJT service prior to spending WIOA funds.

*Two vendor quotes must be attached with supportive service documentation upon submission to the Fiscal Department when providing this type of service.

Additional Requirements for the provision of Electronic Devices:

The LWDA must adhere to the following requirements;

- (a) Must follow established procurement standards for the purchase of any electronic device.
- (b) Devices may be purchased in bulk, with written justification indicating how the purchase in bulk is more cost efficient.
- (c) Must maintain an inventory to track each device provided to a participant.
- (d) Maximum cost of each device must not exceed the average fair market price for the device. 2CFR 200.404(c).

- (e) Service Provider must have in place and follow their Information Technology (IT) procedures to maintain security standards and ensure sensitive or personal identifiable information is not retained on equipment upon return.

Please Note: The LWDA will continue to make available to participants the resources to utilize computers at the One Stop Center and other partner locations to conduct job search, attend workshops, complete and submit applications, and/or complete educational paperwork, and or homework related to training/education program.

IV. Needs Related Payments

Needs-related payments provide financial assistance to youth for the purpose of enabling individuals to participate in training activities, per 20 CFR 680.930. Needs-related payments may be provided to eligible participants enrolled in education/training service either through online and or classroom training. Service Provider must verify participant is not receiving in their name any type of wage, income, and or/cash subsistence, (*i.e. Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF), Social Security, Unemployment Insurance (UI), etc.*) prior to providing needs-related payments. Needs-related payments are not to exceed in the amount of **\$3.00** per hour.

V. Emergency Expenses

Emergency services are allowable on a case-by-case basis and only as a one-time occurrence with the approval of Service Provider Management Staff and may include, but are not limited to payments for:

- (a) Utilities assistance for overdue bills water, electric, and/or heating.
- (b) Rental payments when the participant is at risk of eviction.
- (c) Temporary shelter in the event of an emergency. Referral to Crossroads Mission and or other community agencies that provide such service should be made available to participant before the LWDA provides assistance.

Please note: Utilities and Rental assistance requires the following:

- (a) Confirm with other local community agencies (*i.e. WACOG*) or State funded programs the availability of service. Attempts to use other resources must be made prior to providing this type of service.
- (b) Obtain documentation to show pending shut-off or overdue bills.
- (c) Obtain documentation such as an eviction notice.
- (d) Cannot pay late fees or refundable deposits.

VI. Auto Expenses

1. Assistance may be provided for automobile repairs/maintenance for vehicles used as the primary source of transportation to training or work. The following applies to auto expenses:
 - (a) If the participant is not the registered owner of the vehicle, or the owner of the vehicle is part of the family size at the time of eligibility a signed statement from the registered owner is required;
 - (b) Documentation must indicate the vehicle is the participant's sole means for transportation to and from training or work; and
 - (c) Two vendor quotes must be attached with the supportive service documentation upon submission to the Fiscal Department when providing this type of service.
2. A one-time-occurrence may be provided to assist with Vehicle Registration pay. *(Vehicle must be registered under the participant's name).*

Supportive Service Prohibitions:

Supportive services, with exception of Needs-related payment, may be provided as a follow-up service for WIOA Title1-B youth participants.

Per 2 CFR 200, unallowable costs do not meet the conditions of supportive services include, but are not limited to:

1. Payment toward goods or services incurred or received prior to the participant's enrollment in a WIOA Title 1-B program.
2. Fines and penalties, such as parking tickets or moving violations, and fines for late utility payments.
3. Taxes, except for sales taxes and gasoline taxes, such as income taxes, and business/payroll taxes (for employers).
4. Child support.
5. Legal fees, except for fees to access a driver's license.
6. Debts that have been turned over to a collection agency.
7. The purchase of goods or services that is illegal under any Federal, State, Local, municipal law, or statute.
8. The purchase of cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, or firearms.
9. Union dues.

10. Service Providers must not provide career and training services as a supportive service when the actual service provided meets the definition of another service (*i.e. providing Occupational Skills Training as a supportive service*). All services are defined in the AJC Service Dictionary.

Follow-Up Services:

The WIOA Title 1-B Youth program allows the provision of support services as a follow-up service to ensure the youth is successful in employment and/or post-secondary and training. For more information on follow-up services, see the WIOA Title 1-B Youth Program Policy Section 200.