

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES POLICY

Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, Inc, LWIA #26

For purposes of the provision of supportive services to participants enrolled in career services and/or training the Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, Inc. shall use the definition of 'supportive services' as contained in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This definition is as follows: the term '*supportive services means services such as transportation, child care, dependent care, housing, and needs-related payments, that are necessary to enable an individual to participate in activities authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*'. **Supportive services will be provided based upon availability of funds. Board office should be notified within 60 days of any increase or decrease to supportive services.**

Participant Eligibility

Supportive services will only be provided to individuals who are participating in core, intensive or training services, and are unable to obtain supportive services through other programs providing such services. Supportive services will only be provided when they are necessary to enable individuals to participate in WIA Title I activities. All requests for services must be substantiated and must further the employment goal for that participant.

All supportive services will be determined on an individual basis.

Child Care

Child care, if determined necessary per the local entities, will be reimbursed at the following rates:

- When Child Care Resources are obtained, WIA #26 will pay the copay to a maximum of \$250/ month. When Child Care Resources are not obtained, WIA #26 will pay, per child: 1-2 hours, **\$10.00**; 3-4 hours, **\$15.00**; 5-7 hours, **\$20.00** ; over 7 hours, **\$25.00** (excluding payment to a parent or step parent of children, or persons residing in the household).
- The child care reimbursement rate may be increased or reduced to a lower rate by a service provider, for participants within their contracted counties.
- LWIA 26 will not pay more than the usual and customary rate charged to private paying customers.
- Participants must submit a copy of their childcare providers fee schedule which will be maintained in the participants file. Participants inability to obtain Child Care Resources will be documented with case notes and maintained in the participants file.
- Requests for payment will include attendance sheet(s) with appropriate signatures. Requests not received in a timely manner may be subject to non-payment.

Transportation

Recognizing the individual nature among approved Service Providers, the following mileage reimbursement is allowable for training and/or required job search:

- Reimbursement amount for automobile travel will be based on of the mileage rate established by the Federal Government (General Services Administration).
- Mileage rate may be increased or reduced to a lower rate by a service provider, for participants within their contracted counties. However, any increase shall not exceed the current standard mileage rate established by the Internal Revenue Service.
- Mileage reimbursement shall be allowable only for authorized travel.
- Requests for payment will include attendance sheets with appropriate signatures. Documentation will be maintained in the participants programmatic and/or fiscal file.
- To receive mileage reimbursement, participants must provide documentation showing; proof of vehicle insurance, valid drivers license and vehicle registration. If vehicle is owned by someone other than participant, evidence of permission to use the vehicle must be provided.
- Requests not received in a timely manner may be subject to non-payment.
- For participants residing in any of the 14 counties comprising LWIA #26 and eligible to receive TAA(Trade) benefits; mileage will be reimbursed using the eligibility criteria and at the per mile rate mandated by the TAA.

Other Supportive Services

Such services include but are not limited to transportation, vehicle insurance and repairs, clothing and shoes, payment of medical services (such as physicals or shots when related to training or employment), eye glasses and dental procedures, linkages to community services, housing and utility assistance can be provided to eligible individuals who cannot afford to pay for such services to participate in authorized WIA activities.

All requests for services must be substantiated and must further the employment goal for that participant.

Classroom Based Stipends for Youth

At a minimum, stipend policies should be based on the following components:

- (1) Stipends are allowable expenditures for unpaid work experience when the provision of stipend is included in the individual service strategy.
- (2) Calculate the stipend by multiplying class hours times minimum wage less FICA and Medicare, (for example: 7 hours x (\$8.00-(8.00 x .0765)) = \$51.73).
- (3) Successful participation in and completion of the classroom based activity must occur for the stipend to be paid. Stipend pay should reflect the current minimum wage as regulated by the Internal Revenue Service. The stipend may be increased or reduced to a lower rate by the service provider but should reflect no less than current minimum wage or as dictated by the grant.

High School Diploma/GED Bonus for Youth

Once the individual receives their High School Diploma/GED they will be eligible to receive a one time bonus of \$25.00. The ROE, School Contact Person, or Service Provider Career Planner will attain proof of the Diploma/GED and let the appropriate Service Provider know of the attainment of the bonus for processing of the check.

Documentation

Proper justification for any purchase under this policy must be documented in the case notes of the participant, showing support of that participant's Individual Employment Plan. Case notes will also include statements supporting attempts to obtain funding to meet participants need(s) through other sources.