

GRWDB Supportive Services / Needs-Based Payments Policy

Purpose: The Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board (GRWDB) approved a Supportive Services / Needs-Based Payments Policy at its April 11, 2019, meeting, and subsequently approved policy revisions at its April 16, 2020, meeting. The policy is required under Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title 1, as per NJWIN 10-16(A).

Background: A key principle of WIOA is to provide local areas with the authority and flexibility to make policy and administrative decisions based on the needs of the local community. In NJWIN 10-16(A), the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development requires that Local Areas establish written policies and procedures if they wish to implement Supportive Services and Needs-Based payments, with the discretion to provide the supportive services deemed appropriate by each Local Area.

Policy: The GRWDB recognizes the following as supportive services for purposes of ensuring coordination with other entities in achieving the highest quality most comprehensive service delivery to individuals:

- a. Linkages to community services
- b. Assistance with housing
- c. Reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities
- d. Legal aid services
- e. Referrals to health care
- f. Assistance with uniforms or other appropriate work attire and work-related tools, including such items as eyeglasses and protective eye gear
- g. Access to online training

GRWDB authorizes its provider of Career Training Services to make available needs related payments for the following supportive services as permitted under WIOA where those services are not available elsewhere:

- a) Costs for transportation education on the use of public transportation to access career training, education, and employment
- b) Costs associated with transportation vouchers or point to point rides to individuals for use in accessing career training, education, or employment connected to an Individual Training Account grant issued by the Career Training Services provider
- c) The costs of books, fees, school supplies and other necessary items for individuals enrolled in post-secondary education classes through an Individual Training Account grant issued by the Career Training Services provider
- d) The costs of employment and training related applications, tests, and certifications connected to an Individual Training Account grant issued by the Career Services Training provider
- e) Ancillary costs associated with accessing online training through an Individual Training Account grant issued by the Career Training Services provider.

f) Costs for transportation education, transportation vouchers or point to point rides, child care, program enrollment, access to online training, and credentialing or certification testing costs, are hereby made available to low-wage workers who are employed and eligible for the Supplemental Nutritional Aid Program.

To fund these services, the GRWDB will work with the Career Services Training provider to determine a budget dollar amount for providing supportive services needs related payments for each program year and the GRWDB will establish supportive services needs related payments as a separate and distinct Local Area Annual program budget line.

The Career Services Training provider will adopt eligibility, documentation and other policies and requirements consistent with this GRWDB policy and as described in NJWIN 10-16(A) as well any further federal or state guidance, terms, conditions, and/or requirements.