

**WDA 16**

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**Policy Letter 01-2021**

**Policy: Youth Incentives**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide Incentives to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP) eligible youth that encourages and motivates these youth to attain specific program goals and positive outcomes while enrolled in training, educational, and work experience activities.

1. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPROVAL**

Motion 31-2021 approved on September 17, 2021

This replaces Motions 19-2019 (5/31/19) and 18-2020 (9/18/20).

1. **BACKGROUND**

Per Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA), regulations at 20CFR part 681.640, incentives are an allowable service that can be provided to WIOA eligible youth for recognition and achievement directly tied to training, education, and work experiences. CCMEP youth participants are also eligible for these performance based incentives. CCMEP Youth participants funded under the TANF program are also potentially eligible for these performance incentives, in accordance with the incentive policy of the lead agency that is carrying out the TANF services in a county.

1. **IMPLEMENTATION**

Incentives are not an entitlement. Incentives will be provided to the youth at the discretion of the Program Operator and are subject to available funding.

Incentives may only be cash payments (payable by check). The maximum payment to a youth for attaining one (1) program goal or positive outcome, is $100.00. During a Program Year (July 1-June 30), there is no limit to how many incentives a student can earn for achieving goals or outcomes.

Payment of incentives must be connected to the goals and objectives stated in the youth’s Individual Opportunity Plan (IOP).

Incentives may be issued to youth for attaining goals and positive outcomes including:

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| **WDA16 Youth Incentives Policy Incentives** | **Financial award to youth if achieved** |
|  |  |
| Primary or secondary school grade for each level advancement or GED progress | $100 |
| Attainment of HS diploma/GED | $100 |
| Successful completion of each educational/academic Credit Recovery Class | $100 |
| Successful completion of Nationally Recognized Certification or Licensure program | $100 |
| Obtaining Nationally Recognized Certification or License | $100 |
| Successful completion of work experience as determined by the Program Operator | $100 |
| Other training, educational, job shadowing and work experience activities as approved by the Program Operator, consistent with 20CFR 681.640 | $100 |
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| **Additional Incentives allowed as per the ODJFS Toolkit** |  |
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| Complete drivers education training | $100 |
| Obtain Driver’s License | $100 |
| Earn an Ohio Jobs Readiness Seal (from required Ohio HS graduation list) | $100 |
| Successfully complete a soft skills training program as approved by the Program Operator (i.e. Leadership, Financial Literacy, others linked to the 14 WIOA Youth Elements) | $100 |
| Complete a FASFA | $100 |
| Enroll in a post-secondary school | $100 |
| Complete a semester of post-secondary school  (Minimum 2.5 GPA per semester to earn an incentive) | $100 |
| Obtain unsubsidized employment | $100 |
| Retain unsubsidized employment  (Incentive paid after 60 work days or 360 hours of work, whichever is less) | $100 |
|  |  |

All WDB16 approved incentives are consistent with the 2021 guidelines provided in the CCMEP ODJFS toolkit:

[**https://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/CCMEP/docs/OnlineTrainingWorkExperienceandIncentivesToolKit.pdf**](https://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/CCMEP/docs/OnlineTrainingWorkExperienceandIncentivesToolKit.pdf)

Documentation must be maintained by the Program Operator or Subcontractor and include at a minimum:

* Documentation of the Goal/Positive Outcome to be attained in the IOP
* Documentation of evidence of goal attainment
* Documentation that the Incentive was issued to the Youth

END