



County of Mercer Workforce Development Board

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Mercer WDB Policy: Youth Follow Up Adopted: January 26, 2021

Background: A Policy for Youth Follow Up is required under the federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I programs Section 129 Local Elements & Requirements, USDOL TEGL (Training & employment Guidance Letter) No. 19-16, and as per NJ Workforce Innovation Notice NJWIN 1-18).

Purpose/Definition:

Title I of WIOA outlines a broad youth vision that supports an integrated service delivery system and provides a framework through which states and local areas can leverage other Federal, state, local, and philanthropic resources to support in-school youth (ISY) and out-of-school youth (OSY). It further affirms the Department of Labor's (DOL) commitment to providing high-quality services for youth, beginning with career exploration and guidance, continued support for educational attainment, opportunities for skills training, such as pre-apprenticeships or internships, for in-demand industries and occupations, and culminating with employment, enrollment in postsecondary education, or a registered apprenticeship. [*USDOL TEGL (Training & Employment Guidance Letter) No. 19-16*]

Follow-up services are one of the 14 program elements for the WIOA youth program. They are critical services provided following a youth's exit from the program. As stated in the *NJ Workforce Innovation Notice (WIN) 1-18*, youth who are successful in employment and/or postsecondary education and training receive follow-up services to aid their transition after exit.

Policy: The Mercer WDB recognizes the need for Follow-up services and has approved the services listed below to be available for youth after exiting the program based on individual need. Expenses allowable during participation (i.e. supportive services) are also allowable during the 12-month follow-up period and must be documented in AOSOS case notes and the ISS (Individual Services Strategy).

- Assistance with transportation
 - Bus transportation
 - Bus Tickets (travel to school/work)
 - Assistance with personal vehicle transportation
 - Assistance with obtaining and/or restoring drivers licenses
 - Assistance with transportation/commuting
- Assistance with technology needs
 - Equipment – i.e. Chromebook or similar item
 - Wi-Fi hotspots

- Assistance with child care and/or dependent care
- Assistance with housing
- Assistance with books, fees, school supplies and other necessary items for students enrolled in post-secondary education classes
- Payments and fees for employment and training-related applications, tests, and certifications
- Assistance with uniforms or other appropriate work attire i.e. steel-tip boots, work related tools, protective gear, etc.
- Provision of Stipends/Needs-Based to Offset Training expense (those in post-secondary)
- Mentoring
- Financial Literacy Training
- Transition Services
- Regular contact with employer including assistance in addressing work-related problems

- Linkages to Community Services
 - Public Assistance (TANF/GA)
 - Child Care (Child Care Connection)
 - Child Support (NJ Child Support Enforcement)
 - Food/Nutrition (Food Banks, SNAP)
 - Homelessness (Housing counseling, Local resources)
 - Juvenile Justice (OJJDP, Reentry Resource Centers)
 - Legal Aid
 - Violence and Abuse (Counselors, Hotlines)
 - Health, Mental, and Substance Abuse (Local clinics/treatment centers)