

A RESOLUTION OF THE NEW YORK CITY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES POLICY¹

WHEREAS, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) defines supportive services as those necessary to enable individuals to participate in WIOA activities (20 CFR §651.10);

WHEREAS, WIOA stipulates that local areas may make “needs-related payments” to individuals, provided they are participants in WIOA training and meet certain criteria (20 CFR 680.970);

WHEREAS, the Local Workforce Development Board has the authority and flexibility to develop policies for the provision of supportive services within the local area;

WHEREAS, the New York City Workforce Development Board (“the Board”) recognizes that a lack of income during training may pose a barrier to participation for many low-income individuals and that, consequently, needs-related payments may increase access to training and improve training completion and job attainment rates;

WHEREAS, WIOA requires that the local Board define procedures for referring customers to supportive services and, when they are not available through other funding sources, which ones will be funded;

WHEREAS, WIOA stipulates that the local Board must establish a maximum level for needs-related payments if they are to be available in the local area;

WHEREAS, the Board established its current supportive services policy in 2009² under the predecessor law to WIOA, the Workforce Investment Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New York City Workforce Development Board Executive Committee hereby amends and restates the Supportive Services Policy, effective August 1, 2021, and intended to sunset on August 31, 2023, if the Board does not take action to extend or change the Policy before then, to the following:

A. Overview

1. Individuals participating in Training Programs³ who meet criteria defined by WIOA law and policies will have access to needs-related payments;

¹ https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/wkdev/downloads/pdf/wp_supportivesvs.pdf

² <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/wkdev/downloads/pdf/supportiveservices.pdf>

³ Training Programs are defined as WIOA-funded (either partially or fully) occupational training and career search supports for up to 12 weeks after the end of occupational training.

2. The Workforce1 Career Centers will leverage their extensive network of Community Partners to refer customers to access all other supportive services necessary to enable an individual to participate in WIOA activities (including transportation, childcare, dependent care, housing, etc.).

B. Guidelines for SBS to issue Needs-Related Payments to Participants of Training Programs

- **Defining Need for Needs-Related Payments among Training Participants**
 - Need is defined as a New Yorker who is unemployed and meets all the necessary qualifications of a specific SBS funded training program.
- **Maximum Levels for Individual Training Participants:**
 - **Weekly Amount:** Effective September 1, 2022, the weekly needs-related payment amount for training will be equivalent to 100% of the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) in the New York-Northern NJ area for a household of one person, divided by 52 weeks. (See chart below.)
 - **Yearly Maximum:** The aggregate yearly maximum amount for training shall be the weekly amount times 40 weeks of training.

Maximum Levels of Needs-Related Payments for Individual Training Participants

Start Date	End Date	100% of Lower Living Standard Income Level for a Household of One Person for the NY/NJ Area	Weekly Needs-Related Payment Amount	Maximum Yearly Aggregate Amount for Training (40 Weeks)
8/1/2021	8/31/2022		\$325*	\$13,000*
9/1/2022	8/31/2023	\$18,476	\$355	\$14,200

* These amounts were calculated for the pilot period. They were not tied directly to the Lower Living Standard Income Level.

- **Maximum Term and Length for Individual Training Participants:**
 - Needs-related payments may be provided during the entire enrollment period in a training program, provided an individual is not yet receiving follow-up services⁴.
 - Any individual training participant may not exceed 40 weeks' worth of needs-related payments within a 12-month period.
 - If this policy is extended beyond August 31, 2023, a trainee will only be eligible to receive needs-related payments applied to one training program in a three-year period
 - SBS reserves the right to limit the total number of customers who receive needs-related payments based on the availability of funding in the fiscal year.

⁴ A WIOA customer starts receiving follow-up services once they have successfully found unsubsidized employment. Enrollment is defined as enrollment in either the occupational portion or the career supports portion of the training program.

C. Pilot

- During the pilot period of August 2021 to August 2022 SBS conducted a randomized control trial in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania. During that period, SBS adjusted the maximum level, terms and length based on research, evaluation and pilot outcomes. The pilot learnings have been applied to this policy.

D. Evaluation

- SBS will continue its ongoing evaluation of needs-related payments to understand their impact on training enrollment, attendance, and completion rates and on job attainment rates of the trainees.

E. Sunset Clause

- Given that SBS is still experimenting with needs-based payments, this policy will be in effect until August 31, 2023. Prior to that date, SBS will share its learnings with the Board and the Board may extend or make changes to the policy based on these learnings.