

WIA Title I Opportunity Grants

Overview

Opportunity Grants are awarded in effort to help individuals improve their skills at technical colleges, earn certificates or degrees and pursue career pathways to better jobs in high demand occupations, including registered apprenticeships.

Program Requirements

Eligibility

All applicants must meet the following criteria to qualify for WIA Title I Opportunity Grants:

Financial

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be employed but earning a family income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see chart)
-OR-
- Be in temporary layoff status (with documentation)
- Show evidence that the applicant is not eligible for financial aid. Income inclusion/exclusion will follow methods and procedure established for WIA.
- Demonstrate application for the Free Application of Federal Student Aid.

Educational

- Possess a High School diploma or equivalent.
- Must be enrolling half-time or less in technical college courses. (Full-time college enrollees are not eligible for Opportunity Grants.)
- Does not possess any certificates or college degrees.

Family Size	200% Federal Poverty Level	
	Annual	Monthly
1	\$21,660	\$1,085
2	\$29,140	\$2,428
3	\$36,620	\$3,052
4	\$44,100	\$3,675
5	\$51,580	\$4,298
6	\$59,060	\$4,922
7	\$66,540	\$5,545
8	\$74,020	\$6,168
9	\$81,500	\$6,792
10	\$88,980	\$7,415

Source: Federal Register, January 23, 2009

Eligible Field of Study

Occupational training must be consistent with the WDB determined demand occupations in support of regional sector strategies including health care, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, and energy.

Tuition

Tuition costs include instructional costs, books, consumable supplies/materials and fees paid directly to the school. Opportunity grants for tuition may be authorized for up to \$1,000.

Wrap-around Services

Wrap-around services include the cost of uniforms, tools, licensure exam fees, transportation assistance, childcare and other supports necessary for the successful participation in training.

Recruitment

Workforce Development Boards are responsible for recruiting through agreements with the Community Action Agencies, Job Service and other community based organizations.

Assessment

All eligible applicants will receive an assessment by Job Center or Job Service staff. Each eligible applicant receiving an assessment would be assigned a case manager, enrolled into and have services tracked in ASSET.

For more information or to apply for an Opportunity Grant, please contact Jane Budde at (608) 242-7498 or email jbudde@comeherefirst.org.

**Workforce
Development Board**
of South Central Wisconsin