



Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Needs-Related Payment Policy

Needs-related payments (NRP) provide financial assistance to participants for the purpose of enabling them to participate in training and are a supportive service authorized by WIOA Sec. 134(d)(3). Unlike other supportive services, in order to qualify for needs-related payments a participant must be enrolled in training under WIOA Sec. 134 (c)(3). **The provision of needs-related payments may be determined on an individual basis.**

Needs-related payments will be payable to eligible participants (Adults and Dislocated Workers) who meet the following criteria:

Adults must: (Ref. § 680.940)

- a. be unemployed;
- b. not qualify for, or have ceased qualifying for, unemployment compensation; and
- c. be enrolled in a program of training services under WIOA Sec. 134 (c)(3).

Dislocated Workers must: (Ref. § 680.950)

- a. be unemployed, and;
 1. have ceased to qualify for unemployment compensation or trade readjustment allowance under TAA; and
 2. be enrolled in a program of training services under WIOA Sec. 134 (c)(3) by the end of the 13th week after the most recent layoff that resulted in a determination of the worker's eligibility as a dislocated worker, or, if later, by the end of the 8th week after the worker is informed that a short-term layoff will exceed six (6) months; or
- b. be unemployed and did not qualify for unemployment compensation or trade readjustment assistance under TAA and be enrolled in a program of training services under WIOA Sec. 134 (c)(3).

The term "enrolled in a program of training services" means:

The participant's registration application for training under WIOA Sec. 134 (c)(3) has been approved by the training provider and that the training provider has enrolled the participant in a qualified training that will begin within thirty (30) calendar days. Extension of the 30-day period (to address appropriate circumstances) requires approval from Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development.

Training Services include:

- i. Occupational Skills Training, including training for nontraditional employment;
- ii. On-the job training;
- iii. Incumbent worker training in accordance with subsection (d)(4);
- iv. Programs that combine workplace training with related instruction, which may include cooperative education programs;
- v. Training programs operated by a private sector;
- vi. Skill upgrading and retraining;
- vii. Entrepreneurial training;
- viii. Transitional jobs in accordance with subsection (d)(5);
- ix. Job readiness training provided in combination with services described in any clauses (i) through (viii);
- x. Adult education and literacy activities, including activities of English language acquisition and integrated education and training programs, provided concurrently or in combination with services described in any clauses (i) through (vii); and
- xi. Customized training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of the training.

Adults and Dislocated Workers must:

- a. be enrolled in school/college on a full-time basis. (Full-time status will be based on school definition)
- b. maintain a “C” average or above while receiving NRP. (a minimum of 2.0 gpa on a 4.0 gpa scale)
- c. have their eligibility for NRP determined prior to their receipt of this service if they desire this service option. Current participants will have their eligibility redetermined for NRP at a minimum of every six (6) months from their original begin date of receiving NRP or when the participant receives other income which is self-reported that may make the participant ineligible. Eligibility will be determined by the WIOA Career Advisor. Staff will be verifying on a weekly basis that the participant is not receiving unemployment compensation.
- d. not be out more than thirty (30) calendar days during the school’s vacation break in order to receive NRP.
- e. notify their Career Advisor and NWGRC if they are no longer attending school/college on a full-time basis and/or if they change their program of study.

- f. notify their Career Advisor and NWGRC of any monetary change in individual/family income during any particular week.
- g. complete a weekly attendance sheet.
- h. not be receiving income allowances such as employer severance, TRA under TAA, union member supplemental benefits, out-of-area job search assistance, payments under WIOA such as internships, any wages under OJT, work experience or other activities under WIOA where payments may be available except support. If a customer is not receiving but is eligible to receive any of the assistance listed above, every effort will be made to ensure that other assistance is provided prior to application for NRP being approved in accordance with WIOA Sec. 134.

Furthermore, WIOA NRP should not replace or reduce any other federal financial assistance for which the individual may be eligible or entitled, including WIOA support payments.

Adults Guideline:

All participants must meet all eligibility requirements for “adult” services under WIOA provisions. Any adult applying for NRP assistance must meet the income guidelines for WIOA Low Income Poverty Level.

Adults whose income meet the poverty level and are attending school/college on a full-time basis will receive weekly needs-related payments in the amount of \$228. Their eligibility will be reviewed at a minimum of every six (6) months from their original anniversary date of participation in WIOA.

Dislocated Workers Guideline:

All participants must meet all eligibility requirements and be deemed a dislocated worker under WIOA provisions. Payments must not exceed the greater of either of the following levels:

- a.) the applicable weekly level of the unemployment compensation benefit, for participants who were eligible for unemployment compensation as a result of the qualifying dislocation; or
- b.) the poverty level for an equivalent period, for participants who did not qualify for unemployment compensation as a result of the qualifying layoff. The weekly payment level cannot be adjusted lower due to our income limit being the lowest a participant can receive on the poverty scale.

Eligibility will be determined on the day of contact with the applicant. Applicants who *did* qualify for unemployment compensation must provide documentation of their layoff and their benefit amount. Applicants who *did not* qualify for unemployment compensation must have proof of unemployment denial in order to qualify for NRP.

NOTE: Participants enrolled in approved training who are unemployed, but who receive payments as a member of a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Services, or as a member of the Georgia National Guard, for periods of duty of 72 consecutive hours or less, shall be considered unemployed for a purpose of qualifying for NRP.

Payment Limitations:

Needs-related payments shall not exceed 14 weeks (amount of time for UI payment period) per program year and/or will be paid until the week limitation is reached or until the participant completes training, whichever comes first. Participants can begin to receive payments once they start training and submit weekly attendance sheets.