

ALABAMA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM

**Alabama Department of Commerce
Workforce Development Division
401 Adams Avenue
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Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4106**

June 30, 2021

Guidance Related to Pell Grant and Individual Training Account (ITA) Funding

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INNOVATION DIRECTIVE NO. PY2021-03

1. Purpose. This Directive clarifies the application of Pell Grant and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds for WIOA participants.
2. Discussion. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds are available for tuition, fees, required books, and tools. There are limitations on amounts which will be paid for these costs.

The following policy is regarding the allocation of Pell Grant and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds for participants enrolled in WIOA Individual Training Account (ITA) programs. The following guidance is being provided relating to Pell Grant and ITA funding.

Per Section 134(a)(3)(B) of the WIOA, training services are limited to individuals who are unable to obtain other grant assistance for such services including Federal Pell Grants or require assistance beyond the assistance made available under other grant assistance programs including Federal Pell Grants (WIOA Section 134(c)(3)(B)(i)(I) and (II)). Local workforce development areas (LWDAs) may want to seek funding from other sources such as 501(c)(3) organizations, philanthropic organizations, or other organizations as allowed by the WIOA so that WIOA funds supplement other sources of training grants.

In determining whether an individual requires assistance beyond the assistance made available under other grant assistance programs including Federal Pell Grants, a one-stop operator (or one-stop partner, where appropriate) may take into consideration the full cost of participating in training services including the costs of dependent care, transportation, and other appropriate costs (WIOA Section 134(c)(3)(B)(iii)). The State's WIOA Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) includes the training costs for each curriculum to include registration, tuition, required books, fees, uniforms, tools, etc. In order to document the need for assistance beyond the assistance made available under other grant assistance

programs, including Federal Pell Grants (Section 134(c)(3)(B)(i)(I) and (II)), the Career Center staff should utilize the supportive services section of the IEP/ISS or other available methods to fully document the total (training and non-training) costs for each individual participant to attend training to include unmet costs after all funding sources are considered to include other Federal and non-Federal sources.

In determining the costs for attendance and available fund sources to pay for training costs, the disbursement practices of training providers for Pell Grant funds should be taken into consideration. Training providers make disbursements during the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

Effective July 1, 2021, Pell-eligible degree programs that are five (5) or six (6) semesters in length will be required to use Pell grant funds or other financial assistance to cover the full cost of the first two (2) semesters. WIOA ITA funds may assist with the tuition and fees up to four (4) remaining semesters. Pell grant funds would cover the costs of books, supplies, supportive services, and other costs of attendance. If the training program is not Pell grant eligible or the participant has exhausted Pell grant funds or the participant is not Pell grant eligible, WIOA ITA funds will cover the costs of tuition, fees, books, supplies, and uniforms required for the successful attendance of the participant.

Assuming that the participant's documented needs are greater than the available financial aid from all sources, it is the State's policy that training facilities should utilize Pell grant in combination with WIOA funds to cover the cost of tuition, books, registration, fees, uniforms, tools, supplies, etc. required for successful attendance of the participant.

The Alabama Office of Apprenticeship has implemented a "last-dollar scholarship" policy for registered apprentices in which employers agree to be responsible for the unmet costs of training of registered apprentices in their programs after all other available supports, to include Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) and/or Pell Grant funds, have been accessed by the apprentice.

This policy is in accordance with the WIOA Sections referenced throughout this policy.

3. Action. Staff responsible for the ITA program should be made aware of and comply with this policy for the WIOA-funded ITA participants enrolled in the local workforce development areas. This policy replaces the previous directive of GWID 2015-07.

4. Contact. Questions regarding this Directive should be referred to Karen Williams, ITA Specialist, Workforce Development Division, Governors Local Workforce Development Areas at karen.williams@commerce.alabama.gov.

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