

Armijo, Alicia, HED

From: Laura Musselwhite <lmusselwhite@unm.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 10:21 AM
To: Info, HigherEd, HED
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Comment on 5.9.2 NMAC, Workforce Training Economic Support Pilot Program

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Please find below written comment on 5.9.2 NMAC, Workforce Training Economic Support Pilot Program:

Feedback on Section 5.9.2.11 – Agreement

A. Stipend:

The current proposal includes a monthly stipend of \$1,000 for up to 12 months. While this is a substantial amount, we suggest modifying the stipend structure as follows:

- Provide \$200 per month for the first three months.
- Offer \$400 upon successful completion of the program in the fourth month.

This adjustment would reduce the total stipend amount to \$1,000 per participant but focus on incentivizing program completion. We believe this would better encourage participants to complete their training successfully while still offering financial support during the program.

Additionally, the stipend is intended to reduce or eliminate barriers to program completion. However, participants often have access to various funding sources that can address their needs, including:

- **Financial Aid:** Available for IET-required testing and eligibility.
- **WIOA Funding:** Covers expenses like mileage and childcare through intensive services.
- **WIOA ETPL (Eligible Training Provider List):** Covers tuition if the program is listed on the ETPL and the student does not receive financial aid from their post-secondary institution.
- **Human Services Division (HSD):** Provides resources like food stamps, TANF, cash assistance, and childcare services.

Feedback on Section 5.9.2.9 – Student Eligibility

K. IET Funding Criteria:

Eligibility requires that participant income levels fall below 400% of the federal poverty level for the current year. Students at this income level may already qualify for the additional funding sources listed above. This reinforces our recommendation to reduce the stipend amount while still supporting participants effectively.

Question: Has NMHED Adult Ed Division speak with or bring to the table WIOA (DWS) and HSD to discuss the offset of the stipend and state benefits ? The stipend could potentially impact students that are currently receiving state benefits in a negative way.

This feedback was provided by Eileen Davis, Community and Workforce Education Manager (UNM-Valencia) and Susan Yasenka, Adult Education Manager (UNM-Valencia). Thank you for the opportunity.

Laura Musselwhite, Ph.D.
Dean of Instruction
Professor of History
UNM-Valencia

