Employment Security Department
WASHINGTON STATE

# WorkSource Information Notice (WIN)

Employment System Administration and Policy

☒ Policy-related | ☐ Fiscal | ☐ Performance | ☐ Q&A | ☐ Other

Number: WIN 0105
Date: April 10, 2020
Expiration Date: July 1, 2021

**TO:** Workforce Development System Partners

**FROM:** Gary Kamimura, Policy Manager

**SUBJECT:** Temporary suspension of state enforcement of the minimum 20 percent work experience expenditure requirement for local WIOA Title I-B youth formula grants for PY19.

## Purpose:

To communicate temporary suspension of state enforcement of the minimum 20 percent work experience expenditure requirement for local Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I-B youth formula grants for Program Year 2019.

## Action Required:

Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) and their contractors, as well as Employment Security Regional Directors, must distribute this guidance broadly throughout the system to ensure that WorkSource System staff are familiar with its content and requirements.

## Content:

Per WIOA law, rule and guidance, LWDBs are required to expend at least 20 percent of their local WIOA Title I-B youth formula grants on paid and unpaid work experience (WEX) for in-school and out-of-school youth.

Consistent with the requirement that the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) imposes on states, it has been the State's practice to require LWDBs that do not meet the minimum 20 percent WEX expenditure requirement to develop corrective action plans identifying steps they will take to meet the requirement in the future.

Because the COVID-19 emergency has resulted in business closures and adversely impacted the ability to put WIOA Title I-B youth program participants into WEX opportunities, the State will **not** require corrective action plans from LWDBs that do not meet the minimum 20 percent WEX expenditure requirement in **Program Year 2019** (April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020).

The State will revisit this suspension at a later date to determine whether or not to extend it to Program Year 2020 (April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021). If the State applies this suspension to the Program Year 2020 grants, that action will be communicated through a separate WIN.

Relatedly, DOL states that WIOA Title I formula and competitive grants **can continue to pay** WEX wages and stipends for the remainder of participants' established terms if their time commitments, wage and stipend structures, and/or other academic or work terms were established and they were actively participating in WEX prior to the COVID-19 emergency and the WEX were cancelled due to the COVID-19 emergency.

The WorkSource System is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Language assistance services for limited English proficient individuals are available free of charge.

**References**:

- WIOA Section 129(c)(4)
- WIOA Final Rule, 20 CFR 681.590
- Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 08-15, Section 7
- Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 21-16, Section 7
- Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 23-14, Section 7
- WorkforceGPS, Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources, Grants Management – all programs – Updated as of Apriil 8, 2020, ETA Coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQs (PDF)

**Website**:

https://wpc.wa.gov/policy/state/guidance

**Direct Inquiries To**:

*Employment System Administration and Policy*
*Policy, Data, Performance and Integrity Division*
*Employment Security Department*
*P.O. Box 9046*
*Olympia, WA 98507-9046*
*SystemPolicy@esd.wa.gov*

**Attachments**:

None.