

THE OREGON CONSORTIUM & OREGON WORKFORCE ALLIANCE POLICY MEMORANDUM #WIA-47-10/08

DATE: October 17, 2008

SUBJECT: Scholarship Program

REFERENCE: CCWD Policy #589-20.4 Employer Workforce Training Funds
OWA PY07 Strategic Plan

BACKGROUND:

This action by the Oregon Workforce Alliance (OWA) will implement a local area wide scholarship process and establish consistent minimum award criteria for the regions while providing regional flexibility to determine the best focus for the award of scholarships and training opportunities based on regional economic factors and business needs.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CRITERIA:

Under this program each of the TOC regions will establish and maintain a scholarship program supporting the achievement of skills enhancement funded by WIA 1B or EWTF resources as appropriate to applicant eligibility, the requirements of each funding stream and funding availability.

All such scholarships shall recognize the program's relationship to The Oregon Consortium & Oregon Workforce Alliance by at minimum including the TOC/OWA logo on written documents including the application and/or other information.

At minimum, the criteria for the award of a scholarship will consider:

- a. The connection between the employment goal of the applicant and regionally targeted high demand, high skill or high wage occupations or strategic emerging industries identified within the regional investment plan;
OR
- b. The connection between the employment goal of the applicant and a career pathway leading to self-sufficiency;
AND
- c. The connection between the training requested and the employment goal or career pathway of the applicant;
AND
- d. Whether the applicant is willing to relocate to find employment if the employment goal of the applicant does not relate to a high demand, growth or wage occupation within the region;
AND

- e. Whether the applicant has sufficient resources to successfully complete the training program, including PELL and other sources of financial aid or resources;
AND
- f. The availability of resources to fund the scholarship.

DISCUSSION:

These criteria represent the OWA minimums and regions may at their option add additional factors to their regional scholarship award criteria and selection processes. All regions currently have scholarship processes in place. The adoption of standard scholarship award criteria policy continues these regional initiatives while supporting the OWA strategic goal and EWTF requirement for a focus on high demand, growth and wage occupations within each region.

Under the scholarship process, training funds may be awarded through a scholarship application process to eligible adult, dislocated worker, incumbent worker and youth. Scholarships may be funded by WIA formula or other available grant funds including employer workforce training funds (EWTF) made available to the local workforce investment board through the Governor's Executive Order #03-16 and distributed to the nine workforce regions of The Oregon Consortium (TOC).

INQUIRIES:

Inquiries should be addressed to the Chief Administrative Officer at 1-866-888-4TOC.



Kris Latimer
Chief Executive Officer