



OJT Policy and Procedures

I. **PURPOSE:**

To provide guidance as to how an On-the-Job Training contract issued through Workforce Solutions for North Central Pennsylvania (North Central Workforce Development Board) will be administered.

On-the-Job Training (OJT) contracts are the funding mechanism for occupational learning on-the-job for WIOA eligible adult, dislocated worker and youth participants. The Title I provider may write an OJT contract up to a prescribed amount not to exceed the maximum per person, per enrollment period.

II. **REFERENCES:**

- WIOA sec 3(24)
- WIOA sec 3(44)
- WIOA sec. 134
- 20 CFR §680.700
- 20 CFR §680.710
- 20 CFR §680.720
- 20 CFR§680.730
- 20 CFR §680.750

III. **BACKGROUND:**

WIOA Title I training services for WIOA eligible adults, dislocated workers and youth are provided through OJTs. Using OJT funds, WIOA eligible adults, dislocated workers and youth contract with eligible employers through an OJT contract written in consultation with Title I staff.

OJTs are one training option available to WIOA eligible participants when it is determined by a career planner that they will be unlikely or unable to obtain or retain employment that leads to self-sufficiency or higher wages on their own.

An OJT is limited in cost and duration and must result in employment leading to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment.

OJTs may not be entered into with an employer who has demonstrated poor performance under previous OJT contracts under WIOA or WIA.

OJTs are allowed for youth per §681.460.

OJTs are not entitlements and shall be provided to eligible participants on the basis of an individualized assessment given the skill requirements of the occupation, the occupational skill level of the participant, prior work experience and the participant's IEP.

The selection of on the job training services should be conducted in a manner that maximizes customer choice, is linked to in-demand occupations, employer performance, and coordinated to the extent possible with other sources of assistance (see WIOA sec. 134 – use of funds for employment and training activities)

IV. POLICY

A. **ON-THE-JOB TRAINING (OJT) DEFINED:**

(a) OJT is defined at WIOA sec. 3(44). OJT is provided under a contract with an employer or registered apprenticeship program sponsor in the public, private non-profit, or private sector. Through the OJT contract, occupational training is provided for the WIOA participant in exchange for the reimbursement, typically up to 50 percent of the wage rate of the participant, for the extraordinary costs of providing the training and supervision related to the training. In limited circumstances, as provided in WIOA sec. 134(c)(3)(h) and § 680.730, the reimbursement may be up to 75 percent of the wage rate of the participant.

(b) OJT contracts under WIOA title I, must not be entered into with an employer who has received payments under previous contracts under WIOA if the employer has exhibited a pattern of failing to provide OJT participants with continued long-term employment as regular employees with wages and employment benefits (including health benefits) and working conditions at the same level and to the same extent as other employees working a similar length of time and doing the same type of work.

(c) An OJT contract must be limited to the period of time required for a participant to become proficient in the occupation for which the training is being provided. In determining the appropriate length of the contract, consideration should be given to the skill requirements of the occupation, the academic and occupational skill level of the participant, prior work experience, and the participant's IEP. § 680.710

OJT is designed primarily for the individual who does not have the related education, training or work experience to immediately qualify for the job. Employers receive a reimbursement of up to 50% of the trainee's wages **not to exceed \$6,000** to help offset the costs of training during a fixed training period of up to twenty-six (26) weeks. At the successful completion of training, the employer is expected to retain the trainee as a regular full-time employee.

The North Central Workforce Development Board (WDB) will prioritize OJT's that provide eligible customers job opportunities in occupations that have been defined either as High-Priority Occupations (HPO's) or 'emerging' occupations as defined by the PA Department of Labor and Industry. The most current HPO list which is update each year will be used. Additional information on HPO's can be found at: <https://www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/Products/HPOs/Pages/default.aspx>

Additionally, the NCWDB will consider OJT opportunities in occupations that directly connect or support any of the Next Generation Partnerships within the North Central PA region, specifically, occupations in the Advanced Materials and Diversified Manufacturing and Healthcare industries.

B. EMPLOYER ELIGIBILITY:

Any private-for-profit, private non-profit, or public sector employer not in violation of local, Commonwealth or Federal laws and/or regulations which prohibit its ability to contract, and who is in compliance with such entity's rules for lawful business operation, is a potentially eligible OJT contractor. Private sector employers will receive priority.

Employers who did not retain former OJT completers as regular employees at the end of the OJT period, without good cause, are ineligible to participate. It is the NCWDB's intention to give employers located in North Central priority; however, consideration will be given to other employers not located in the six county North Central PA region (Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean and Potter).

All employers must register with the PA CareerLink®, Pennsylvania's *Commonwealth Workforce Development System (CWDS)* and agree to utilize the system for advertising and listing all OJT opportunities. **A business folder and job order must be posted.**

No work-based training agreement will be authorized for any organization or part thereof that has relocated until 120 days after the date on which such organization begins operations at the new location if the relocation of such organization or part thereof results in a loss of employment for any employee of such organization at the original location.

C. EMPLOYER REFERRALS:

Employers may refer individuals for OJT consideration under the following conditions:

- The prospective OJT trainee has not yet begun work.
- The prospective OJT trainee has been to the *PA CareerLink®* office, has completed the required core and intensive services **PRIOR** to the employer's call and has been determined eligible and appropriate for OJT by the *PA CareerLink®* staff.
- The prospective OJT trainee does not currently possess the occupational skills needed for the job and the *PA CareerLink®*'s assessment reveals that the prospective OJT trainee possesses the adequate job competencies and/or foundation skills necessary to enter into the OJT.
- The prospective OJT trainee has not formerly participated in the OJT program.

D. CONTRACTING WITH NORTH CENTRAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WDB) MEMBERS

The North Central WDB provides oversight and sets policies for local WIOA programs. North Central recognizes that the members of its NCWDB hold significant management positions with their employers. As such, they may have decision-making authority on possible hiring. However, their ability to control the conditions of employment of individual employees may be diluted by the size of the employer. Therefore, the NCWDB believes that a conflict of interest does not exist, and WDB members' employers are eligible for OJT contracting. Individual WDB members however may not discuss or vote on their own employer's OJT contracts if they come before the board.

E. TRAINEE ELIGIBILITY:

To be approved as an OJT trainee, an individual must meet the eligibility criteria of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for adults, dislocated workers and/or youth. Individuals must be determined eligible and appropriate for the OJT program at the *PA CareerLink® centers located in the North Central Workforce Development Area (WDA)*.

No participant hired under terms of a work-based training agreement may displace (including partial displacement) an employee currently employed (as of date of participation).

F. TRAINEE REFERRALS:

Referrals for potential OJT participants can be made by a CareerLink® staff, CBO, etc. All referrals should be made to the Title I Provider Staff located in the PA CareerLink® centers located in the North Central WDA.

G. TRAINEE WAGES:

OJT trainees must be assured of the following:

Wages paid to OJT trainees should be reasonable, considering industry, geographic location and trainee proficiency. Consideration should be given to 'prevailing wage rates' for occupations within the geographic location.

The minimum starting wage rate is to be:

- Starting OJT wage rate will be the same as that normally paid by the employer to other entry-level workers in the same occupation and;
- Wage must be at least \$14.50 per hour.

H. WORKING CONDITIONS:

OJT trainees must be assured of and receive the following:

- Working conditions and promotional opportunities which are neither more nor less favorable than those experienced by other employees hired by the employer in similar positions.
- Workman's Compensation or comparable accident insurance coverage.
- Any and all other benefits to the same extent as those for other employees in similar positions.

I. LENGTH OF OJT TRAINING:

All occupations do not require lengthy training. The method for determining the length of OJT training is subject to approval by the Title I Provider and the North Central Workforce Development Board (NCWDB).

For each OJT position developed, an individual *Training Plan* must be created. Training plans require employers to document the manner and timeline in which the training will be provided. The following should be taken into consideration when determining the length of an OJT:

- OJT's will be developed for a time period of up to 26 weeks;
- Occupations which do not require extra-ordinary training will not be considered for OJT, unless they involve the training of customers with limited skill potential (e.g. learning disabilities);
- Length of OJT contracts will be reduced when the prospective employee has past experience in the proposed occupation. Documentation will be retained when this situation occurs.

J. OCCUPATIONAL ELIGIBILITY AND INSTANCES OJT MAY NOT BE APPROVED:

Following are instances in which OJT will not be approved:

- Seasonal, intermittent, part-time, or temporary jobs. Part-time is further defined as less than 30 hours per week).
- Occupations where commissions, piece rates and/or tips are the primary source of income.
- Occupations that involve political or religious activities, or support political or religious organizations.
- Occupations which would result in the displacement of any currently employed worker at that facility in the position for which the trainee is being hired for.
- Instances in which the employer hires and the trainee begin employment prior to the approval date of the OJT contract.
- Licensed occupations – specifically if the occupation requires a license and the trainee does not yet have the license.
- Former employees of the OJT employer unless they are being hired for a different position than previously held or receiving a promotion.
- With employers who have exhibited a pattern of failing to provide OJT Trainee's with continued long term regular employment.

K. LABOR ORGANIZATIONS:

Appropriate labor organizations should be consulted in the design and conduct of OJT programs where collective bargaining agreements exist with the employer. The concurrence of the appropriate labor organizations must be obtained in writing when a collective bargaining agreement is applicable.

L. REIMBURSEMENTS TO THE EMPLOYER:

The OJT program will reimburse the employer 50% of the trainee's wage, not to exceed \$6,000 per trainee for pre-determined time period, to help offset the cost of training the individual to become a fully productive employee. The employer submits a monthly invoice to the Title I Provider.

For those situations in which a trainee with prior or similar experience and/or training is referred to an OJT position, the *PA CareerLink*® staff will make a determination of appropriateness for OJT consideration, depending on the skill deficiencies identified through the assessment process. In such cases, a reduction in the maximum amount of training time allowed or maximum reimbursement to the employer will be made. Documentation will be retained on file for these situations.

M. APPROVAL PROCESS FOR OJT CONTRACT:

The Title I Provider shall implement an approval process for OJT contracts and provide periodic updates to the Board.

N. EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS:

1. A monthly progress report shall be attached to the monthly invoice submitted to the Title I provider.
2. The employer must maintain adequate payroll records, including OJT trainee signed time records. Time and attendance records must be signed by both the OJT Trainee and Employer Representative. Receipts must be maintained for cash payments made to participants.
3. All hours will be reimbursed at the wage rate and percentage on the contract.
4. Employers will be reimbursed based on trainee hours *worked* only. There are **no** reimbursements for: Paid Holidays, Vacation Days, Sick Days, etc.
5. Raises to OJT trainees are allowable during the contract period. A contract amendment may be needed in order to reimburse the higher wage rate. In all instances, individual OJT's will not exceed \$6,000.
6. OJT's cannot be executed with an employer that had similar employees in equivalent positions on a layoff status.
7. The employer will comply with The American with Disabilities Act (ADA).
8. The employer will comply with the Non-discrimination and Equal Opportunity provisions of the Workforce Development Act of 1998 and its regulations.
9. The employer will post the "Equal Opportunity is the Law" posters in English and Spanish and, the "Grievance and Hearing Procedures for the North Central Workforce Development Area." At the worksite in a conspicuous location.
10. If employees at the worksite are covered by a collective bargaining agreement, a Union Concurrence Sign-Off is necessary. The employer must maintain all records of OJT employees for a minimum of four (4) years after the contract expiration date. Records shall be retained and

stored in a manner that will preserve their integrity and admissibility as evidence in any audit or other proceeding.

11. Job Descriptions and Training Outlines are required. These items will be made part of the OJT Contract.

O. TRAINING PLAN (including Job Description) and Contract Modification

1. The Employer must provide a Training Outline which details the training plan and time frame for each OJT trainee. The Training Plan need only address the elements of training that the OJT contract will reimburse for.

The training plan must include:

1.
 - Contact Information
 - Occupational Information
 - Job Description (if additional space is necessary – use additional paper)
 - Required Job Skills for Occupation
 - Training Information
 - Signatures of Trainee, Employer and OJT Provider
2. Contract Modification

A modification form must be submitted each time an OJT is modified. The modification form must include:

- Contact Information
- OJT, Modification and Training Plan Numbers
- Modification Description
- Signatures of Trainee, Employer and OJT Provider

P. MONTHLY REPORTING / PROGRESS REQUIREMENTS:

The employer is required to submit a monthly report which describes the OJT trainee’s progress. The OJT trainee is required to sign the form for verification of wages and hours and it is expected that the employer will make the trainee aware of their progress at that time. In the event a rating of less than satisfactory is reported, a PA CareerLink® staff person will schedule a visit to the worksite. This visit will include a discussion with both the employer and the trainee. A record of this visit and the result will be attached to the monthly report. A record of this visit will also be documented in CWDS.

Q. INVOICING:

The employer is required to submit a monthly invoice for reimbursement of training costs for a particular month within the contract period. Included with the invoice must be support documentation identifying the participant’s hours worked in training on a daily basis. The invoice and copies of all support documentation must be submitted to the Title I Provider. An original invoice must be submitted. Supporting documentation may be scanned at the local PA CareerLink® office with copies e-

mailed to the appropriate staff for processing or copies may be included with the original invoice. All original invoices and support documentation will be maintained by the Title I Provider.

R. CASE MANAGEMENT:

Case management must be completed by PA CareerLink® staff utilizing the CWDS system. This is the only required system to be utilized. In addition to Case management including case notes for the OJT participant, the Business Service Representatives in each North Central PA CareerLink® must document case notes of visits with employers.

S. PERFORMANCE AND FISCAL REPORTING:

To ensure that the state is able to assess the success achieved under OJTs and other WDB Programs, data must be entered into the CDWS system in an accurate and timely manner for both financial and performance accountabilities. Reports will also be collected by the NCWDB prior to each NCWDB quarterly meeting and as requested.

T. MONITORING:

The NCWDB, in compliance with applicable provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), will conduct ongoing oversight and monitoring of all OJT activities during the tenure of the contract. The employer shall cooperate during all phases of monitoring conducted by the NCWDB, State and / or Federal Authorities.

U. MARKETING OF THE OJT PROGRAM:

All brochures, letters, etc. must contain the following language:

“This program is made possible through the support of Workforce Solutions for North Central PA, the region’s leader and active partner in workforce development efforts.”

AND

***Auxiliary aids and services are available on request to individuals with disabilities.
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program***

AND

**Funded in whole or in part by Federal Funds. Detailed information can be found at:
<https://www.workforcesolutionspa.com/categories/resources/pages/stevens-amendment>**

- OJT Reimbursement Form (Invoice)
- Marketing and Technical Assistance Documents

V. EXPIRATION:

Ongoing

VI. INQUIRIES:

Questions shall be directed to:

Pamela Streich, Executive Director at pstreich@ncwdb.org; or

Donna Hottel, Strategic Planning and Project Manager at dhottel@ncwdb.org

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VII. POLICY HISTORY:

Name	Date	Description of change	Effective Date
Donna Hottel	01/29/2024	Removed “manual” language	01/29/2024
Pam Streich	07/01/2023	Eligibility Update	07/01/2023
Donna Hottel	06/30/2022	Update to policy guidance	07/01/2022
Pam Streich	07/01/2012	Update to policy guidance	07/01/2012
Pam Streich	06/01/2012	Issue Date	6/01/2012

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program