

## Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) FY'15

#### Who is eligible to apply for the Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program?

An eligible employer is one who operates as a for-profit entity in a state-designated targeted industry, with a facility located in Ohio that has been in continuous operation for the 12 months immediately prior to the application submittal. Targeted industries are: Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace and Aviation, Automotive, BioHealth, Corporate Headquarters, Energy, Financial Services, Food Processing, Information Technology and Services, Polymers and Chemicals, Back Office, Logistics, or Research and Development. The company's NAICS code (<http://www.naics.com/search.htm>) will determine eligibility as to the targeted industry.

#### How can I determine if a NAICS code is eligible for the program?

A listing of eligible NAICS codes is available at [http://development.ohio.gov/bs/bs\\_wtvp.htm](http://development.ohio.gov/bs/bs_wtvp.htm).

#### Are Social Security Numbers and Date of Births required?

Yes, when requesting reimbursement, the grantee will be required to provide the trainees last four digits of their SSN and date of birth. If grantee fails to provide this information, the individuals training will not be reimbursed.

#### How will the Voucher for the program be awarded?

Vouchers will be awarded in the form of a Voucher Agreement between the Ohio Development Services Agency and the employer. The program will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis until all of the available funds are committed. After that time, applications will still be accepted and retained in a "queue" in the event that additional program funds become available.

#### The program allows for up to \$4,000 per employee per fiscal year. What is the timespan of the fiscal year?

The state of Ohio fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30. Please note, however, that the training period for this program year will be between August 1, 2014 and December 31, 2015.

#### The program allows for \$250,000 per employer per fiscal year. How is that calculated?

Each employer (identified by Federal Employee Identification Number/FEIN) will be eligible for up to \$250,000 in assistance per fiscal year. The Voucher Agreement and any Amendments to the Master Voucher Agreement issued to an employer during the fiscal year, aggregated throughout all of its State of Ohio locations, will be included in this calculation. **Please note that only one application per employer will be accepted per program year. If an employer has multiple sites, those sites must work together to submit the one application.** An application may include multiple employees and multiple training courses.

**What is the employer reimbursement amount for this program?**

We will reimburse the employer for up to 50 percent of the cost of the training (up to \$4,000 per employee and/or up to \$250,000 per company) once the employer pays the full cost of the training. The employer's contribution must come from private sources and cannot include any previously acquired public funds. The match does not include wages.

**Is tuition reimbursement limited to Ohio's accredited education institutions?**

No. The training provider is to be selected independently by the employer and/or employee (with employer approval) and may be a public, private, or in-house trainer.

**How are reimbursement requests submitted?**

Once the required documentation has been collected, the grantee will submit them to the Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Strategic Business Investments, Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program, 77 South High Street, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-1001. See Reimbursement Request Instructions for additional information.

**What type of documentation is required for training reimbursement (also see the Reimbursement Request Instructions)?**

- Either a class roster, transcript or a copy of the certificate for each trainee. Please note that only trainings that can verify successful completion will be reimbursed;
- For outside vendors, an invoice from the training provider and proof of payment;
- For in-house trainers, a list of trainers with their hourly wages (including benefits) listed on company letterhead;
- Invoice for any instructional materials. Please note that these costs must be prorated per employee and will be capped at 25 percent of the cost of training per employee per training. Must be requested and approved in the application to be eligible.

**How often may a Grantee submit a request for reimbursement?**

The grantee shall submit invoices no more than once during each quarter of the grant period unless it is the final invoice.

**How often may a Grantee request an amendment to their original application?**

A grantee will be permitted two amendments during the grant period.

**Is there an Ohio residency requirement for the program? Will employees who live in a bordering state and work for an Ohio Company be eligible for the program?**

The applicant employee must be an Ohio resident who is currently employed directly by an eligible employer at an Ohio facility.

**Are both hourly and salary personnel eligible for the program?**

Any employees, other than employees that are also owners of the company, are eligible for the program as long as they meet the program eligibility guidelines.

**After the application is submitted, how long does an employee have to begin the training?**

Training must begin August 1, 2014 or later and must be completed by December 31, 2015.

**When can the employee training begin?**

While the Effective Date of the Agreement will be August 1, 2014, any costs incurred or monies expended by the applicant on the project prior to final approval and the execution of the written agreement, is done at the applicant's own risk. Applicant's decision to go forward does not obligate the State of Ohio to provide state assistance that has not received all required approvals or has not been memorialized in a written agreement between the applicant and the state of Ohio.

All training must begin August 1, 2014 or later and must be completed by December 31, 2015.

**Does reimbursement apply even when the company has a tuition reimbursement program as part of its benefit package? Do the courses have to be strictly related to the business?**

The OIWTVP will provide reimbursement funds for tuition courses when the course meets the needs of the applicant company. Therefore, the course must be required by the company and be job related, regardless of the requirement for a degree. **Tuition courses which are for the sole purpose of obtaining a Bachelor's or Master's degree are not eligible for this program.**

**Are co-ops and interns eligible for the program?**

No.