

Policy 12-501a: Subsequent Eligibility of Training Providers

Reference State: Policy:	WIOAPL 16.02.2
Board Approved:	May 31, 2016
Revisions Approved:	October 17, 2023
Effective Date:	October 17, 2023
Policy Obsoletes:	

Purpose:

To provide policy relating to continued eligibility of training providers at 20 CFR 663.530 of the regulations.

Background:

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires the local areas to establish a performance-based certification system for training providers. The certification procedure results in a State list of training providers who are eligible to give training services to customers. The federal law requires that after a set period of time of initial eligibility, training providers must be determined subsequently eligible.

Policy:

All eligible training providers will be required to collect, track, and report the program and cost information. ODJFS has received on-going waivers of this requirement. Waiver approval to ODJFS through the USDOL of this requirement does not mean that every program provider is guaranteed retention for the waiver period. Area 12 will request information on the performance of local providers, through survey, in order to provide accurate and thorough information to potential participants. At a future time, performance information may determine retention on the Eligible Training Provider List. This verifiable program information may include, but is not limited to:

- Numbers of individuals who began a program in a given program year.
- Number of WIOA funded individuals who began a program in a given program year.
- Number of individuals who completed a program in a given program year.
- Number of WIOA individuals who completed a program in a given program year.
- Number of individuals who completed a program and passed industry recognized certification(s) or credential(s) in a given program year.
- Number of individuals who obtained employment.
- Number of WIOA individuals who obtained employment in a training related position.
- Total program cost (current and all inclusive).
- Accreditations including names of entities recognizing those accrediting institutions.
 - Any probationary status
- Specific information on transferability of credits/credentials.
- Information on whether the provider is part of the University System of Ohio or its equivalent in a neighboring state.

Survey questions may be amended at the discretion of the Compliance Team members, in concert with any participating partner counties outside of Area 12. It is understood that, if Area 12 requests additional information that imposes extraordinary costs, the local board shall provide access to cost effective methods of collection or provide additional resources.

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Initially, information received will be used to provide customers with relevant information regarding training programs in order to make good choices and to develop baseline information on performance, not to eliminate programs. Area 12 will use the training provider information solely for informational purposes. Failure to provide the requested information without valid justification may result in a recommendation for removal from the Area 12 Approval List.

It is the intent at a future date, having gained sufficient information on training programs and providers to establish baselines, to set minimum performance standards. Failure to meet those standards could result in being placed in a probationary status or removal from the Area 12 approved list.

When a training program fails to meet established local program and cost requirements, a local area may choose to remove that program from the state Eligible Training Provider List for Individual Training Accounts (ITAs). This is done with the understanding that a Board can only remove a training program that they or their designee have previously approved and recommended to the State. In order to request removal of a training program, a local area should send a letter signed by the board chair with the name and address of the training institution and the name of the program that the area wishes to have removed. This letter should be directed to the following address:

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Workforce Development
4020 East 5th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43219

A representative from OWD will review the letter and issue a written approval or denial of the request. If the request is approved, a notice will be sent to all local areas to advise that the program will be removed 90 days from the date of the notice. Eligible Training Providers have the right to appeal the removal by using the Appeal Process provided on the Internet at WIOAQNA@JFS.OHIO.GOV with "Appeal Process" in the subject line.

When a program is no longer eligible and has been removed from the state provider list, participants enrolled in that program prior to the date of removal can complete the training. This applies to participants if WIOA ITA has covered the cost of the training. Once a training program is removed from the state provider list, the training provider will be required to wait for a period of 12 months before it can be considered for recertification. This would provide the local board with a representative sampling of data from which to make a decision for the provider's re-certification.

WIOA programs are held to establish performance standards which are established yearly. Area 12 will provide all training providers with current performance standards required by the State of the Area 12 WIOA programs as a guideline.

This provision should bring more opportunities for eligible programs to work with WIOA customers. Many programs have not been able to enroll enough WIOA participants to ensure a statistically valid assessment of performance on the measures that apply to those students. The waiver addresses this concern as well as allowing the State ample time to develop a user-friendly automated system for performance reporting.