

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, August 14, 2009

DISCUSSION ITEM D: Report on Workforce Acceleration Grant Program

Staff Recommendation

For discussion only.

Background

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, \$20-\$28M in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult and Dislocated Worker funds have been released to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. While these funds have been used in other states to support staff additions at workforce centers, Indiana is directing that funding to those who are most in need.

The program will cover the unfunded cost of education after Federal and State financial assistance, and Expected Family Contribution, at a maximum award of \$3,000 per year for each program year. Students are eligible for two years of funding.

Eligible Hoosiers must qualify as WIA Adult or WIA Dislocated Worker. These qualifications include:

- Needs additional skills;
- Low-income (family receives cash payments from public assistance programming, or family income at poverty level);
- Unemployed or impending layoff

Nearly 29,000 Hoosiers have received a letter from the DWD. In order to access the program, they need to register through their Work One Center, which will track students through a case management system. It is estimated that about 9,000 students will ultimately receive additional financial assistance for education through this program.

Supporting Documents

- 1) NEWS RELEASE: Indiana Provides up to \$6,000 College Grants to Hoosier Students
- 2) Workforce Acceleration Grant Poster
- 3) Workforce Acceleration Grant Brochure



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Indiana Provides up to \$6,000 College Grants to Hoosier Students

INDIANAPOLIS (July 30, 2009) – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development and Indiana Commission for Higher Education today announced a new program to help Hoosiers pay the tuition of a two-year college program, books and fees. The program, called the Workforce Acceleration Grant, uses federal stimulus funds to pay up to \$3,000 per year for a student’s expected family contribution, unfunded tuition costs, books and fees in an associates degree or vocational training program.

“In the past many students would be faced with thousands of dollars in unpaid tuition bills, even after Pell, SSACI and other scholarships,” said Teresa Voors, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. “Governor Daniels insisted Indiana make the best possible use of these one-time funds and nothing compares to helping Hoosiers acquire the college education or training they need to excel in the 21st Century workplace.”

Workforce Acceleration Grant recipients can pursue areas of study at more than 50 colleges and universities in Indiana that provide occupational training leading toward an associates degree or certificate program. General studies, liberal arts, baccalaureate and graduate programs are not covered. A complete list of eligible schools can be found at www.IN.gov/dwd.

“Economic realities have placed a strain on many Hoosiers in need of a college degree at a time when higher education has never been more essential to our personal and collective prosperity. The Workforce Acceleration Grant offers welcome relief just when many of these individuals need it the most,” said Teresa Lubbers, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education.

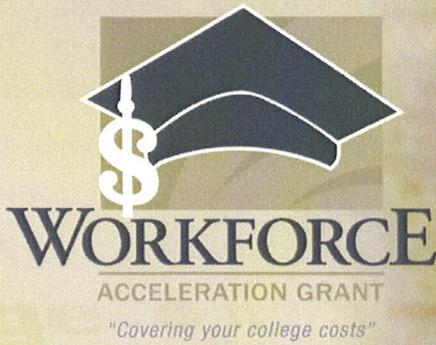
Workforce Acceleration Grants are open to Hoosiers, aged 18 or older, who have a legal right to work in the US, AND meet one of the two below criteria:

- **Low-Income participant:**
 - Family receives federal, state, or local public assistance; or
 - Total family income at or below federal poverty level (\$23,239 for family of four)
- **Unemployed Worker:**
 - Unemployed through no fault of their own; or
 - Received notice of impending layoff; or
 - Spouse of dislocated worker (earning less than 50% of family income); or
 - Self-employed, but business closed as a result of economic conditions.

Hoosiers interested in applying for a Workforce Acceleration Grant should visit their local WorkOne Center to determine their eligibility. Approximately 9,000 current students may qualify for a Workforce Acceleration Grant. Hoosiers can find their nearest WorkOne Center by visiting www.WorkOneWorks.com.

The State will receive federal stimulus funds totaling approximately \$31 million through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to provide the Workforce Acceleration Grants.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Attached to this release is a brochure with additional detail about the program.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE UP TO

\$3,000 for college?

Workforce Acceleration Grants Program is designed to help Hoosiers like you pay for the education and training to prepare for 21st Century jobs. Through this program, you may be eligible to receive a training grant of up to \$3,000 per academic year to help cover tuition, fees and book costs for an Associate Degree or a vocational certificate at more than 50 colleges and universities across the state. For more information visit us online: www.IN.gov/DWD

Apply for the **Workforce Acceleration Grant** at your local WorkOne Center!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



HOW IT WORKS

Workforce Acceleration Grants put the out-of-pocket costs of tuition, books and fees in your pocket, up to \$3,000 per academic year.

EXAMPLE

\$4,000 Tuition

- \$1,000 Pell Grant

- \$1,000 SSACI Grant-In-Aid

- \$ 500 Expected Family Contribution*

\$1,500 Remaining Tuition*
Books and Fees*

* Items covered by Workforce Acceleration Grant (up to \$3,000)

ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS

Ancilla College
Art Institute of Indianapolis
Aviation Institute of Maintenance (ATA)
Ball State University
Muncie
Brown Mackie College
Merrillville
Brown Mackie College
Michigan City
Calumet College of Saint Joseph's
Goshen College
Grace College
Harrison College
Anderson
Columbus
Evansville
Fort Wayne
Indianapolis
Indpls/Medical
Lafayette
Muncie
Northwest
Terre Haute
Holy Cross College
Indiana Institute of Technology
Indiana State University
Indiana University
Kokomo
South Bend
Richmond
Indiana University Northwest
Gary
Indiana University Southeast
New Albany

Indiana Wesleyan University
International Business College
Ft Wayne
ITT Technical Institute
Fort Wayne
ITT Technical Institute
Indianapolis
ITT Technical Institute
Newburgh
IUPU - Columbus
IUPU - Fort Wayne
IUPU - Indianapolis
Ivy Tech State College
Kaplan College
Indianapolis
Lincoln Technical Institute
Indianapolis
Marian College
Martin University
MedTech College
Greenwood
Indianapolis
Oakland City University
Purdue University
Calumet
North Central
Taylor University
Upland
Trine University
University of Evansville
University of Indianapolis
University of Saint Francis
University of Southern Indiana
Vincennes University



WORKFORCE

ACCELERATION GRANT

"Covering your college costs"

Apply for the **Workforce Acceleration Grant** at your local WorkOne Center!



Indiana Department of Workforce Development
Indiana Government Center South
10 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-891-6499 • www.IN.gov/DWD

Helping Hoosier workers receive the **skills, education and training** necessary to compete for 21st Century jobs

Covering Your College Costs!

Workforce Acceleration Grants Program is designed to help Hoosiers like you pay for the education and training to prepare for 21st Century jobs.

Through this program, you may be eligible to receive a training grant of **up to \$3,000** per academic year to help cover tuition, fees and book costs for an Associate Degree or a vocational certificate at more than 50 colleges and universities across the state.



ELIGIBILITY

All participants of this program must be 18 years of age or older and have a legal right to work in the U.S. **Participants must also fall into one of the two groups below:**

1) LOW-INCOME PARTICIPANT

- Family receives federal, state or local public assistance (TANF, SNAP, etc); OR
- Total family income is at or below federal poverty level or 70% of the lower living standard income level, based on the previous six month's income (*example*: \$23,239 for a family of four).

2) UNEMPLOYED WORKER

- Unlikely to return to previous occupation/ career field; AND
- Falls into ONE of the following categories
 -Unemployed through no fault of their own
 -Received notice of impending layoff;
 -Spouse of dislocated worker (earning less than 50% of family income);
 - Self-employed, but business closed as a result of economic conditions.

ENROLLMENT

Participants in the Workforce Acceleration Grants Program must pursue areas of study that provide specific occupational training leading toward an associates degree or certificate program. General Studies and Liberal Arts programs are not covered. The staff at your WorkOne Center can provide more information about approved areas of training. To find a WorkOne Center near you, please visit www.IN.gov/DWD

There is no deadline to enroll in this program, however funding is limited and participants will be accepted on a first-come/first-served basis.

HOW TO ENROLL

- 1) Visit WorkOne Center to pick up application and determine eligibility, please bring the following information:
 - a. Valid identification – state ID card, drivers license, etc.
 - b. Social Security card or birth certificate
 - c. Proof of income – pay stubs, family or business financial records, public assistance records, unemployment insurance documents, etc.
- 2) Take application to college financial aid office
- 3) Return completed application to WorkOne Center



To learn more about the **Workforce Acceleration Grants Program** and to locate the nearest WorkOne Center, please visit our website

▶ www.IN.gov/DWD