

(4) ADVISE THE SECRETARY ON COORDINATION OF PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT, BUSINESS, LABOR, AND OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES INVOLVED WITH WORKFORCE QUALITY.

(E) THE BOARD, IN RECOMMENDING A SYSTEM FOR EVALUATING REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, SHALL GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTANCE TO ALL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE.

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(A) THE SECRETARY OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE SHALL DIRECT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR WORKFORCE QUALITY PROGRAM.

(B) THE SECRETARY SHALL PROVIDE TRAINING ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM ONLY AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF A--BUSINESS AN EMPLOYER OR GROUP OF BUSINESSES EMPLOYERS.

~~(C)--BASED-ON-THE-RECOMMENDATION-OF-THE-ADVISORY-BOARD,--THE~~
 (C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (2), (3), AND (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PARTNERSHIP FOR WORKFORCE QUALITY PROGRAM.

(2) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN EMPLOYER RECEIVING ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM:

(I) SHALL BE A MARYLAND EMPLOYER THAT OPERATES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 95A OF THE CODE;

(II) SHALL REQUEST TRAINING ASSISTANCE FOR JOB SPECIFIC SKILLS;

(III) SHALL REQUEST TRAINING ASSISTANCE FOR MARYLAND-BASED EMPLOYEES WHO ARE COVERED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 95A OF THE CODE; AND

(IV) SHALL REQUEST TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO UPGRADE OR RETRAIN EXISTING EMPLOYEES.

~~(3) (i)--THE-PROGRAM-SHALL-BE-FOR--MARYLAND--EMPLOYERS WITH-250-OR-FEWER-MARYLAND-BASED-EMPLOYEES-~~

(ii) NOT LESS THAN 60 PERCENT OF ALL FUNDS AVAILABLE SHALL BE RESERVED FOR MARYLAND EMPLOYERS WITH 100 OR FEWER MARYLAND-BASED EMPLOYEES.

(4) NO SINGLE MARYLAND EMPLOYER SHALL RECEIVE MORE THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE PROGRAM WITHIN A YEAR.