

(1) EVALUATE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS AND RECOMMEND TO THE DEPARTMENT THE DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS TO LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS UNDER THE STEP PROGRAM;

(2) INCLUDE IN THE EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATIONS, CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

(I) THE EXISTENCE OF A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD THAT ARE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR RECEIVED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE PRIOR 12 MONTHS;

(II) THE LEVEL OF EXISTING LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMPLOYERS; ~~AND~~

(III) THE ABILITY OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 18-405 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(IV) WHERE APPLICABLE, THE EXTENT TO WHICH TWO OR MORE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS WORK TOGETHER TO OVERCOME ANY SPATIAL MISMATCH OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS THAT MAY EXIST BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES WITHIN A LOCAL OR REGIONAL JOB MARKET; AND

(3) ADOPT OBJECTIVE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION STANDARDS THAT MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STEP PROGRAM AND INCLUDE:

(I) AN EVALUATION OF THE DIFFERENCE IN THE TYPE OF JOB AND INCREASES IN WAGES AND BENEFITS OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF COMPLETION OF SKILLS-BASED TRAINING; AND

(II) THE MONITORING OF THE JOB ADVANCEMENT, WAGES, AND BENEFIT LEVELS OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS COMPLETED SKILLS-BASED TRAINING FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS AFTER THE TRAINING IS COMPLETED.

(D) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

18-405.

(A) AFTER RECEIVING THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE AND ADMINISTER THE STEP PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS TO THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) ESTABLISH FINANCIAL PROCEDURES AND REPORTING MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT STEP PROGRAM FUNDS ARE BEING APPROPRIATELY USED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE STEP PROGRAM;

(2) ESTABLISH DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION, TRACKING, AND REPORTING TO THE BOARD OF STEP PROGRAM