

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS;

(6) ASSIST ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE COMPLETED SKILLS-BASED TRAINING IN OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT WITH INCREASED WAGES AND BENEFITS;

(7) COLLECT DATA AND REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT EACH YEAR ON:

(I) THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE SKILLS-BASED TRAINING;

(II) THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO OBTAIN ADVANCED EMPLOYMENT ON COMPLETION OF SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND ANY CHANGE IN WAGES AND BENEFITS RECEIVED; ~~AND~~

(III) THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS AND ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS; AND

(IV) THE NUMBER OF LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS SPATIAL MISMATCH AND THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS AND ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED; AND

(8) COMPLY WITH THE STEP PROGRAM PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD UNDER § 18-404 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) (1) IN ADDITION TO SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND WRAPAROUND SERVICES PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD THAT RECEIVES A STEP PROGRAM GRANT SHALL WORK IN COORDINATION WITH LOCAL EMPLOYERS TO IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP APPROVED EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(2) APPROVED EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS:

(I) SHALL BE FUNDED WITH A MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION BY THE EMPLOYER OF AT LEAST 50% IN MATCHING FUNDS;

(II) MAY BE PERMITTED TO RANGE FROM SHORT-TERM TRAINING IN SPECIFIC SKILLS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION CLASSES OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME;

(III) MAY NOT BE APPLIED TO TRAINING THAT WILL RESULT IN THE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL REMAINING IN OR MOVING TO A JOB WITH AN EMPLOYER THAT IS AT A MINIMUM WAGE SALARY LEVEL AND THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE HEALTH CARE OR OTHER BENEFITS;

(IV) MAY BE PROVIDED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER EMPLOYERS TO ADDRESS COMMON WORKFORCE NEEDS; AND

(V) SHALL INCLUDE AGREED UPON PROCESSES TO FOLLOW UP WITH EMPLOYERS AND EVALUATE THE SUCCESS OF THE TRAINING AND WHETHER IT MEETS THE GOALS OF THE STEP PROGRAM.