

Defined terms: "County" § 1-101

"FIP" § 5-301

"Local department" § 5-101

"Nonprofit organization" § 5-301

"Secretary" § 5-101

"Temporary cash assistance" § 5-301

"Third party payee" § 5-301

5-318. JOB SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.

(A) ESTABLISHED.

(1) IN COOPERATION WITH THE LOCAL DIRECTORS, THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH A JOB SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE NEWLY EMPLOYED CURRENT AND FORMER RECIPIENTS WITH TRAINING TO:

(I) ENHANCE EXISTING JOB-RELATED SKILLS;

(II) GAIN ADDITIONAL OR ALTERNATIVE JOB SKILLS; OR

(III) LEARN INTERPERSONAL, COMMUNICATION, AND OTHER RELATED SKILLS.

(2) THE JOB SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN AT LEAST THREE COUNTIES, ONE OF WHICH SHALL BE LOCATED IN WESTERN MARYLAND, SOUTHERN MARYLAND, OR THE EASTERN SHORE.

(B) TARGETED SKILL LEVEL.

THE JOB SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM SHALL TARGET UNSKILLED AND SEMISKILLED FORMER AND CURRENT RECIPIENTS WHO ARE NEWLY EMPLOYED IN ENTRY-LEVEL POSITIONS THAT HAVE LIMITED POTENTIAL FOR ADVANCEMENT BEYOND ENTRY-LEVEL.

(C) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.

(1) PARTICIPATION IN THE JOB SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM SHALL BE VOLUNTARY.

(2) INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN THE JOB SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM SHALL SIGN A TRAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT.

(D) REQUIREMENTS.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JOB SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL:

(1) HAVE BEEN A RECIPIENT DURING THE 36 MONTHS BEFORE BEGINNING PARTICIPATION IN THE JOB SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM;

(2) HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN ENTRY-LEVEL EMPLOYMENT FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS BEFORE BEGINNING PARTICIPATION IN THE JOB SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM;