

North Central Workforce Development Area

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LOCAL DIRECTIVE

Directive #: 22-179

Date: July 1, 2022

TO: North Central WDA EcSA Service Providers

FROM: Lisa Romine, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Incentive Payments for State Funded EcSA Participants

This directive sets forth procedures for award of incentive payments for participants enrolled in, and making satisfactory progress in, state-funded Economic Security for All (EcSA) activities and programs. Guidance for state-funded EcSA programs is found in WIN 0129.

In recognition of the work that Washington's workforce development system did to alleviate poverty through the original EcSA initiative, \$6.2 million of state general funds for Program Year 2022 (Fiscal Year 2023) are allocated to Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) to expand on the work currently done by local EcSA programs funded by the Governor's WIOA statewide activities funds. Because this new allocation is state funded, these new resources provide an unprecedented opportunity to further expand the services provided by LWDBs to improve workforce outcomes and reduce poverty across Washington State.

State-funded EcSA participants are eligible to receive a \$1,000 incentive per month while enrolled in training (including regularly scheduled academic breaks or while awaiting training start date). The annual cap for state-funded EcSA training incentives is set at \$12,000 per participant, not to exceed \$1,000 per month. This will incentivize retention in training and/or education, to defray expenses which might deter retention or training success, and to assist in nearing income adequacy. Exceptions or increases to these amounts may be approved by the Executive Director.

All state-funded EcSA participants enrolled in a training or education activity will develop a customized career plan with their trainer/career counselor. Minimum expectations to earn a monthly incentive include but are not limited to:

- Meet at least monthly with their trainer to monitor their progress in training.
- Meet satisfactory progress in training or education activities as defined in their customized career plan for each month of enrollment. If on academic break (i.e. summer quarter), incentives may still be earned based on what is outlined in their career plan. Trainers will indicate in customer career plan what benchmarks or activities are expected during academic breaks. This will be recorded in monthly progress reports in the activity touchpoint via case note.
- Complete additional monthly EcSA activities outlined in their customized career plan/Individual Employment Plan.

Monthly progress reports in the ETO (or replacement database) training activity touchpoint will indicate whether a state-funded EcSA participant received an incentive payment, and if not, the reasons for not receiving an incentive payment in a given month.

These training incentives may **only** be awarded to State-Funded EcSA participants for progress in training or education activities. They may **not** be awarded to participants enrolled in WIOA programs or activities, to include Federal EcSA (also known as “EcSA2”), unless they are co-enrolled in State-Funded EcSA and meeting training plan expectations. If co-enrolled, the training or education activity may be funded by either WIOA or state-funded EcSA.

State-funded EcSA participants will be asked to sign an acknowledgement form (Attachment 1) detailing the incentive program while developing their training plan with their trainer. The trainer will complete and submit the monthly performance report (Attachment 2) and submit to their manager for processing.

NOTE: Incentive payments are considered taxable non-wage related income. Ten percent (10%) will be withheld for federal income tax and a 1099-MISC form will be sent to participants at year end. Participants will need to complete a W-9 before incentive payments are made.

Earn up to \$12,000 Incentives for Learning Achievement!

State EcSA Incentive Agreement Form

Incentives are awarded for Academic **Achievement and Progress**.

To **qualify** for an Incentive, you must:

1. Meet at least monthly with your trainer to review your training progress.
2. Meet satisfactory progress in training or education activities as defined in your customized career plan for each month of enrollment.
3. Complete activities outlined in customized career plan expected during academic breaks.
4. Complete additional monthly activities outlined in your customized career plan

Payments

If a student meets the above criteria, they may earn up to a total of \$12,000 per year, for academic achievement including (but not limited to) the completion of a degree or certificate, and satisfactory academic progress towards completion of a degree or certificate.

Incentive Amounts:

\$1,000 per month for meeting four (4) requirements outlined above (maximum \$12,000 per year).

Important note: Incentives are considered taxable non-wage related income. Ten percent (10%) will be withheld for federal income tax and a 1099-MISC form will be sent to you at year end by SkillSource.

I, _____ ***agree to the above mentioned Incentive Guidelines.***

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

Trainer Signature _____ Date _____

STATE EcSA MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT & ACADEMIC INCENTIVE PAYMENT

Participant: _____ CMS # _____

Program of Enrollment: STATE FUNDED EcSA _____

Participant Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

3	Excellent	Consistently meets or exceeds classroom/workplace standards
2	Good	Consistently meets classroom/workplace standards
1	Needs Improvement	Needs to work on meeting this standard
0	Unacceptable	Action recommended
N	Not Rated	Unable to rate on this standard

PARTICIPATION: State-Funded EcSA Enrollment Date: _____ WIOA Enrollment Date (if applicable): _____	30-day enrollment satisfactorily met? Yes _____ No _____
MONTHLY PROGRESS MEETING Met with trainer to discuss academic/training progress	Satisfactorily met? Yes _____ No _____
MEETING SATISFACTORY PROGRESS As detailed in customized training plan and training provider policy	Satisfactorily met? Yes _____ No _____
ACADEMIC BREAK ACTIVITIES Participated in special activities during academic breaks (if applicable)	Satisfactorily met? Yes _____ No _____ NA ____
ADDITIONAL MONTHLY ACTIVITIES Participated in other activities outlined in training plan (if applicable)	Satisfactorily met? Yes _____ No _____ NA ____
INCENTIVE EARNED <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory monthly progress in training/education (\$1,000)	Comments: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> TOTAL AMOUNT EARNED: \$ _____ </div>

Participant _____ Date _____ Trainer _____

Instructor _____ Date _____ Manager _____