

# **THE MISSISSIPPI PARTNERSHIP WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA**

## **OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH INCENTIVE POLICY**

**Revised July 1, 2016**

**Mississippi Partnership  
Workforce Development Board  
Out-of-School Youth Incentive Policy**

**I. Scope and Purpose**

This policy sets forth the requirements for The Mississippi Partnership Local Workforce Board and its sub-grantees providing youth registered in the WIOA Title I-B Youth program an opportunity to receive a cash incentive award to provide motivation for the attainment of a high school equivalency diploma issued by the Mississippi Community College Board.

**II. Requirement for Payments**

The Incentive Policy shall describe the payment and the methods used to determine, document and deliver such payments.

**A. Eligibility Criteria**

Before a youth is eligible to receive the high school equivalency diploma incentive, the youth must:

1. Be a participant of a WIOA C2C youth program.
2. Complete his/her high school equivalency diploma during active phase of the youth program **OR** up to the end of the first year after exit. For example, if a youth exits June 17, 2016, he/she has until June 17, 2017 to receive the high school equivalency diploma and still be awarded the \$100 high school equivalency diploma Incentive. (In order to be eligible for the MPWDA Incentive, the high school equivalency diploma must be obtained through the Mississippi Community College Board's approved testing sites.)
3. Receive a money management or budgeting course. If the provider does not have this course in place, The Mississippi Partnership will provide the curriculum for such a class. The money management course may be waived if the participant has completed work ethics training which includes money management and budgeting training.

**B. High School Equivalency diploma Incentive Amount/Value**

The high school equivalency diploma incentive is a one-time payment of \$100 awarded to WIOA youth participants based on the eligibility criteria listed above.

**C. Procedure**

Prior approval from the fiscal agent is required before making the high school equivalency diploma incentive payment to the youth. Upon receipt of the high school equivalency diploma, the sub-grantee must send a copy of the high school equivalency diploma and/or high school equivalency diploma transcript to the fiscal agent. Any sub-grantee electing to provide incentive awards must document the participant's eligibility and the receipt of payment in the participant file.

**III. Effective Date**

This policy is effective July 1, 2016, and applies to any WIOA youth as described in Section II.A.