

The Mississippi Partnership
PY 2024 WIOA Out-of-School Youth RFP
Questions & Answers
Updated 4/2/2024

- 1. Does the Mississippi Ethics in Government Opinions discussed on page 4 of the RFP apply to Community College representatives who may be a member of The Mississippi Partnership Local Workforce Development Board?**

The Mississippi Ethics in Government Opinions do not include Mississippi Partnership Local Workforce Development Board members who represent the public sector, such as community college and State agency representatives.

- 2. Is there a list of recognized credentials for the WIOA Out-of-School Youth Program?**

There is not a standardized list of credentials at this time. The U.S. Department of Labor has issued guidance (TEGL 10-16) that states a credential is awarded in recognition of an individual's attainment of measurable technical or industry/occupational skills necessary to obtain employment or advance within an industry/occupation. This would include credentials such as Certified Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy, Welding, Pharmacy Technician, and Fiber Optic Technician to name a few. This does not include credentials such as OSHA, CPR and First Aid Training, and ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) as these credentials do not measure an individual's skills needed for a specific job.

- 3. Is OSHA-30 certification a recognized credential for the WIOA Out-of-School Youth Program?**

OSHA-30 provides in-depth training to help employees be able to identify, avoid, and prevent safety hazards that are common in the workplace. Based on DOL's guidance credentials for general safety skills does not meet definition of a recognized credential for WIOA youth programs.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/Performance/resources/credential-attainment>

- 4. Does the Mississippi Partnership Workforce Area anticipate a cut in youth funding for PY 2024?**

The Mississippi Partnership has received its PY 2024 WIOA Planning Estimate Allocations, and the youth funding stream has taken a 10% cut from the PY 2023 Final Allocation.

5. **Can the cost of credentials be paid for WIOA eligible youth as a supportive services and if so, what is the limit?**

The Mississippi Partnership's Youth Supportive Service Policy states:

“Educational Related Expenses are limited to \$150.00 for an individual service. For example, no youth should receive one service such as a single test fee in an amount greater than \$150, however youth may receive more than 1 service. If sufficient justification is supplied of why the youth would need more than \$150 for an individual service, the amount may be increased to \$1,200 but must be approved by the fiscal agent prior to payment.”

6. **Can WIOA supportive services be used to pay for credentials, such as OSHA or CPR, even if they are considered a recognized credential for performance purposes?**

Yes, this would be an allowable supportive service if a youth is in need of such credentials because their worksite employer requires it. Please refer to the Mississippi Partnership's Youth Supportive Services policy for more details regarding eligibility for youth supportive services and types of allowable services.

7. **Does the Mississippi Partnership Workforce Area still allow youth providers to purchase food for youth participants as a supportive service?**

The Mississippi Partnership's Youth Supportive Services allows food to be purchased for youth participants. Please refer to this policy for more details regarding food as a supportive service.

8. **I have a question about the demonstrated experience/ability. I know In the past current providers we were not required to complete the Demonstrated Experience/Ability because we were Gateway WIOA Youth Providers. Is that section required for current providers this time?**

Yes, current providers should answer this section as it is worth up to 25 points on the proposal rating scale.

9. **On Page 18 #7 says: If participants have documentation that they are unable to obtain such services through other non-WIOA programs, the youth provider may provide the needed supportive services.**

What documents would they have stating they are unable to obtain these services?

WIOA Program Staff should be knowledgeable of organizations in the community that may provide assistance to individuals and should utilize those organizations when possible. If there are no known community organizations that provide the supportive

services that a youth is in need of, the WIOA Program Staff may make a case note explaining that there are no other organizations in the area that provide this assistance. In this instance, the case note would be the documentation.