

Needs-Related Payments (NRP) Policy

Effective: July 1, 2009

Background: The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 allowed for needs-related payments (NRP's). NRP's are defined as financial assistance to individuals for the purpose of enabling the individual to participate in training. Local boards had the option of making NRP's available as one of the supportive services authorized by the Act. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009 is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery, and to assist those most impacted by the recession. On March 18, 2009, the United States Department of Labor's, Employment and Training Administration released guidance (TEGL 14-8) for implementing Workforce Investment Act and Wagner-Peyser Act funding under the ARRA. The ARRA contains several provisions designed to target services to certain populations. One such provision mandates that local boards make NRP's available and establish policy for issuing NRP's.

Policy: Oswego County Workforce New York will make Needs-Related Payments available to One Stop Customers under the following guidelines:

A stipend of \$145 per week (or actual Unemployment Insurance rate, whichever is less) will be available to a customer requiring a needs-related payment to participate in a WIA approved vocational or post-secondary training service. Payment of NRP's will be issued on a bi-weekly basis to approved customers while attending school full-time. * Needs related payments can be authorized up to a maximum of one year (52 weeks) under the following criteria:

Adults:

- Unemployed; and
- Do not qualify for, or have ceased to qualify for unemployment insurance; and
- Are enrolled in a WIA approved vocational or post-secondary training service; and
- Household Income (based on household size) does not exceed 200% of the poverty level.

Dislocated Workers:

- Unemployed; and
- Have ceased to qualify or did not qualify for unemployment insurance or Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA); and

- Enrolled in a WIA approved training service by the end of the 13th week after the most recent layoff (26th week for Trade Act eligible Dislocated Workers) that resulted in Dislocated Worker Status; and
- Family Income (based on family size) does not exceed 200% of the poverty level.

NYS has requested to waive the requirement that Dislocated Workers are enrolled in training by the 13th week. If NYS's request is approved, this policy will also waive this requirement.