



ÁREA LOCAL
DE DESARROLLO LABORAL
GUAYNABO / TOA BAJA

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Public Policy for Job Search Assistance Outside the Labor Market Area or Outside Puerto Rico - WIOA #19-01

Date: March 6, 2019

To: Guaynabo - Toa Baja Local Workforce Development Area Staff

From: Oriel Rodríguez Ramírez – chairman of the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)

Subject: **Public Policy on Training Services; Job Search Assistance Outside the Labor Market Area or Outside Puerto Rico**

Programs Impacted: Youth, Adults and Dislocated Workers

Applicable Law: WIOA Act, P.L. 113-128 of 2014.

Source of Funds: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Youth, Adults, and Dislocated Workers

A. INTRODUCTION

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is an enhancement of the previous Workforce Investment Act (WIA) with the aim of developing workforce activities that lead to increased employment, retention, and income for participants. The focus of WIOA is to invest funds towards the creation of more and better job opportunities. In today's rapidly evolving workforce, it is essential to continually develop new skills to meet the challenges of the 21st century.



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The Guaynabo-Toa Baja Workforce Development Area (LWDA), through its Local Workforce Development Board, represented by its president: Oriel Ramirez Rodriguez, has the responsibility of formulating public policies and overseeing the operations of the One-Stop Center (OSC). The primary objective is to ensure that the center and its affiliated organizations effectively address the needs of the local population and comply with the provisions of WIOA. This Act, being more comprehensive than its predecessor, emphasizes the development of skills required for securing higher-paying employment that can lead individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency. It specifically focuses on those individuals who face challenges in entering the workforce due to their lack of preparation and maturity.

Furthermore, WIOA recognizes the importance of providing assistance and support for individuals to obtain employment opportunities beyond the local labor market area if necessary. These changes and requirements are embraced by the Guaynabo-Toa Baja Local Board, which has amended its policies to align with the provisions of the WIOA Act.

I. Procedure for Providing Assistance in the Search for Employment Outside the Labor Market Area or Outside Puerto Rico.

This procedural policy is implemented in accordance with the guidelines set forth in WIOA-01-2016-A. It outlines the services provided, eligibility criteria, and description of activities related to assisting participants in their search for employment outside the local labor market area or outside of Puerto Rico.



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Labor mobility is a prevalent phenomenon, particularly due to the high level of unemployment and recent atmospheric events affecting Puerto Rico. Many individuals are relocating outside of the Labor Market Area (LMA) and Puerto Rico in search of employment opportunities.

The allocation of assistance for relocation may vary for each participant, considering their personal circumstances and the analysis conducted by the Case Manager. The process for providing this assistance must include the following steps:

- Assessing the participant to determine their specific relocation needs.
- Receiving an official request for relocation from the participant.
- Establishing an allocation of funds based on reasonable and allowable costs under WIOA for the assistance to be provided to the participant.
- Ensuring that the participant's Employability Plan includes the relocation location, which should be supported by evidence of employment with a properly identified employer located outside the area.

Allocation amounts will be based on the *per diem* and mileage rates applicable to public employees established by the Guaynabo-Toa Baja Workforce Development Local Area. Assistance may cover reasonable ground or air transportation costs, moving expenses, temporary housing for up to 30 days in the new location, and lodging for the same period. Any case must be duly justified and ensure that the other entity or employer is not reimbursing the amount requested by the participant.




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The maximum amount of assistance per participant will be set at \$3,000.00. However, this amount may be subject to variation if the Guaynabo-Toa Baja Local Board determines it necessary based on specific needs previously presented and addressed by the Local Board.

This amendment shall be effective as of March 14, 2019.

Approved today, March 15, 2019, in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.


/s/ Mr. Oriel Ramírez Rodríguez
Chairman
Local Board