

**PUBLIC POLICY:**

**AMENDMENT #1 WIOA 20-001**

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

**SUBJECT:**

First Amendment to Public Policy on Individual Training Accounts (ITAs)

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**PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 focuses on preparing workers for high-paying jobs and careers in high-demand fields. The exponential growth of digital jobs, the shortage of digital workers, and a variety of global socio-economic changes are creating a rapidly evolving environment. As a result, governments around the world are making significant investments in workforce development to create a competitive advantage.

The Department of Economic Development, through the Labor Connection Program, has launched the "21st Century Techforce" initiative to develop the right programs at the right scale to produce a strong workforce.

This amendment seeks to integrate these skills into WIOA-funded programs to ensure that participants are prepared for the modern workforce.

To this end, the Local Workforce Development Board of the Guaynabo-Toa Baja Local Area (LWDB) establishes the following cost limits:

**ITA ACCOUNT COSTS AND DURATION**

The section on costs and duration is amended to establish the following:

- For long-term occupational training, such as associate degrees, technical courses, and/or certificates aimed at acquiring specific job-related skills or competencies that lead to an industry-recognized credential, a maximum contribution of \$15,000 per participant will be allocated.
- For careers under the "21st Century Techforce" initiative – digital innovation –, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), or professions related to the local area's priority sectors, the Local Board will evaluate the need to approve a contribution exceeding the amount established in the previous section, up to 50% of the training cost, subject to fund availability.

The case manager must document the need for this increased contribution based on the criteria and conditions that the Local Board will use to evaluate approval.

The following conditions will be part of the Local Board's evaluation:

1. Las The hours or the specific vocational preparation (SVP) level for the occupation as described by O\*Net.
2. Placement, retention, and earnings opportunities in the occupation.
3. Whether the occupation is related to digital innovation, STEM professions, or the local area's priority sectors.
4. If related to other occupational or industrial areas that are part of the local area's growing innovation sectors, even if they are not within the priority sectors.

These contributions are subject to fund availability at the time of the request evaluation.

The following section is also amended:

#### **ELEGIBLE PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS**

The third subsection of the ELEGIBLE PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS is amended to read as follows:

The Provider shall commit to place participants who satisfactorily complete the training.

#### **EFFECTIVENESS**

This Public Policy will take effect immediately upon approval by the Local Board.

All other provisions of the Public Policy on Individual Training Accounts remain unchanged and in effect.

In Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, on the 21 day of June, 2024.



Oriel Ramírez Rodríguez  
President  
Local Workforce Development Board  
Guaynabo-Toa Baja