

§2031. Governor's Jobs Initiative Program

1. Program established. The Governor's Jobs Initiative Program, referred to in this section as the "program," is established to encourage high-quality job creation and expansion by directly linking the education and training resources of this State to job opportunities. To the extent of available resources, the program develops and coordinates training for firms intending to expand or locate in this State, reorganize a workplace to remain competitive or upgrade worker skills by providing essential work competencies such as computer literacy, problem-solving strategies, critical thinking skills, math and science proficiency and team-building skills.

[PL 2011, c. 573, §2 (AMD).]

2. Administration. The program is administered jointly by the Department of Labor and the Department of Economic and Community Development under rules and operating procedures adopted by the Commissioner of Labor and the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development. Administrative costs are limited to 5% of program funds.

[PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

3. Interdepartmental review team. An application for funding under the program must be reviewed by an interdepartmental review team. The review team consists of 2 representatives from the Department of Labor, one of whom must be from the Center for Workforce Research and Information, and 2 representatives from the Department of Economic and Community Development.

[PL 2007, c. 126, §2 (AMD).]

4. Criteria for program funding. The following criteria must be demonstrated to the committee by an applicant at the time of application. An applicant shall:

A. Work with the Department of Labor to analyze the occupational skills of the unemployed work force in the designated labor market; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

B. Provide a statement of commitment to long-term operation in this State; and [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

C. Comply with any other criteria that has been adopted by the Commissioner of Labor in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

[PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

5. Selection preference. Preference must be given to an applicant that substantiates one or more of the following at the time of application:

A. Formation of a local project partnership; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

B. Employer willingness to leverage matching funds; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

C. Investment in the lifelong learning and skills development of citizens of this State; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

D. An increase in the local education and training capacity to support more than one employer that is caused by a proposed project; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

E. Provision of high-wage or high-skill employment, employee benefits and job security; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

F. Employer intention to expand or locate in economically depressed areas of this State; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

G. Employer willingness to hire new labor force entrants, economically disadvantaged individuals, persons with disabilities or dislocated workers; or [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

H. Employer willingness to provide a registered apprenticeship for current employees or new hires. [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]
[PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

6. Services. Services that may be funded by the program include, but are not limited to:

A. Recruitment; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

B. Screening and assessment; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

C. Workplace literacy; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

D. Workplace safety; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

E. Technical training; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

F. On-the-job training; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

G. Higher education; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

H. Essential work competencies; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

I. Job task analysis; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

J. Coordination of employer consortia to access specialized training; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

K. Technical assistance on work force capacity issues; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

L. Technical assistance on worker training plans; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

M. Small business training and technical assistance; and [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

N. Supportive services. [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

[PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

7. Program standards. The standards used by the Department of Labor and the Department of Economic and Community Development to evaluate the success of a project must include, but are not limited to:

A. The number of jobs created or retained in the project and participant demographics; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

B. The cost per participant; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

C. The average wage paid and benefits provided to participants at training completion; [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

D. The skills required by the participant to obtain jobs through the program; [PL 2011, c. 573, §2 (AMD).]

E. The number and percentage of participants who do not complete each program; and [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

F. The return on investment. [PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. DD, §12 (AFF).]

[PL 2011, c. 573, §2 (AMD).]

8. Eligibility for funding. Applicants eligible to receive funding from the program include, but are not limited to, employers, regional and local economic development agencies or partnerships, community-based organizations, job training service providers, registered apprenticeship service providers, local adult education providers and postsecondary education institutions.

An applicant that is not a business shall demonstrate, in partnership with a business or a consortium of businesses, the ability to link training services with actual job creation, expansion, upgrade or retention. Training provided under this section is considered approved training under the unemployment insurance laws and the laws regarding dislocated workers administered by the Department of Labor.

Training funds authorized under this section must be paid to the employer on a reimbursement basis. [PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. JJJ, §1 (AMD).]

9. Report. For any year in which the program is funded, the Commissioner of Labor and the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall provide to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs an annual report by March 1st of the next year, which must include, for each business assisted under this subchapter, the name and location of the business, the number of individuals trained or retrained, the dollar amount expended and, when applicable, the number of new jobs created.

[PL 2011, c. 573, §2 (AMD).]

10. Rules. Rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2011, c. 573, §2 (AMD).]

11. Nonlapsing funds. Any unencumbered balance of General Fund appropriations remaining at the end of each fiscal year in this program may not lapse but must be carried forward to be used for the same purposes.

[PL 1999, c. 731, Pt. K, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 665, §DD5 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 665, §DD12 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 731, §K2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 126, §2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. RRR, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. JJJ, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 573, §2 (AMD).

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