

2020 WRG – RR Expansion

Addendum to WRG NCB Implementation and Procedures Manual

In early June, Governor Holcomb announced the launch of Indiana’s “[Rapid Recovery for a Better Future](#)” initiative. As part of Indiana’s Rapid Recovery efforts to assist Hoosiers in returning to employment from the COVID-19 pandemic, recent federal funding through the CARES Act injects \$50 million into Indiana’s efforts to scale up short-term education and training opportunities.

The additional funding provided to Indiana through the CARES Act enables Indiana to temporarily expand upon the **Workforce Ready Grant** to support an additional 10,000 Hoosiers with their career training goals. In order to reach more Hoosiers efficiently and effectively, some **temporary** changes have been made to the WRG program:

- Increasing the funding cap from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for eligible programs
- Allowing Hoosiers with two- and four-year degrees who have been impacted by COVID-19 to qualify for the grant
- Expanding the list of qualifying training programs and certifications

With these new changes and allowances, the following amendments have **temporarily** been made to WRG’s non-credit bearing implementation and procedures eligibility criteria for the timeframe of *June 15, 2020 through December 30, 2020*:

- **Program participants may qualify for up to \$10,000 in grant funding.**
- Program participants may have a high school diploma or equivalent **AND may have a two- or four-year degree.**
- **In addition to occupations ranking 5 flames on INDemand, programs training to one of the following occupations are now eligible for consideration:**

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| Information Security Analyst | Dental Assistants | Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators | Computer User Support Specialist | Industry Machinery Mechanics |
| Heavy and Tractor-trailer Truck Drivers | Web Developer | Machinists | Pharmacy Technicians | First Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers |
| Nursing Assistants | Rehabilitation Counselors | Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | Community Health Workers | Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers |
| Phlebotomists | Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics | Carpenters | Production Workers, All Others | Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers |
| Construction Laborers | | | | |

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- **WRG - RR Expansion changes and allowances are temporary and only valid during June 15, 2020 through December 30, 2020.**
- WRG –RR Expansion funding must be expended by **December 30, 2020**.
- Courses approved under the WRG – RR Expansion **MUST conclude by December 30, 2020**. This includes courses that were approved prior to WRG – RR Expansion but received a tuition increase*.
- **Final invoices must be submitted no later than January 30, 2021 to ensure payment.**
- All authorized training providers MUST adhere to the [Workforce Ready Grant Non-Credit Bearing Implementation and Procedures Manual](#) with the exceptions outlined within the WRG –RR Expansion Addendum.
- After December 30, 2020, the WRG NCB program will continue to operate via state funding dollars, and expectations will return to standard operating procedures as stated in the [Workforce Ready Grant Non-Credit Bearing Implementation and Procedures Manual](#).
 - Only WRG NCB authorized training programs that meet the statewide 5 flame requirement will remain active; all other programs will sunset no later than December 30, 2020
 - The individual funding cap will return to \$5,000
 - Only persons with a high school diploma but without a post-secondary degree will be able to access the WRG program

*New cohorts may begin December 31, 2020 at the reduced tuition cap.