

MINUTES

GSETA Operations Committee

02/07/2022

Hugh Bailey/Yolanda Allen NJDOLWD - OJT allocations

1. Process started 3 years ago. OJT is a tremendous tool in engaging customers in meaningful employment. Encourages employers to take a chance on individuals in the jobs that they need filled.
2. Hugh wanted to get resources out to the local areas. NJDOL is aware that some areas will struggle with spending the funds but wants us to be “empowered”
3. All funds must be obligated by June 30, 2022 – State Rapid Response funds therefore it is for Dislocated Workers only and there are no Administrative funds attached. Funds can be used for staff if that staff is fully programmatic for OJT.
4. This will be a recurring line item each program year
5. Training will be provided by NJDOL in collaboration with the GSETA Institute and EDSI. Dr. Allen is working with the EDSI and is looking to rollout the training in mid-March. More information will be forth coming.
6. Period between February and June will be used for training and implementation. Local areas are required to attend the training and should be using their WIOA funds to attend.
7. Many areas had questions and comments – reoccurring comment was to ensure that there is a single voice for business services. State BSR’s are to be following the guidance of the Local WDB as all employer engagement should be local and regional. Bergen and Morris/Sussex/Warren have streamlined contracts to reduce the paper burden and develop rapport with the employer.
8. Hugh suggested that each WDB’s board members should be engaged with OJT’s and help build the local areas testimonials.
9. Ideal sequence of events per NJDOL would be to use WIOA ITA along with an OJT to offer our clients skill training and experience.
10. Do not feel like you need to go to Trenton all the time. The local area should know the law and regulations and be able to push the limits without crossing the line. If it works and is legal, share and do. Our goal is to get people into jobs.

Work First NJ – Melissa Moody

1. SNAP Participation is NOT mandatory.
2. CWA’s are expected to call their customers in for the CSA’s
3. Notifications went out to the customers last month. The CWA’s are to be initiating individualized contact
4. They are working on a new sanctioning system and policy as the excused absence policy needs to be updated due to COVID
5. E-Time is being updated. You can use it but it is not required at this time.
6. There was a question about how locals document virtual services. There is no answer at this time, it is up to the local area. If you need additional help with this, contact Ahmad or your local TA.
7. The GA 28-day protocol will resume when the absence questions have been worked out.
8. There is a joint NJDHS/NJDOL meeting today to discuss with the local areas information and planning

Work First NJ – Ahmad McDougle

1. COVID protocols and vaccination requirements cannot be instituted for Work First NJ Clients, unless it is covered under the Governor's Executive Orders.
2. Ahmad's team sent out a survey last week and is asking that everyone make an effort to return them to their TA.
3. The relationships between the local CWA leadership and the WDB leadership needs to be worked on.
4. NJDOL will allow 5% (up to \$30,000) of the WDB SNAP allocation to be used for marketing and outreach for SNAP. A budget and short narrative MUST be presented to Ahmad and his team.
5. All no-cost extensions to 09/30/2022 need to be requested ASAP but no later than 06/01/2022
6. NJDOL will send out all information in writing

GSETA Professional Development Institute – Pat Fenn

1. Still waiting on NJDOL and EDSI to arrange the OJT training
2. Wellness Wednesday's are starting up and are free – encourage your local staff to participate in these one-hour sessions.

Next Meeting

Monday, March 7, 2022