

FINISH LINE GRANT EXPENDITURES

Finish Line Grant expenditures fall under the heading of supportive services in WIOA Title I. see WIOA sec. 3(59) and secs. 134(d)(2) and (3). Supportive services are services that are necessary to enable individuals to participate in WIOA authorized activities.

A key principle in WIOA is to provide Local Workforce Development Boards (“WDBs”) with the authority to make policy and administrative decisions and the flexibility to tailor the public workforce system to the needs of the local community. To ensure maximum flexibility, the regulations provide Local WDBs the discretion to provide the supportive services they deem appropriate subject to the limited conditions prescribed by WIOA. Decisions about the provision of Finish Line Grant funds, including the duration, timing, and type, are made by the Local WDB.

These expenditures must be reasonable, allowable, necessary, and address a financial need that will enable the student to continue training. Care must be given to be sure that the expenditure solves a short-term problem and not simply applies a “down payment” on a chronic financial problem. All efforts should be made to disburse the grant funds to the provider of a service, instead of to the student. Examples would include paying a mechanic directly for auto repairs, or an eyeglasses provider for a new pair of glasses for a student.

Examples of Allowable Expenditures for Finish Line Grants

Transportation. Transportation assistance may be provided to assist the student to get to the community college or other places that support WIOA activities. Transportation assistance may be paid in advance based on a plan for the transportation cost. Examples are bus passes and gasoline assistance.

Auto Repairs. Auto repair payments that allow a participant to participate in educational and training activities are allowed. This includes repairs of an immediate need. Normal vehicle maintenance costs are not allowed. If a participant is repairing a personal vehicle, Finish Line Grant funds may be used to purchase the parts. Auto repair may not exceed the amount of the vehicle. WDBs should take into consideration if public transportation would be a more feasible option for the participant and, if so, Finish Line Grant funds will not be required.

Child Care. Child care assistance for children ages 12 and under who reside in the home of the student are allowed if other resources are not available. Expenditures may be limited to a daily maximum per child. Birth certificates may be required to verify the ages of children.

Payments for child care may be required by the provider for a space to be maintained for the child even when the child is not in attendance for sickness or holidays. If this is the policy of the child care center, the provider may be required to provide verification of that for the day(s) in question.

Dependent Care. Dependent care assistance may be utilized to help a participant meet their family care needs during participation in their educational activities. Dependent care service providers should be selected by the student. WDBs should ensure that Finish Line Grant funds do not duplicate dependent care assistance available from another source.

Housing Assistance. Housing assistance provided to students allows students to maintain or obtain adequate or temporary shelter while participating in educational activities. Finish line Grant funds may not pay for rental deposits or mortgage payments. Students needing housing assistance should be referred to community housing assistance programs if applicable. WDBs must ensure WIOA Title I funds do not duplicate housing assistance from another source.

Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities. Finish Line Grant funds may be utilized to assist a student who needs accommodations to enable them to participate in their educational activities. The WDB should ensure that grant do not duplicate funds provided by another source. A referral to Vocational Rehabilitation may be appropriate and, if so, Finish Line Grant funds would not be required.

Utility Bills. Students may obtain assistance in paying for utility bills, including water, gas and electric bills. Care should be taken to ensure that the grant funds do not duplicate assistance from another source.

Referrals to Health Care. Students in need of medical or counseling services should be referred to other community medical resources if applicable. The WDB should ensure Finish Line Grant funds do not duplicate medical assistance available from another source. The referrals include DOT physicals, drug screens, required immunizations, dental, ophthalmologist, drug and alcohol counseling, mental health counseling, behavioral counseling, etc.

Assistance with Books and School Supplies. Grant funds may be utilized to assist a student attending approved education classes with books, fees, school supplies, and other necessary items related to their education

Assistance with Tuition and Fees. In the context that the student has an emergency financial challenge that has negatively impacted the student's ability to pay for tuition and fees, then Finish Line Grant funds may be used to pay tuition and fees, however, it is not the intent of the grant program to function solely as a scholarship for a student's tuition and fees.

Examples of Unallowed Expenditures for Finish Line Grants

Finish Line Grant funds are **not** to be used for student expenses that are not allowed as supportive services including:

- Titled or deeded items or when recovery of the expense is anticipated (e.g. rent or housing deposits, mortgage payments, property taxes, fines and late fees).
- Purchase of vehicles
- Business startup costs.
- Internet or phone service (including a prepaid plan, minutes etc.)

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