

CHAPTER 116L

MINNESOTA JOB SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

116L.04 Partnership power.

116L.06 Hire education loan program.

116L.04 PARTNERSHIP POWER.

Subdivision 1. **Partnership program.** (a) The partnership program may provide grants-in-aid to educational or other nonprofit training institutions using the following guidelines:

(1) the educational or other nonprofit institution is a provider of training within the state in either the public or private sector;

(2) the program involves skills training that is an area of employment need; and

(3) preference will be given to educational or other nonprofit training institutions which serve economically disadvantaged people, minorities, or those who are victims of economic dislocation and to businesses located in rural areas.

(b) A single grant to any one institution shall not exceed \$400,000.

Subd. 1a. **Pathways program.** The pathways program may provide grants-in-aid for developing programs which assist in the transition of persons from welfare to work. The program is to be operated by the board. The board shall consult and coordinate with the Job Training Partnership Act, Title II-A, program administrators at the department of economic security to design and provide services for temporary assistance for needy families recipients.

Pathways grants-in-aid may be awarded to educational or other nonprofit training institutions for education and training programs that serve public assistance recipients transitioning from public assistance to employment.

Preference shall be given to projects that:

(1) provide employment with benefits paid to employees;

(2) provide employment where there are defined career paths for trainees;

(3) pilot the development of an educational pathway that can be used on a continuing basis for transitioning persons from public assistance directly to work; and

(4) demonstrate the active participation of department of economic security workforce centers, Minnesota state college and university institutions and other educational institutions, and local welfare agencies.

Pathways projects must demonstrate the active involvement and financial commitment of private business. Pathways projects must be matched with cash or in-kind contributions on at least a one-to-one ratio by participating private business.

A single grant to any one institution shall not exceed \$200,000.

The board shall annually, by March 31, report to the commissioners of economic security and trade and economic development on pathways programs, including the number of public assistance recipients participating in the program, the number of participants placed in employment, the salary and benefits they receive, and the state program costs per participant.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1996]

History: 1997 c 200 art 1 s 58,59

116L.06 HIRE EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Fund uses.** The job skills partnership board may make loans to Minnesota employers to train persons for jobs in Minnesota. The loans must be used to train current and prospective employees of an employer for specific jobs with the employer.

Subd. 2. **Loan process.** The board shall establish a schedule and competitive process for accepting loan applications. The board shall evaluate loan applications.

Subd. 3. **Loan priority.** The board shall give priority to loans that provide training for jobs that are permanent, provide health coverage and other fringe benefits, and have a career or job path with prospects for wage increases.

Subd. 4. **Loan terms.** Loans may be secured or unsecured, shall be for a term of no more than two years, and shall bear no interest. The maximum amount of a loan is \$250,000. A loan origination fee of up to two percent of the principal of the loan may be charged. An employer may have only one outstanding loan. The loans shall contain such other standard commercial loan terms as the board deems appropriate.

Subd. 5. **Loan uses.** Loans must be used by an employer to obtain the most cost-effective training available from public or private training institutions. An employer must document to the board the process the employer has utilized to ensure that the proposed loan is used to acquire the most cost-effective training and provide a training plan.

Subd. 6. **Packaging loans.** The board may package a grant it makes under section 116L.04 with a loan under this section.

Subd. 7. **Loan repayments.** Loan repayments and loan origination fees shall be retained by the board for board programs.

History: 1997 c 200 art 1 s 60