

Employer Workforce Training Fund

(1) Purpose: The Employer Workforce Training Account (EWTA) was established by Executive Order # 03 -16 to support the retention and growth of living wage jobs, a skilled workforce, and competitive businesses in Oregon. To administer the EWTA, the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) established the Employer Workforce Training Fund (EWTF). This workforce development strategy must ensure that public and private sector investments are leveraged for the greatest impact and that training programs are responsive to the needs of business, industry, and the workers.

(2) Definitions:

(a) Employer Workforce Training Account (EWTA) established by Executive Order to support the Governor's economic recovery plan to ensure that a skilled workforce available to keep Oregon's industries productive and competitive.

(b) Employer Workforce Training Fund (EWTF): Includes regional WRT funds(WRT), Statewide Opportunity funds (SO) and the Governor's Strategic Training Fund (GSTF)
The EWTF has three outcome goals:

(A) Create and retain living wage jobs in Oregon

(B) Build a highly skilled workforce, especially in knowledge-based industries

(C) Enhance the global competitiveness of Oregon businesses based on the skill of their workforce.

(c) Oregon Workforce Investment Board (OWIB): A business sector majority oversight board mandated by the WIA, Section 111. The board oversees the workforce system in Oregon.

(d) Workforce Response Teams (WRT): Formed by and with the collective partners in their represented regional areas. These teams:

(A) provide a single point of contact and a quick turnaround for existing businesses and their workforce needs;

(B) select a fiscal agent to administer the regional funds

(C) develop regional funding priorities for contracts; and

(D) prioritize projects and award funds to eligible businesses and associations.

(3) General Provisions: Employer Workforce Training Fund (EWTF)

(a) The Oregon Workforce Investment Board shall identify all workforce development funds from federal, state, local and private sources and maximize coordination of resources used.

(b) The EWTF includes by EO, the Oregon Workforce Investment Act (WIA) allocation, identified as reserve funds, under section 128(a) and 133(a) of the WIA. Includes regional WRT funds prioritized and awarded by the local Regional Workforce Response team, Statewide Opportunity funds (SO) and the Governor's Strategic Training Fund (GSTF) funded through the CCWD.

(c) The OWIB has developed guidelines for funding criteria to be utilized by the EWTF which are the most advantageous economically to the region and the state. These criteria may be updated yearly or at the direction of the OWIB and Governor, and published through CCWD EWTF Policy 589-20.4.

(d) EWTF funds shall be distributed in accordance with the allocation formula as determined by the OWIB through an annual review of EWTF outcomes, state and regional needs and economic conditions. Based on the recommendations of the OWIB and/or Governor the CCWD will update CCWD Policy 589-20.4 regarding the EWTF and the fund distribution as needed.

(e) Ineligible expenditures are those expenditures that have been identified as strictly prohibited by the individual funding sources, such as: Workforce Investment Act Title IB funding and relevant OMB Circulars establishing cost principles and as identified in CCWD EWTF policy 589-20.4.

(f) Contract Size – There is no minimum or maximum contract size for regional and/or state projects. Regional WRTs will have discretion in the award of contracts and will make appropriate investments to leverage resources and maximize program outcomes and performance measures. The Governor will determine the appropriate size for statewide contracts.

(g) Employer Match – Entities that receive contracts from the EWTF for projects must provide non-governmental matching funds or third-party in-kind contributions to the project that equal or exceed the amount of the contract. An entity's non-Federal contribution may be provided in cash or third-party in-kind, fairly evaluated, and shall only be used in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of this rule and in accordance with federal definitions found in 29 CFR Part 95.23 and 29 CFR Part 97.24.

(h) All projects are required to report performance outcomes as identified in their funding contract with CCWD and CCWD EWTF Policy 589-20.4.

(i) CCWD shall prepare an annual report to the OWIB expenditures and outcomes of the Employer Workforce Training Fund.

(j) All Employers and partner agencies participating in the Employer Workforce Training Fund must meet the requirements of the Methods of Administration (MOA) per CCWD EWTF Policy 589-20.4.

(3) Regional Workforce Response Teams

(a) The Regional WRT Funds shall be used to support the training of incumbent/current private sector workers, for growing businesses, training initiatives for industry associations and strategic economic clusters, and initiatives designed by business-labor consortia.

(b) Recapture Clause: Any WRT that does not make a satisfactory commitment to using the funds for their desired outcomes will be subject to the recapture policy as delineated in CCWD EWTF Policy 589-20.4.

(c) Regional Workforce Response Teams (WRT) will be required to provide responses to the Recognition Process every year as identified in CCWD EWTF Policy 589-20.4.

The responses of the Workforce Response Team will be reviewed by CCWD before funds will be distributed to the region.

(d) CCWD shall contract with the WRT- selected fiscal agent in each workforce region to distribute, on a cost reimbursement basis, the regional funds. The fiscal agent is responsible for carrying out the functions of a fiscal agent as described in the CCWD EWTF Policy 589-20.4.

(4) Statewide Opportunity Funds (SO)

(a) Statewide Opportunity funds are awarded for the purpose of solving challenges or engaging in opportunities within the state with regard to its workforce development needs. Statewide Opportunity funds will only be used if the challenge or opportunity cannot be addressed with other system resources (e.g., Title 1B, Wagner-Peyser, Title II).

(b) Statewide Opportunity funds will be focused in opportunity areas as identified by the Oregon Workforce Investment Board and the Governor.

(c) CCWD will administer contracts for Statewide Opportunity funded projects per CCWD EWTF Policy 589-20.4.

(d) The Oregon Workforce Investment Board will approve Statewide Opportunity Projects.

(5) Governor's Strategic Training Fund (GSTF)

(a) The Governor's Strategic Training Fund may be used to finance economic and workforce development projects in existing Oregon businesses, industry or worker associations for incumbent /current workers.

(b) The GSTF in coordination with regional WRTs will be used for multiregional or statewide projects that are beyond the scope and/or resources of the regional funds. CCWD will administer GSTF contracts through the WRTs per CCWD EWTF Policy 589-20.4

(c) The Governor will approve GSTF Projects.

Statutory Authority: 660.318

Statutes Implemented: