
GST MICHIGAN WORKS! POLICY 23-01

DATE: August 21, 2023

TO: GST Michigan Works! Service Providers and Agency Staff

FROM: Jody Kerbyson, CEO

SUBJECT: Barrier Removal Employment Success (BRES)

PROGRAMS AFFECTED: All workforce programs for which support services is an allowable expenditure

RESCISSIONS: N/A

REFERENCES: PI 20-32, Clean Slate Pilot Program, issued December 3, 2020, and subsequent changes.
PI 21-22 Barrier Removal Employment Success (BRES) and subsequent changes.
PI 21-35, Barrier Removal Employment Success, issued December 3, 2021, and subsequent changes.
PI 22-18 Barrier Removal Employment Success (BRES).

BACKGROUND: The Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Workforce Development (LEO-WD) has provided funding to support the employment and reemployment of at-risk individuals and the removal of barriers to employment. The populations BRES will serve include but are not limited to: Clean Slate Program (CSP), Business Resource Network (BRN) Program (locally funded), the Michigan Reconnect Scholarship Program, Food Assistance, Employment, and Training/Plus (FAE&T and FAE&T+), refugee population, Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) population and others with barriers to employment. To provide additional support for the operations of these initiatives and to serve the at-risk populations, WD has established the BRES program.

POLICY: This policy provides guidance on the provision of support services for eligible BRES participants. Program staff are responsible for verifying the participant's eligibility and need for employment related support services based on individual circumstances. A Support Service issued on behalf of one participant does not constitute approval on behalf of any other participant. Supportive Services are not entitlement payments and are provided at the discretion of the GST MI Works! service providers and agency staff.

BRES funds will be used to support activities that are not eligible or available under another funding source.

The services provided locally with BRES should compliment and comply with local policies regarding the provision of supportive services and any associated limitations. BRES funding may not be used to circumvent local supportive service policies or limitations.

Educational Scholarships are specifically prohibited for support with BRES funding.

Eligibility: Participants are required to be at least 16 years of age with no maximum age limit. There are no income restriction levels or employment requirements for participation to receive BRES support. Priority will be given when the person is determined to be in need.

Conditions: Cap: \$1000 per participant in a 36 month time period. This funding is not to be used for re-occurring expenses. Priority will be given to individuals who have not received BRES funding previously.

Included in the allowable Support Services:

- Public Transportation.
- Auto Insurance.
- Drug Tests.
- Fees, such as but not limited to: (test fees, licensing, bonding, and background checks).
- Housing (rental or mortgage payment, security deposit).
- Fingerprinting.
- Private Vehicle Mileage Reimbursement.
- Legal Services (expungement of criminal record).
- Personal Grooming Supplies/Services.
- Utility Expense.
- Training Materials, Textbooks, Tools, and Supplies.
- Work Tools and Equipment.
- Clothing.
- Birth Certificate.
- Tests/Permits.
- Driver's License or Michigan ID.
- Auto Repair.
- Pre-Employment Exam and Screening.
- Family Support Services.
- Child Care and Child Care fees.
- Family Care.
- Other.

Employer Supports: BRES funds may be utilized to provide employer support to encourage participation in BRNs. Employer support may include subsidizing BRN membership fees.

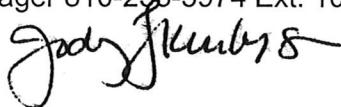
Documentation: Support Services may be provided to participants who are enrolled into a Workforce Development program through OSMIS or Prime. Support services provision must follow the GST Michigan Works! Support Service Staff Guide which provides guidance regarding documentation, justification, data entry and case noting.

Exceptions: In cases with unique circumstances, when a Service Provider or Agency Staff determines it would be beneficial to exceed a cap amount or provide a support service not categorized by the local policy, a waiver request may be made on a case-by-case basis to the COO or their designate.

ACTION: GST Michigan Works! Services Providers and Agency Staff shall take the appropriate actions necessary to implement the directives of this policy issuance. Service Providers officials shall ensure the information contained in this policy is disseminated to all appropriate staff.

INQUIRIES: Questions regarding this policy issuance should be directed to the Program and Data Manager 810-233-5974 Ext. 102 or Program Manager 989-635-3561 Ext. 230.

SIGNED:



Jody L. Kerbyson, C.E.O.
GST Michigan Works!

8-17-2023

Date