

## 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. All efforts should be made to disburse the grant funds to the provider of a service, instead of to the student. Examples include paying a mechanic directly for auto repairs, or an eyeglasses provider for a new pair of glasses for a student. WDBs should ensure Finish Line Grant funding does not duplicate assistance from another source.

### 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.** Finish Line Grant funds may be used for car repairs of a student’s personal vehicle or of the vehicle the student uses to travel to or from the community college program or class on a regular basis. Auto repair may not exceed the value of the vehicle. Finish Line Grant partnerships should work with the student to determine whether the student has better alternative transportation options as far as cost and reliability.

**Child Care.** Finish Line Grants may be used for child care assistance for children ages 12 and under who reside in the home of the student. 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 student meet their family care needs during participation in their educational activities. Dependent care service providers should be selected by the student.

**Housing Assistance.** Finish Line Grants may be used to provide housing assistance that 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.

**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. A referral to Vocational Rehabilitation may also be appropriate.

**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.

**Internet.** Finish Line Grants may be used to pay an internet service bill or to set up internet service needed for current course work. In some cases, it may be difficult to avoid payment for “bundled services” that include cable television, etc., rather than solely internet service. WDBs should be mindful that often the entire bundled service must be paid to keep internet functioning, and therefore, should not disqualify students from receiving a FLG due to bundled service.

**Medical Needs.** Finish Line Grants may be used for medical needs that jeopardize a student’s ability to complete their training. This may include the medical needs of a dependent child, provided that the student provides sufficient proof of dependent status and medical need as determined by the WDB.

**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

As additions or updates are made to this document they will be available on the NC Department of Commerce website – [www.nccommerce.com/workforce](http://www.nccommerce.com/workforce)