

21st Century SKILLS Act

Section by Section

Section Two

- Outlines a variety of Congressional findings.

Section Three

- Establishes Skills Training Grants by amending existing Individual Training Accounts under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- Clarifies that only new mandatory funds can be used for training services except the discretionary funds appropriated for statewide activities under Adult, Dislocated, and Youth Services, and permissible local activities, evaluations, and research, and the national dislocated worker grants can be used for training services.
- Allocates funding to support training services, supportive services, and career services for:
 - adults or dislocated workers;
 - individuals eligible for or receiving unemployment compensation;
 - individuals employed for at least 6 of the last 12 months and have an income that is not more than 100 percent of their state's median income; or
 - members of a household with an adjusted gross income of not more than \$150,000.
- Directs the Secretary of the Department of Labor to establish arrangements by which local boards obtain payments for the costs of providing training and supportive services through skills training grants or contract programs.
- Directs the Secretary of the Department of Labor to provide an additional sum equal to 10 percent of the amount to the local board to pay for:
 - career services;
 - making services available outside of traditional working hours;
 - providing usable and understandable information to grant recipients on the local availability of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs and their costs as compared to other training programs provided through eligible providers of training services;
 - providing usable and understandable information to grant recipients on apprenticeship programs in industries that have not been traditionally used; and
 - building relationships between local boards and local eligible providers of training services.
- Clarifies that an eligible individual seeking training services may select an eligible training service provider from an approved list and in consultation with a career counselor. It states that – upon selection – the local board shall establish a skills training grant for the individual that allows them to pay for their selected services and any approved supportive services (i.e. child care, transportation, educational materials, examination fees, etc.).
- Established that the local board is the fiscal entity to hold and administer the skills training grant funds for participants.

- States that individuals seeking training services shall receive:
 - \$10,000 if the individual is a dislocated worker or is a low-income individual;
 - \$8,000 if the individual has a household income more than 100 percent – but not more than 150 percent – of the poverty line; or
 - \$6,000 if the individual has a household income more than 150 percent– but not more than 200 percent – of the poverty line.
- Tags the amounts for skills training grants to inflation, using the Consumer Price Index.
- Creates a limit on training provider program costs by capping federal funds to costs of a similar training program at a local community college. Any additional costs can be paid for by an employer.
- Restricts the use of a Skills Training Grant to within 3 months after receiving the grant and cannot be eligible for a new grant for another 5 years.
- Gives authority to the Governor to establish levels of performance in accordance with the primary indicators of performance under Section 116, except the measurable skills gain and employer satisfaction measures.
- Authorized mandatory appropriations for Skills Training Grants.

Section Four

- Directs the Secretary of the Department of Labor to update the CareerOneStop website to contain a new Skills Training Grant Portal, a list of approved training providers, information on programs of training services, tools for eligible individuals, and resources for providers of training services.