

Subsidized Temporary Work Experiences for Unemployed Adults and RI Employers

Terms and Conditions of RI Work Immersion Program
Fiscal Year 2015: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Under the RI Work Immersion Program, the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) provides partial wage reimbursements to RI employers that provide temporary work experiences to unemployed adults.

Who is eligible to participate?

- ❖ Any Rhode Island resident who
 - is at least 18 years of age;
 - is unemployed (either collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits OR has received no wages for at least six weeks prior to applying to participate in the Work Immersion Program); and
 - has received pre-employment services within three months prior to the start of the temporary work experience. Pre-employment services include skills training, career coaching, work readiness training, adult education services, assistance with resume writing, interview skills, job search, or other related activities.
- ❖ Any employer (for-profit, not-for-profit, or public sector) that is doing business in RI

What activities are eligible for reimbursement?

- ❖ In order for a temporary work experience to qualify for reimbursement under the RI Work Immersion Program, the activity must:
 - provide the unemployed adult with a meaningful work opportunity
 - increase the employability of the unemployed adult
 - offer the unemployed adult 60-400 hours of paid employment
 - pay an hourly wage equal to or greater than the RI minimum wage
 - assist the employer by preparing unemployed adults for potential employment¹

How does an employer obtain reimbursement for providing a temporary work experience?

- ❖ The GWB will reimburse an employer for 50% of wages paid (maximum wage rate = \$20/hour) for an eligible temporary work experience of 60-400 hours of work
- ❖ In the event that the employer hires and retains the unemployed adult for 12 weeks beyond the completion of the temporary work experience, the GWB will reimburse the wages paid during the temporary work experience by an additional 25%
- ❖ To obtain reimbursement, the employer must:
 - *Before the temporary work experience:* Obtain pre-approval from the GWB. Pre-approval will ordinarily be granted within two weeks of receipt of the attached pre-approval form.
 - *After the temporary work experience:*
 - submit an evaluation form completed by the employer and the unemployed adult to the GWB; and
 - submit relevant wage records to the GWB

How can an employer find a participant for a temporary work experience?

Employers that are interested in providing a temporary work experience to an unemployed adult may contact netWORKri, the Business Workforce Center, or a community-based provider of pre-employment services.

For more information about the RI Work Immersion Program and the pre-approval form, go to www.gwb.ri.gov/internships.htm or contact the Governor's Workforce Board at 401-462-8864.

¹ Employers are not obligated to hire unemployed adults upon completion of the temporary work experience