



QUALITY JOBS

PURPOSE

This policy provides guidance on quality jobs.

SCOPE

The Workforce Development Board of Ventura County (WDBVC) and its contractors and subrecipients.

REFERENCES

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Public Law 113-128

POLICY

Through WIOA, states and local areas can leverage workforce training funds to improve the quality of front-line jobs. WIOA's increased emphasis on work-based learning models, incumbent worker training, and on-the-job training grants—coupled with state and local options under the law to set standards for employer participation in such programs—create new partnership opportunities with high-road employers, enabling workers to earn while they learn as well as promoting improved job quality.

State and local WIOA programs offer employment and training services that help workers—especially low-income individuals and those with barriers to employment—improve their skills and succeed in the labor market. However, many WIOA participants are placed in low-wage jobs with no benefits, no paid leave, and unfair scheduling practices. Such low-quality jobs have high turnover, hurting workers and programs. When former WIOA participants quickly leave jobs that lack benefits or workplace protections, they lose wages, experience job dislocation, and churn back to the workforce system—leaving participants worse off and squandering limited WIOA resources.

This policy sets job quality criteria for employers to receive work-based training placements and establishes job quality standards as part of the performance expectations for WDBVC contractors and subrecipients.

This policy is based on the National Fund's [Job Design Framework](#). The framework allows staff to choose the combination of items that best fit the needs of their customers. It is vital for staff to understand what comprises each element of the chart in Attachment I. The framework is divided into three categories that go into designing a good job: Foundational, Support, and Opportunity. Each of these categories, and the elements within, are important to understand when connecting customers with good jobs.

The Workforce Development Board of Ventura County is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

With this information at hand, staff shall ensure the jobs that they are connecting their customers with contain elements described in the framework.

Foundational

This category includes many of the basic elements of a job that any of us would expect walking into our workplace. Together, these define our core, everyday relationship with our employer.

Compensation

Job Design Element	Definition
Wages	<p>Competitive wages above the industry standard. Wages are sufficient to provide the necessities and comforts essential to an acceptable standard of living or “living wage”.</p> <p>Resource: MIT Living Wage Calculator</p>
Benefits	<p>A form of compensation paid by employers to employees over and above regular salary or wages. There is a distinction between core benefits such as health insurance, retirement, and insurance for injured workers and optional benefits, such as vision, dental or life insurance, or PTO, education and training, and income smoothing tools or wage insurance.</p> <p>Resource: Portable benefits resource guide from ASPEN</p>
Financial Incentives	<p>Process of sharing company profits with employees, whether it’s through stock options, bonuses tied to acquisition of skills, equity sharing, or employee-owned companies. It serves as a way to engage and encourage employees to hold a vested interest in the wellbeing of the company. There are many ways to allocate profits but the downside to these efforts occur when a company is not doing well or access/percentage of allowable investments are only tied to salary.</p> <p>Resource: Article “How Employee Stock Options Work in Startup Companies”</p>
Employee Loans	<p>Employer-based small dollar, low interest, non-predatory loans extended to employees with steady income. Loans allow employees to access financial resources to respond to an emergency or purchase cars, build credit, etc. Loans may be offered directly by the company, or through an institutional lender, such as a credit union. In the latter case, the company may guarantee the loans, or the lender may bear the sole risk.</p>

	<p>Resource: Biztiks: Talent Management for Small Business Income Advance Guide</p>
<p>Access to Cash Within Pay Period</p>	<p>One form of payroll innovation whereby workers, in between paychecks, have immediate access to funds they have already earned within that pay period; rescheduling paydays to better align with expenses like rent, and customizing paychecks so that bills, debt payments, and other expenses are deducted automatically.</p> <p>Resource: EPIC Payroll</p>

Fundamentals

Job Design Element	Definition
Safety	Per the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) assures the safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and by providing training, outreach and assistance.
Fairness	Fairness refers to both federal laws that protect workers against discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, (including pregnancy, gender identity and sexual orientation) national origin, age, disability, or genetic information. It is also illegal to discriminate against a person because the person complained about discrimination, filed a charge of discrimination, or participated in an employment discrimination investigation or lawsuit. The laws apply to all types of work situations, including hiring, firing, promotions, scheduling and work assignments, harassment, training, wages, and benefits.
Respect	A workplace culture that provides emotional and physical safety, inclusive of employees at all levels. Also incorporates a feeling of being valued, as both an individual, and for the work completed. For example, millennials gain and experience respect differently than baby boomers or other generations.
Job Security	The assurance that an individual’s job/department/position will be available for the medium to long-term. An effort on behalf of the employer to ensure that job losses are mitigated either by retraining or upskilling to a different position within the same company, or a similar position with a different company.

<p>Grievance Procedure</p>	<p>The process and ability of a workplace to handle grievances fairly, without repercussion to a worker who filed a grievance. A functional grievance process should identify a key point(s) of contact, identify specific steps an employee should take prior to filing the grievance, determine how to handle the filing and documentation of the grievance and determine the follow-through process. Formal representation through union affiliation typically provides third-party processes for grievance procedures.</p>
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Structure

<p>Job Design Element</p>	<p>Definition</p>
<p>Open Communication</p>	<p>How management communicates to frontline workers and among peers—and in turn, how employees communicate with management and co-workers. How information is conveyed by corporate and the most effective ways to reach employees about advanced skill development. Can also refer to clear communication about company values and mission.</p>
<p>Scheduling</p>	<p>Scheduling practices that take into account employee input, give ample notice—typically at least two weeks—to employees to plan accordingly and can accommodate workers who need flexible hours as well as those who require a more consistent work schedule. Also includes scheduling that is in line with worker needs in terms of providing the minimum hours required for benefits, full-time status and other incentives.</p> <p>Resource: FSG’s Investing in Entry-Level Talent: Retention Strategies that Work</p>
<p>Stable Hours</p>	<p>Working hours that are conducive to a work-life balance, take into account family schedules and that affords an individual the number of hours needed to earn a livable wage. (e.g., not splitting hours among many part-time employees when there are workers who would like full-time work for the purposes of cutting down on benefits such as healthcare costs.) No mandatory overtime.</p>

Support

This category includes assistance to help us perform our job well, and to help us achieve stability outside the workplace.

Training

Job Design Element	Definition
Entry-Level	Adequate training in order to perform a job at time of entry into position in a satisfactory manner. Also speaks to engagement since entry-level employees quoted by FSG study indicated that they felt most supported in their work when adequate training was provided in tandem with other workplace supports such as clarity of roles and acknowledgment and celebration of their accomplishments. Best practices include formal training and coaching and proper supervision.
Specialized	Gaining additional training and/or cross training to do more specialized tasks leading to wage gain and greater responsibility. E.g., Walmart Academies that focus on hourly retail managers and supervisors.

Internal Assistance

Job Design Element	Definition
Supervisory Training	<p>Frontline managers and supervisors are provided training to learn how to coach and support their frontline workers leading to greater job satisfaction, better performance and overall organizational effectiveness. Includes supervisors acquiring skills of listening, communicating, emotional self-management and problem-solving—and then in turn building those same skills in their frontline supervisees.</p> <p>Resource: FSG's Investing in Entry-Level Talent: Retention Strategies that Work</p>
Job Coaching	Research has shown that 80% of learning happens on the job with a direct supervisor or peer providing guidance in “real-life” situations. Companies that provide training to their supervisors to be able to provide this level of support show greater retention and productivity than those who do not. Job coaching can also prove particularly useful when working with individuals who have learning and other developmental disabilities.
Peer Mentors	Peer mentors are co-workers made available to new employees to provide support, encouragement, and information. Often they receive training to serve in their capacity as peer mentors and in some cases, receive additional compensation. Peer mentors can also be utilized to educate and train employees within the company and develop

	<p>leadership and management skills. Peer mentors have been found to reduce turnover and save time typically spent on formal training. This is an effective tool for all populations but in particular, for women and people of color to help navigate workplace culture and increase resilience.</p>
<p>Team Development</p>	<p>Formal development of teams to improve productivity, communication, and overall impact in the workplace. Recognition that all workers contribute to the success of a team.</p>
<p>Financial Counseling/Wellness</p>	<p>Financial wellness refers to an individual’s overall financial condition. The CFPB has identified the following 4 markers as indicative of financial health; 1) Having control over day to day and month to month finances; 2) having the capability to absorb a financial shock, 3) are on track to meet financial goals, and 4) having the financial freedom that allows one to enjoy life. Employers offer financial wellness programs and benefits such as financial counseling/coaching, debt management services, savings products, short-term loans, financial education, etc.</p>

External Linkages

<p>Job Design Element</p>	<p>Definition</p>
<p>Tax Credits</p>	<p>Access to and education about tax credits that benefit families such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and Additional Child Tax Credit.</p>
<p>Childcare</p>	<p>Assistance in procuring, paying for, and/or providing childcare to working families.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Assistance in offsetting costs and providing access to reliable transportation. For example, some companies with hours beyond public transportation have contracted with companies such as Uber, or rental car companies to provide workers with transportation to and from work.</p>
<p>HR Services</p>	<p>Employers offer HR services to their employees at all levels, including documented policies and procedures. While many small companies/businesses do not have HR on staff, they can be part of a Professional Employer Organization (PEO) or small business alliance in order to offer these services. Additionally, employers can offer Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) that are typically third-party resource and referral services to address issues such as domestic violence, drug, and alcohol abuse, etc. There is a growing trend of</p>

	employers contracting with non-profit organizations like WorkLife Partnership or The SOURCE to provide targeted case management services to employees and connect them with available public benefits.
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Opportunity

This category includes an array of ways in which an employer can help us advance in our career and develop as an individual.

Career Development

Job Design Element	Definition
Cross Training	Training provided for workers across varying roles and responsibilities to allow for greater depth in knowledge of a particular company or industry. Typically this type of training allows for greater opportunity for advancement including lateral moves into different job families, while at the same time, providing the company greater and more flexible productive capacity.
Advancement	Employers offer opportunities for, and a clear path to, advancement within the company or industry. Advancement is aligned to wage gain, increased competency, and responsibilities. Career pathways are defined and workers are supported in their desire to pursue advancement through additional education, training, experience, etc.
Educational Benefits	Employers pay the cost of advanced education and training to support employee career development. Employers pay costs directly or offer tuition reimbursement programs. Some programs tie assistance to occupations/career tracks in high demand by employer. Resource: Lumina ROI Study – Cigna

Acknowledgment

Job Design Element	Definition
Internal Recognition	Providing some form of recognition, celebration and/or incentive program for employees for their accomplishments within the company.

	Resource: FSG’s Investing in Entry-Level Talent: Retention Strategies that Work
External Recognition	Providing recognition, celebration and/or incentive program for employees for their accomplishments with an outside audience, or for achievements gained outside of the workplace such as the attainment of a degree or for voluntary service. Can also be achieved indirectly, by involving employees in external business events, sales visits, industry conferences, etc.
Leveling of Perks	Making benefits and advancement opportunities available to all staff, and in particular, removing “executive perks,” such as reserved parking for managers, that reinforce “superior/inferior” class distinctions among employees.

Engagement

Job Design Element	Definition
Participation	Recognition that workers offer expertise, ideas, and input that can contribute positively to company or business decisions. Providing opportunity for workers to participate in innovation, solving problems, designing processes and developing products and services. Resource: Universal Wood Case Study
Self-Managed Teams	Interdependent, highly trained team members who are mutually responsible and accountable for managing the quality of work that needs to be done to exceed customer’s expectations and contribute to the success of the business resulting in a flat and lean organizational structure. Resource: Universal Wood Case Study
Representation	Unions, resource groups or employee councils serve to represent employees at all levels to management. Can serve as a governance body used to support employees, negotiate benefits, establish standards of service, etc..(e.g. frontline workers get together to make a calculated ask, such as childcare request at Home Depot.)
Mattering	Individuals “attach” to organizations when they feel needed by another person or persons within that group. When the individual knows that what he or she does “matters” to someone else, they are more likely to

	<p>act as a supportive group member. For example, if you know your co-workers are relying on you to play a certain role on their team—that what you do really “matters” to them—you are much more likely to show up for work tomorrow morning. For the helping professions (e.g., direct-care workers, childcare workers), those frontline staff know they “matter” deeply to their clients—that they are a true lifeline for their clients’ and students’ safety and development.</p> <p>Resource: FSG’s Investing in Entry-Level Talent: Retention Strategies that Work</p> <p>Resource: Marginality and Mattering: Key Issues in Building Community (Excerpted from New Directions for Student Services, No. 48, by Nancy K. Schlossberg, 1989)</p>
<p>Pride</p>	<p>Pride in the quality of one’s own work, and as a competency or behavior serving as an indicator of ownership and engagement in the company.</p>
<p>Ownership</p>	<p>Varying degrees of ownership by employees. Companies can be worker cooperatives, Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOP’s), employee trusts, stock bonus plans and profit sharing, broad-based individual equity plans, and stock purchase plans. Generally, these types of companies have lower turnover, higher employee engagement, greater productivity, and greater ability to withstand economic downturns.</p>

ACTION

Bring this policy to the attention of all affected staff.

INQUIRIES

Inquiries regarding this policy can be addressed to the WDBVC at 805-477-5306.

/S/ Rebecca Evans, Executive Director
 Workforce Development Board of Ventura County

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment I - Job Design Framework