

## OWIP 2.0 Frequently Asked Questions

The Ohio Works Incentive Program (OWIP) was launched in 2013 to provide funding to local areas for job placement and retention of Ohio Works First (OWF) recipients. Effective July 1, 2016, the target population for OWIP is recipients of OWF cash assistance age 25 or older. This is due to the launch of the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP) which provides additional funding to counties and local areas to serve youth age 16 through 24. Below are responses to Frequently Asked Questions related to this new program focus and eligibility requirements.

**Q1). Who is eligible for OWIP beginning on 7/1/2016?**

A1). To qualify for OWIP 2.0, the participant must:

- Be receiving OWF cash assistance at the time of job placement;
- Have a minor child, be pregnant, or be paying child support for a child living in Ohio;
- Be age 25 or older; and
- Not be participating in CCMEP funded services.

**Q2). Our area placed a 20-year-old TANF recipient in a job in May 2016 and earned the Track A placement incentive. Can we still invoice for his 90-day OWIP retention bonus which will be payable in August 2016?**

A2). No. The Track A participant must be served under the CCMEP program beginning on July 1, 2016. Areas cannot receive CCMEP funds and invoice for OWIP incentives for the same participant.

**Q3). Same scenario as above, but the 20-year-old participant is in OWIP Track B, over income for OWF cash, and not in need of CCMEP services. Can we still receive the 90-day and 180-day OWIP retention payment(s) even though the participant is under age 25?**

A3). Yes, if the area placed the OWIP participant into a job that qualifies for the Track B placement incentive prior to July 1, 2016 and does not enroll the participant into CCMEP, the area has met the intent of OWIP and may invoice for Track B retention incentives for a participant who remains employed. All invoices for Track B retention incentives payable to OWIP participants under age 25 must be submitted to ODJFS by January 31, 2017.

**Q4). One of our CCMEP participants turned 25 but will remain in CCMEP until after she finds a job. When she is placed, can we invoice for an OWIP incentive even though she continues to be served under CCMEP?**

A4). No, recipients of CCMEP services are not eligible for OWIP even if they are over age 24.

**Q5). Are there any changes to the OWIP invoicing process to implement the new requirements?**

A5). Yes, for OWIP incentives earned after July 1, 2016, a new version of the *Payment Point Tracking* spreadsheet will require entry of each participant's date of birth. Also a new version of the *Invoice Summary* template requires the area's authorized representative to check a box certifying that participants met the age requirement. The new versions of these templates are posted on the OWIP web page at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/Initiatives/OWIP.stm>. The area may continue to use the old versions of these forms for incentives earned prior to July 1, 2016.

**Q6). What documentation must we submit to verify participants meet the new age requirement?**

A6). No documentation of age is necessary for OWIP incentive invoices. ODJFS will accept the entry of the participant's date of birth and certification by the authorized representative as described above, and will review cases through the monitoring process to ensure eligibility was established correctly.

**Q7). When will OWIP terminate?**

A7). Barring any changes to current planning, the OWIP program is expected to end on 6/30/2017. Any OWIP incentives earned after that date, including retention incentives for participants who were placed prior to 6/30/2017, will not be paid. Areas will have 90 days following the end-date to submit final invoices for all incentives earned prior to 6/30/2017. Any changes to the program's planned end-date will be posted to the OWIP web page – see link below.

**Q8). Where can we find more information on OWIP 2.0?**

A8). The OWIP web page at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/Initiatives/OWIP.stm> contains a wealth of resources explaining OWIP in general and the new requirements effective July 1, 2016. Also local areas may continue to e-mail questions to [OWIP@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:OWIP@jfs.ohio.gov), the same e-mail address where the invoices should continue to be sent.