PURPOSE:
The purpose of this policy is to describe the compensation and milestone requirements for the Pierce County Behavioral Health Consortium earn and learn stipend model.

BACKGROUND:
The Pierce County Behavioral Health Consortium, comprised of behavioral health providers and training organizations across Pierce County, supports the connectedness and development of behavioral health provider organizations, and will enable collaborative, real time piloting and assessment of behavioral health workforce development strategies to grow and retain the local behavioral health workforce.

A component of the behavioral health workforce development strategy is the implementation of an earn and learn model where qualified interns receive stipends for milestone accomplishments earned during the course of their behavioral health training program.

POLICY:
Participants who are interning in the behavioral health field and employees of Pierce County behavioral health organizations are eligible to receive stipends for participation in behavioral health workforce training and for providing real time feedback in the implementation of behavioral health workforce development strategies. WorkForce Central must first receive confirmation from the Pierce County behavioral health organization of an interns placement or employment prior to the intern or employee receiving stipends.

Participants are eligible for $200 monthly stipends, or more frequently based on individual achievements, while interning or on track to earning their licensure in the behavioral health field. Additional stipends of $100 may be available for participation in outreach and communication activities such as sharing success stories and providing mentorship activities. The average amount of stipend an intern is eligible to receive is $1,600.
Participants must provide WorkForce Central verification of their training, outreach, or communication activities prior to receiving a stipend.

Written exceptions to this policy may be approved by the WorkForce Central Behavior Health contract manager.

APPROVED

Katie Condit, WorkForce Central CEO  Date

Jan 19, 2024