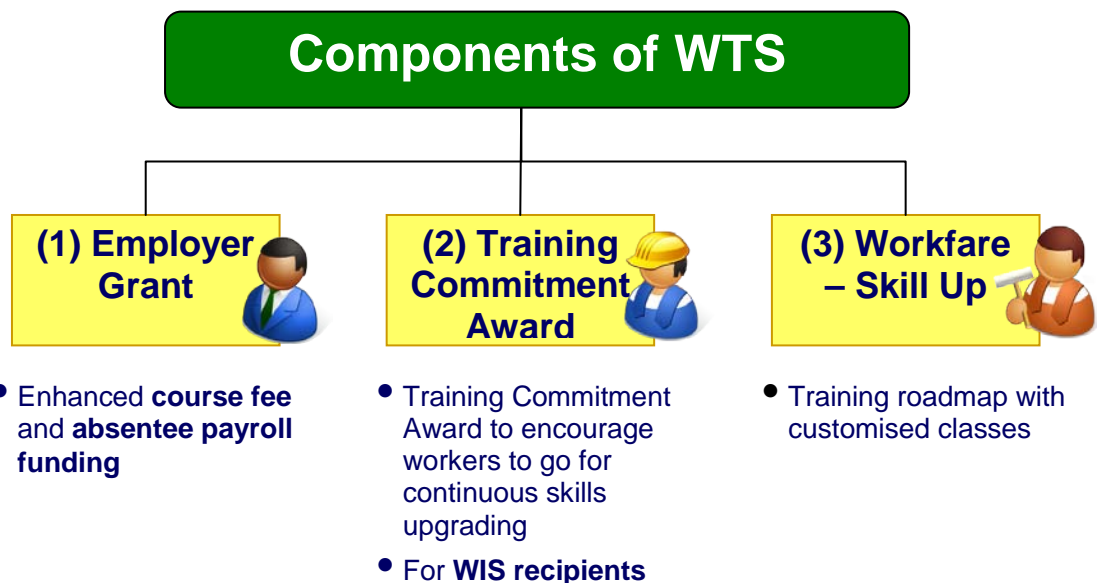


FACTSHEET - WORKFARE TRAINING SCHEME

The Workfare Training Scheme (WTS) was introduced by the Government in the 2010 Budget to complement the Workfare Income Supplement (WIS).

While WIS encourages older low-wage workers to work by supplementing their income and retirement savings, WTS encourages them to upgrade their skills through training, so that they can improve their employability, upgrade to better jobs and earn more. WTS provides incentives for employers to send their older low-wage workers for training, and for these workers to go for and complete training.

WTS will come into effect from 1 July 2010 and will run for a period of three years. It will cover training courses offered under the Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) System, including Employability Skills (ES) training courses. For a list of WSQ / ES courses, please visit www.wda.gov.sg or call the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA)'s hotline at 68835885.



Employer Grant

The Employer Grant encourages employers to send their older low-wage workers for skills training.

The employer grant is applicable for employer-sponsored training of workers who are Singapore Citizens aged 35 years old and above, earning up to \$1,700 per month.

Employers will be able to enjoy the grant for training that commences from 1 July 2010 onwards. They can claim the subsidy by applying through the SkillsConnect system at www.skillsconnect.gov.sg

Funding Rates Under WTS Employer Grant

Employees who are Singapore Citizens	Course Fee	Absentee Payroll
≥ 35 years old; earning ≤ \$1,400 per month	95% (without dollar cap)	95% (without dollar cap)
≥ 35 years old; earning > \$1,400 to ≤ \$1,700 per month	90% (without dollar cap)	90% (without dollar cap)

Training Commitment Award

The Training Commitment Award (TCA) encourages older low-wage workers to continue training while they are working.

WIS recipients are eligible for a \$200 TCA for every two Statements of Attainment (SOA) they obtain for ES or WSQ training within a one-year rolling period, starting 1 July 2010.¹ They are also eligible for an additional \$200 training commitment award if they obtain a full WSQ qualification. The total award that a worker can receive in a year is capped at \$400.

TCA will be paid automatically along with the recipient's WIS, as long as he fulfills the eligibility criteria for Training Commitment Award and WIS. Recipients will be notified of their TCA and WIS payments in March and September through post every year.

Workfare – Skill Up

The Workfare – Skill Up programme takes a holistic approach to help low-wage workers, especially those without secondary education. It is designed to help low-wage workers overcome training barriers and helps them attain literacy and workplace skills, before they are extended assistance with finding jobs. Trainees will also be provided with assistance to help defray their opportunity costs. WDA will work with NTUC's Employment and Employability Institute (e2i) and the Community Development Councils to jointly administer the programme.

Key elements of the programme include:

- Motivational workshops
- Cohort mentoring
- Workplace literacy & Generic / Soft skills training
- Vocational industry skills training
- Training allowances and milestone awards
- Dedicated job placement services

More details on the Workfare – Skill Up programme will be available closer to the launch date of 1 July 2010.

¹ To recognise low-wage workers' recent training efforts, a maximum of two SOAs completed in the 12-month period between 1 Jul 09 and 30 Jun 2010 will be recognized for the first payout in 2010.