

January 22, 1999

RESPONSE DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15TH

MEMORANDUM

TO: Coordinators
Perkins Single Parents/Displaced Homemaker Grants

FROM: Doris Jacobs

SUBJECT: IMPENDING TERMINATION OF PERKINS SINGLE PARENT SET-ASIDES

As you know, we have been operating for the past two-and-a-half years under the old Perkins Act, which allowed us to use some \$1.8 million for child care, tuition, and other items for single parents. That act (Perkins II) was reauthorized this summer with "Perkins III." This reauthorization, The Carl D. Perkins Vocational And Technical Education Act of 1998, has not designated any money for single parents or for student support services that we are at this point able to identify.

Although we ordinarily have a year's transition between old acts and their reauthorization, the Department of Education informed us just last month that we cannot spend Perkins money in the old way for 1999-2000. This means that ***beginning July 1, 1999 we will not have any Perkins money to support child care or other services for single parents.*** It follows, then, that there will not be a request for proposals from this office as usual for this time next year.

Some bright spots do exist, however. I am told that there is money in Title I of the Workforce Investment Act for child care, transportation and tuition. This will be available through your One-Stop Centers. The best I can do to help you inform yourself is to point you toward your president as well as to the campus director of your local one-stop. You might also be interested in a newly published book entitled, "One-Stop Guide to the Perkins Act of 1998," by Michael Brustein, Esq. And Marty Mahler, Ph.D. This has a discussion of both the Perkins and the Workforce Investment Acts alongside their respective legislation.

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I might also add that as a last-ditch effort, we have asked Washington to investigate whether there are any student support dollars of any kind in Perkins. The Department of Education is asking its legal team for an interpretation. If they find anything, we will let you know. But the main message of this letter is that you should start looking for other sources of student support money. They are there, but they will not be presented to us in the manner that we have grown so comfortable with.

Finally, let me add that what you have done with the Perkins program has been amazing. Remember that the original intention when we began in 1985 was to increase the retention of single parents. You have done exactly that with your programs and your tender loving care. Historically the program retention has run some twenty-five percentage points higher than that of all students in the applied science curricula. And it has run some thirty or forty percentage points higher for our grant students than for those who receive child care from some other source. This year our program retention rate climbed to 80% for child care recipients, 76% for recipients of other support. This is higher than ever, especially notable for a year when the national and state economies were so healthy. If you would like a copy of your program's retention and expenditure rates compared with those of the system, please let me know.

Please fill in the attached sheet to let me know that you actually received this letter and understand next year's situation. Let me have this back from you, please, by February 15. If I do not hear from you by then, I will call you to make sure that you get this important information.

I wish you the best of luck. If you can think of a way that I can be helpful to you, please let me know.

Attachment

S99-006
Paper Copy

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PERKINS SINGLE PARENT PROGRAM
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999

I have read and understood that as of July 1, 1999, no Perkins money will be available to support our single parent and displaced homemaker students.

Signature, program coordinator

College