

Effective 5/8/2018

53B-18-1501 Remote online opportunities -- Pilot program -- Report to Legislature.

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Association of governments" means an association of political subdivisions established pursuant to an interlocal agreement under Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act.
 - (b) "Pilot program" means the pilot program administered by Utah State University in accordance with this section.
 - (c) "Remote online opportunity" means employment, including freelance employment, or the operation of an online business for which an individual:
 - (i) can complete duties primarily online; and
 - (ii) is not required to work from a specific geographic location.
- (2)
 - (a) Subject to legislative appropriations, Utah State University, through a county extension office, shall administer a pilot program that helps individuals who live in rural areas access remote online opportunities.
 - (b) In administering the pilot program, Utah State University shall consider input from a county located in a geographic area selected for the pilot program under Subsection (4).
- (3) Utah State University shall, as part of the pilot program:
 - (a) provide training modules to adults and high school students;
 - (b) coordinate with rural high schools and postsecondary institutions;
 - (c) develop marketing materials;
 - (d) develop relationships with information technology companies that offer remote online opportunities;
 - (e) partner with websites that list freelance remote online opportunities;
 - (f) provide scholarships for individuals who live in rural areas to access online skill-based training for remote online opportunities;
 - (g) provide one-on-one coaching for an individual who pursues a remote online opportunity; and
 - (h) conduct other activities related to remote online opportunities as determined by Utah State University.
- (4)
 - (a) Utah State University shall administer the pilot program:
 - (i) in at least one geographic area in the state initially; and
 - (ii) in additional geographic areas if resources allow.
 - (b) In determining where to initially administer the pilot program, Utah State University shall consider whether counties in a geographic area:
 - (i) are primarily rural or have remote rural areas;
 - (ii) face high unemployment rates;
 - (iii) have access to high speed Internet;
 - (iv) have a large percentage of high school graduates leave the geographic area after graduating from high school; and
 - (v) are members of an association of governments that supports helping individuals who live in rural areas access remote online opportunities.
- (5) On or before November 1, 2020, Utah State University shall report to the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee on:
 - (a) the number of individuals who receive training through the pilot program;
 - (b) the number and percentage of individuals who participate in the pilot program and access a remote online opportunity; and

(c) whether there is a reduction in the unemployment rate in a geographic area included in the pilot program.

Enacted by Chapter 385, 2018 General Session