

871—77.17(84H) Award of technical assistance funds.

77.17(1) Awards. Technical assistance funds may be used for specialized consulting services as determined necessary by the counselor, the business development specialist, and the job candidate. Technical assistance funds may be awarded, based on need, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per applicant. Specialized technical assistance may include, but is not limited to, engineering, legal, accounting, and computer services and other consulting services that require specialized education and training.

77.17(2) Technical assistance. When technical assistance is needed for specialized services beyond the expertise of the business development specialist, technical assistance will be provided to assist the job candidate.

77.17(3) Technical assistance contracts. The division shall negotiate contracts with qualified consultants for delivery of services to an applicant if specialized services are deemed necessary. The contracts are to state hourly fees for services, the type of service to be provided, and a timeline for delivery of services. Authorization of payment will be made by a counselor employed by the division or the department for the blind based upon the negotiated rate as noted in the contract. A copy of each contract will be filed with the division.

77.17(4) Consultants. Applicants will be provided a list of qualified business consultants by the business development specialist if specialized consultation services are necessary. The selection of the consultant(s) is the responsibility of the applicant.

77.17(5) Case management. The business development specialist or counselor will be available as needed for direct consultation to each applicant to ensure that quality services for business planning are provided in a timely manner.

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