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Department of Labor

DREAM IT, PLAN IT, MAKE IT HAPPEN WIOA Title IB Youth & Young Adult Program

WHAT ARE WIOA YOUTH PROGRAMS?

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title IB Youth Programs serve youth and young adults who face barriers to employment and education. The programs work with participants to build the skills necessary to explore and develop careers, pursue education and occupational skills training, and gain work experiences and employment.

WHAT SERVICES DO WIOA YOUTH PROGRAMS OFFER?

WIOA Youth programs foster a supportive environment for youth and young adults to develop their career pathways with avenues for career exploration, awareness, guidance, and counseling. The programs focus on the following services:

EDUCATION:

- Providing educational opportunities leading to a high school diploma or equivalency
- Developing skills for basic and English-language learners
- Guiding with post-secondary transition, technical training, or apprenticeships

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING:

- Providing work readiness and financial literacy training
- Connecting youth with paid and unpaid work experiences
- Supporting occupational skills trainings leading to industry-recognized credentials
- Facilitating career exploration and development

LEADERSHIP & LIFE SKILLS:

- Cultivating entrepreneurial skills
- Connecting participants with mentors
- Offering peer learning opportunities
- Supporting civic engagement

WIOA Youth Programs also link youth to support services, such as drug, alcohol, and mental health treatment. The programs facilitate connections with community organizations and address barriers with accessible transportation or childcare.

Experience the WIOA program with this video:
tinyurl.com/WIOAYouthProgram

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

Out-of-school youth ages 16-24 and in-school youth ages 14-21 years old, who experience at least one of the qualifying barriers to employment and education. Examples of barriers include:

- Pregnancy
- Parenting
- Disability
- Low-income
- Homeless/runaway
- Basic skills deficiency
- High school drop-out
- English as a second language
- Involvement in foster care or the justice system

To learn more, view the Youth Program Eligibility Brief at:
dol.ny.gov/wioa-title-1-youth-program-eligibility-brief

WHY CHOOSE A WIOA YOUTH PROGRAM?

WIOA Youth Programs uniquely integrate the needs, goals, and strengths of young people with youth voice and culture and provide services such as:

- Academic, career, and occupational assessments
- Career exploration with online platforms, field trips, business panels, etc.
- Development of career goals for in-demand jobs
- A safe, social setting that creates a sense of belonging and builds leadership capacity
- Engaging in peer group activities such as game nights, job clubs, and life-skills workshops
- Continual support and follow-up for career navigation and planning, for at least a year

WHAT ABOUT EMPLOYMENT OR INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES?

WIOA Youth Programs are heavily invested in providing hands-on, paid or unpaid work experiences, such as internships, job shadowing, and on-the-job training, as well as pre-apprenticeship. WIOA Youth Programs are required to spend 20% of their local program funding on providing diverse and accessible work experience opportunities to youth and young adults.

Work experiences help to build work readiness, as well as networking, employment, and occupational skills. These planned, structured learning experiences at workplaces cannot happen without partnerships with businesses.

If businesses and organizations are interested in placing work-ready youth, the WIOA program can pay the youth wages.

WHAT IS OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING?

Occupational Skills Training provides technical and functional skills needed by businesses in a variety of in-demand industries. WIOA Youth Program staff work with participants to plan their long-term career goals and connect them with occupational skills training.

Find more about training opportunities at:

dol.ny.gov/training-opportunities

HOW DO THE PROGRAMS MEASURE SUCCESS?

Along with participants gaining foundational life, work, and leadership skills, outcomes are measured by:

- Placement of youth in employment, education or occupational skills training
- Increase in youth's wages
- Attainment of measurable skills and industry-recognized credentials
- Engagement with businesses for employment, trainings, and work experiences

SUCCESS IN THEIR WORDS:

Michelle: "As a timid student with no idea what I'd study in college, the program helped guide the way. Not only did the program teach me how to network, improve my public speaking and write a captivating resume, but empowered me to chase my dreams." (Department of Youth & Community Development)

Quadreek: "After obtaining my Medical Office Assistant Certificate, I participated in a work experience program. This gave me the opportunity to build experience in this field. I was placed as an office assistant at a dental office. I was so successful in this position that I was asked to train the interns of the practice. After the work experience program ended, the practice hired me!" (Dutchess County Youth One-Stop)

Aaron: "This program has helped me on so many levels. It has helped me with managing my time throughout the week. It has helped me to prepare for the real working world. I am so blessed to be part of this program." (RochesterWorks! Youth Services)

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE?

WIOA Youth Programs are offered through a network of community organizations and government entities and monitored by the 33 Local Workforce Development Boards across the state. The WIOA Youth Program is funded by a federal grant of \$68,508,072, which constitutes 100% of its budget. Zero percent, or \$0 is funded by state or non-governmental sources.

To find your local WIOA Youth Program, visit:

dol.ny.gov/local-youth-assistance

The Youth & Young Adults Team at New York State Department of Labor is committed to working with youth, educators, businesses and workforce professionals to unlock the career potential of young New Yorkers.

Inspired? Questions? Need training? Want to collaborate?

Contact: YouthTeam@labor.ny.gov