

*Getting Ready for Change...*

# **Reaching and Serving Out-of-School Youth In WIOA**

- ✓ *Targeting “Disconnected Youth”*
  - ✓ *Streamlined Eligibility*
- ✓ *Service Menu (Work-Based Learning)*
- ✓ *Promising Principles and Practices*

⚡ *What's New in WIOA* ⚡

**Youth Workforce Investment Activities**

*WIOA Title I, Subtitle B, Chapter 2*

***USDOL Says:***

*“Youth services focus will be improved by placing a priority on out of school youth, high school dropout recovery and achievement of recognized postsecondary credentials.*

*Career Pathways and work-based learning will be promoted as leading approaches.”*

## Youth Customers and WIOA Eligibility

### **Out-of-School Youth:**

16 to 24

AND Not Attending Any School

AND Defined “Barrier”

*(Removes income eligibility for most “disconnected” youth)*

### **In-School Youth:**

14 to 21

AND Attending School

AND Low-Income

AND Defined “Barrier”

*(“Low Income”, includes “Free/Reduced Lunch”  
and Living in High Poverty Area)*

## **To be eligible as an out-of-school youth:**

- **Not attending any school** (as defined under State law)

**AND**

- **Not younger than age 16 or older than age 24**

**AND**

- **One or more of the following** (barrier/s):

- A school dropout
- A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter

- A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent **who is a low-income individual and is—  
basic skills deficient OR an English language learner**
- An individual subject to juvenile or adult justice system
- A homeless individual, a homeless child or youth, a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system...
- An individual who is pregnant or parenting
- A youth who is an individual with a disability
- **A low-income individual who requires additional assistance** to enter or complete an educational program or secure or hold employment

## ***Streamlined Eligibility for “Disconnected Youth”:***

To be an out-of-school youth, you must not be attending any school, be not younger than 16 or older than 24, and have at least one “barrier”

**Only two of the potential “barriers”  
require income eligibility:**

- (1) Those with a high school diploma or GED and are basic skills deficient or an English language learner
- (2) An individual “who requires additional assistance” for education or employment

**If the out-of-school youth have any of the other listed  
“barriers”, they do not have to be low-income.**

## **To be eligible as an in-school youth:**

- **Attending school** (as defined under State law)

**AND**

- **Not younger than age 14 or older than age 21**

**AND**

- **Low-Income Individual**

**AND**

- **One or more barrier/s**

**One or more of the following (barrier/s):**

- Basic skills deficient
- An English language learner
- An offender
- A homeless, a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of foster care
- Pregnant or parenting.
- A youth who is an individual with a disability.
- An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.



***WIOA Definition of “Low-Income Individual”:***

- receives or in the past 6 months has received or is a member of a family that is receiving or in the past 6 months has received, assistance through SNAP, TANF, SSI, or State or local income-based public assistance;
- is in a family with total family income that does not exceed the higher of the poverty line or 70 percent of the lower living standard income level;
- is a homeless individual or a homeless child or youth
- **receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch under National School Lunch Act**
- is a foster child
- is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the income requirement of clause

**For the WIOA Youth Program:**

***“Low-income” includes a youth living in a “high-poverty area”***

**Low-Income Exception:**

***Up to 5% of Youth Participants Do Not Have to Be Low-Income***

***When the Regulations are Issued...***

**WIOA Youth Eligibility Definitions**

- ✓ **Attending/Not Attending Any School (State Law)**
  - ✓ **Dropout**
  - ✓ **High Poverty Area**

⚡ *What's New in WIOA* ⚡

**Youth Customer and Service Priorities**

**At Least 75% of Funds Expended on Out-of-School Youth  
(30% in WIA)**

*May be reduced to 50%  
after analysis, state request, and approval by USDOL*

**New WIOA Priority on Work-Based Learning:  
At Least 20% of Funds**

Work experiences such as summer jobs, pre-apprenticeship training, OJT, and internships that have academic and occupational education as a component.

***Program Strategy:***  
**WIOA Youth Program Customers**

✓ **Ages 16 to 24**

(Big Age Span: Program Services and Strategies Vary)

✓ **Out-of-School Youth**

(High School Grads/GED and “Disconnected” Youth)

✓ **Target and Serve High School Grads/GED**

(Low-Income and Basic Skill Deficient with Documentation)

✓ **Target “Disconnected” Youth**

(Not In-School with Barrier With No Income Eligibility)

***Whom Will You Target?***

## ***Promising Practices:*** **Recruiting Out-of-School Youth**

- ✓ **Recruit in Pairs**  
(Always Ask: Who Else Do You Know?)
- ✓ **Tap Robust Social Media**  
(Seek “Friends” and Have “Followers”)
- ✓ **Develop a Peer Recruitment Team**  
(Paid “Work Experience”)
- ✓ **Link to Adult, Vocational Rehab, and TANF Programs**  
(Co-Enroll and Partner to Serve)

***What Has Worked For You?***

## Required Youth Program Design Elements:

- ✓ **Objective assessment**...for the purpose of identifying appropriate **services and career pathways** for participants
- ✓ **Service strategies** directly linked to indicators of performance and identify career pathways that include education and employment goals
- ✓ **Provide:**
  - Activities leading to the attainment of a **secondary school diploma** or recognized equivalent, or recognized **postsecondary credential**
  - Preparation for **postsecondary** educational/training opportunities
  - Strong linkages between academic instruction and occupational education that lead to recognized postsecondary credentials
  - Preparation for **unsubsidized employment opportunities**
  - **Connections to employers**, in-demand industry sectors/occups

## **Required Program Elements** *(New in WIOA in Italics)*

- 1. Tutoring**, study skills training, instruction, and *evidence-based dropout prevention and recovery strategies* that lead to completion of the requirements for a secondary school diploma *or its recognized equivalent (including a recognized certificate of attendance or similar document for individuals with disabilities)* or for a recognized postsecondary credential
- 2. Alternative secondary school** services, *or dropout recovery services*
- 3. Paid and unpaid work experiences** that have as a component academic and occupational education, which may include—summer employment opportunities and other employment opportunities available throughout the school year; pre-apprenticeship programs; internships and job shadowing; *OJT*
- 4. Occupational skill training**, *which shall include priority consideration for training programs that lead to recognized postsecondary credentials that are aligned with in-demand industry sectors or occupations*
- 5. Education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation** activities and training for a specific occupation or cluster

6. **Leadership development opportunities**, which may include community service and peer-centered activities
7. **Supportive services**
8. **Adult mentoring** for the period of participation and a subsequent period, for a total of not less than 12 months
9. **Followup services** for not less than 12 months after participation
10. **Comprehensive guidance and counseling**, which may include drug and alcohol abuse counseling and referral, as appropriate
11. *Financial literacy education*
12. *Entrepreneurial skills training*
13. *Labor market and employment information about in-demand industry sectors or occupations such as career awareness, career counseling, career exploration*
14. *Preparation for and transition to postsecondary education and training*



## ***Promising Practices: Youth Program Design***

- ✓ **Separate Youth Program Identity and Staff**  
(Youth Specialists Who Can Relate and Expend Time)
- ✓ **Seek Speed, Concurrence, and Variety in Services**  
(Capture Youth Preferences for Continuous Engagement)
- ✓ **Emphasize and Provide Work Opportunities**  
(Use Jobs as Lure, Incentive, and Reward)
- ✓ **Provide Longer, Intensive, Comprehensive Services**  
(75% of Funds, Not 75% of Participants)

***What Has Worked For You?***

## ***Reaching and Serving Out-of-School Youth in WIOA***

***Take-Aways! Best Bets! Next Steps!***