



smart
choices
today
bright
future
tomorrow



Department of
Workforce Services

Eligible Youth Ages 14-21

**WELCOME TO THE
WIA YOUTH
PROGRAM**

Expect Success!

WHAT IS THE WIA YOUTH PROGRAM?

WIA stands for the Workforce Investment Act, an education and training program provided through the Department of Workforce Services designed to assist youth between the ages of 14 and 21.

- ▶ The WIA Youth program assists and prepares youth to:
 - ▶ Develop skills to help them in becoming more employable
 - ▶ Make career choices based on personal interests and jobs that are in demand
 - ▶ Become successful as adults



HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR THE PROGRAM?

- ▶ Be between the ages of 14 and 21
- ▶ Verify citizenship or eligibility to work in the U.S.
- ▶ Verify identity (photo ID)
- ▶ Meet the WIA Youth income guidelines
- ▶ Meet the WIA Youth targeted population criteria
- ▶ Have a desire to succeed and be willing to apply yourself



WHAT ARE THE WIA YOUTH TARGET POPULATIONS?

Youth who:

- ▶ Are out of school
- ▶ Are school dropouts
- ▶ Exhibit school behavior problems
- ▶ Are basic skills deficient
- ▶ Are pregnant or parenting
- ▶ Are homeless or runaways
- ▶ Are foster children
- ▶ Aged out of foster care at age 18 or received one year of T.A.L. after age 14
- ▶ Experienced family illiteracy
- ▶ Are offenders
- ▶ Suffer from substance abuse
- ▶ Are victims or witnesses of domestic violence
- ▶ Have a lack occupational goals and skills
- ▶ Are Native American
- ▶ Have an incarcerated parent
- ▶ Are disabled
- ▶ Are migrant youth
- ▶ Have limited English proficiency
- ▶ Are refugees
- ▶ Are a Veteran/Disabled Veteran



WHAT SERVICES ARE OFFERED THROUGH THE PROGRAM?

- ▶ Youth career planning and job searching assistance
- ▶ Leadership/volunteer opportunities
- ▶ Mentoring from adults who care about youth success
- ▶ Employment Internship Opportunities (including summer internships), on-the-job training and job shadowing
- ▶ Guidance counseling and substance abuse prevention and treatment
- ▶ Assistance with increasing basic skill levels in math, reading and language/writing (tutoring)
- ▶ Connection with local alternative school programs
- ▶ Referrals to other community services and resources
- ▶ Funding for post-secondary training needs such as tuition, books and supplies
- ▶ Other support funding to help youth achieve their goals



WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED FROM YOU?

Once enrolled into the program you will be expected to:

- ▶ Negotiate and participate in the goals of your employment plan
- ▶ Attend all of your scheduled appointments
- ▶ Maintain regular contact with your employment counselor
 - ▶ Return phone calls and letters timely
 - ▶ Reschedule missed/cancelled appointments
 - ▶ Report address/phone, school participation and employment changes



WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T PARTICIPATE?

- ▶ Choosing not to participate will result in your employment counselor taking problem solving action on your case, which may result in your training funds being withdrawn and case closure. Your WIA youth counselor will work with you to resolve issues before a decision is made to close your case.
- ▶ Your success is riding on your 100 percent participation.



WHAT ARE THE INCENTIVES?

- ▶ **Cash Incentives can be earned for achievements:**
 - ▶ **Completing a high school diploma, Adult Education Diploma or GED**
 - ▶ **Increasing high school term GPA or training program progress**
 - ▶ **Completing a training program**
 - ▶ **Participating in or completing a leadership activity**
 - ▶ **Getting a job and keeping it while working at least 20 hours per week**

Other incentives can be negotiated on an individual basis with your employment counselor.



WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO WIA YOUTH ENROLLMENT?

- ▶ Complete an assessment or attend an orientation with a WIA Youth counselor to determine if you qualify for the program
 - ▶ Provide birth certificate, photo ID and income verifications if needed
- ▶ Complete TABE or other testing (for reading, math and language)
- ▶ Gather and provide any other needed documents that are requested and bring them to your WIA Youth counselor
- ▶ WIA youth worker determines your eligibility and completes enrollment
- ▶ Once enrolled you will receive a UCard Visa within 7–10 days
 - ▶ Funds to support your participation are loaded on the UCard
- ▶ An employment plan of activities must be completed and signed before any funding can be issued to you on your UCard



ARE YOU READY FOR A CHANGE?

“The beginning is the most important part of the work”. –Plato

Your Success Starts Here!

Questions? Contact your local [WIA Youth office](#)

