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2023 Workforce Investment Opportunity Act Youth Programs Request for Proposals Round 2 Bidders' Conference May 31, 2023

Note: This overview is for the RFP Bidders' Conference and for informational purposes only. It is not official legal or regulatory guidance.

Please be sure to read all pages of the actual RFP to submit a proposal.

Eligible Applicants for this RFP :

**RESPONSES TO THIS RFP ARE LIMITED TO THOSE WHO
HAVE PREVIOUSLY OPERATED A WIOA YOUTH PROGRAM AND MET PERFORMANCE.**

This RFP

- Trauma-Responsive Services are required.
- Contracts are for 1 Program Year and 1 Follow-up Year. If your program is renewed, you will be able to carry youth over.
- A minimum of 30% of each program year budget must be for Work-based experiences for participants.

Brief Overview of WIOA Youth Program

- I. Youth Eligibility
- II. Documentation
- III. 14 Program Service Elements
- IV. Individual Service Strategy & Career Pathway Planning for Youth
- V. Understanding Youth Performance Measures

I. Youth Eligibility: Who is Eligible for service in this program?

- Youth be between the ages of 14-24
- **and** must live in Providence or Cranston, RI.
- *Youth in DCYF custody may be considered residents of Providence (the capital city) for WIOA eligibility.*



City of Providence
Brett P. Smiley, Mayor

Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston
A Workforce Investment Agency of the Cities of Providence and Cranston
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City of Cranston
Kenneth J. Hopkins, Mayor



WIOA eligible youth must be defined entering the program as **A) Out-of-School** or **B) In-School**. WIOA requires that **at least 75%** of local funding must be spent serving Out-of-School Youth.

A) Youth are eligible in the Out of School category if they meet these requirements. Youth is:

Citizenship/Work Eligible **and**

Is compliant with Selective Service requirements, **and**

Is not Attending School **and**

Is 16 - 24 years at the time of enrollment **and one or more** of the following:

- a) Has dropped out of school;
- b) Is within the age of compulsory school attendance, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter;
- c) Has a HS Diploma or equivalent **and is low-income and basic skills deficient or** is an English Language Learner;
- d) Is considered an offender in the criminal justice system;
- e) Is a homeless individual, a homeless child or youth, or a runaway;
- f) Is in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system;
- g) Is pregnant or parenting;
- h) Is an individual with a disability;
- i) **Is a Low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.**

Out-of-School Youth are **not required** to prove they are low-income if they meet these criteria:

- Is Citizenship/Work Eligible **and**
- Is compliant with Selective Service requirements, **and**
- Is not Attending School **and**
- Is 16 - 24 years at the time of enrollment **and one or more** of the following:
 - a) Has dropped out of school;
 - b) Is within the age of compulsory school attendance, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter;
 - c) Has a HS Diploma or equivalent **and is low-income and basic skills deficient or** is an English Language Learner;
 - d) Is considered an offender in the criminal justice system;
 - e) Is a homeless individual, a homeless child or youth, or a runaway;
 - f) Is in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system;
 - g) Is pregnant or parenting;
 - h) Is an individual with a disability;

B) Youth are eligible in the In-School category if they meet these requirements. Youth is:
 Citizenship/Work Eligible **and**

Is compliant with Selective Service requirements, **and has Low-income and**

Is Attending School **and** Is 14 - 24 years at the time of enrollment

and one or more of the following:

- a) Is determined through testing to be Basic Skills Deficient
- b) Is an English Language Learner
- c) An offender
- d) Is considered an offender in the criminal justice system;
- e) Is a homeless individual, a homeless child or youth, or a runaway;
- f) Is in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system;
- g) Is pregnant or parenting;
- h) Is an individual with a disability;
- i) Requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment (*not more than 5% allowed* using this item).

Low-Income Definition for WIOA eligibility

A youth will be considered to be Low-Income Eligible if any of the following are true:

- a) They are receiving public assistance or have received it in the past 6 months (TAFDC, EAEDC, SNAP, SSI)
- b) They reside in a *High Poverty Area* as determined by Census.
- c) They are considered to be Homeless or a Runaway Homeless/Runaway (as defined in McKinney Act)
- d) They are in Foster Care
- e) They are **in school** and on a free or reduced lunch program
- f) They are a Foster child receiving state or local benefits or who has attained 16 years of age and left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption.
- g) They have a disability, and their own income meets the requirements, but their family income does not.

OR

If their family income is at or below 70% of the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL):

Family	1	2	3	4	5	6
Reference	Federal Poverty Level	Lower Living Standard Income Level				
Income Limit	\$14,580	\$20,799	\$28,546	\$35,328	\$41,588	\$48,632

II. Documentation

WIOA requires documentation to support WIOA Title I Youth Eligibility.

- Local Areas must verify and confirm that youth are eligible to participate in WIOA youth services through an examination of documents. **Program providers must submit all application and documentation packets to WSPC staff, who will verify eligibility.**
- Once WSPC determines that the youth is eligible, the provider and youth make the final decision about enrollment.
- Documentation may be stored electronically, however documentation must be available to program, fiscal monitors, and auditors for monitoring purposes.
- Local Areas must retain records for a period of at least three (3) years after the submittal of the final closeout expenditure report for that funding period.



III. The Individual Service Strategy (ISS) and the 14 required WIOA elements

An Individual Service Strategy (ISS) plan must be developed for each youth participant and is based on an *objective assessments* that include review of each participant's *skill levels, service needs, strengths, and career interests and abilities*.

The ISS must:

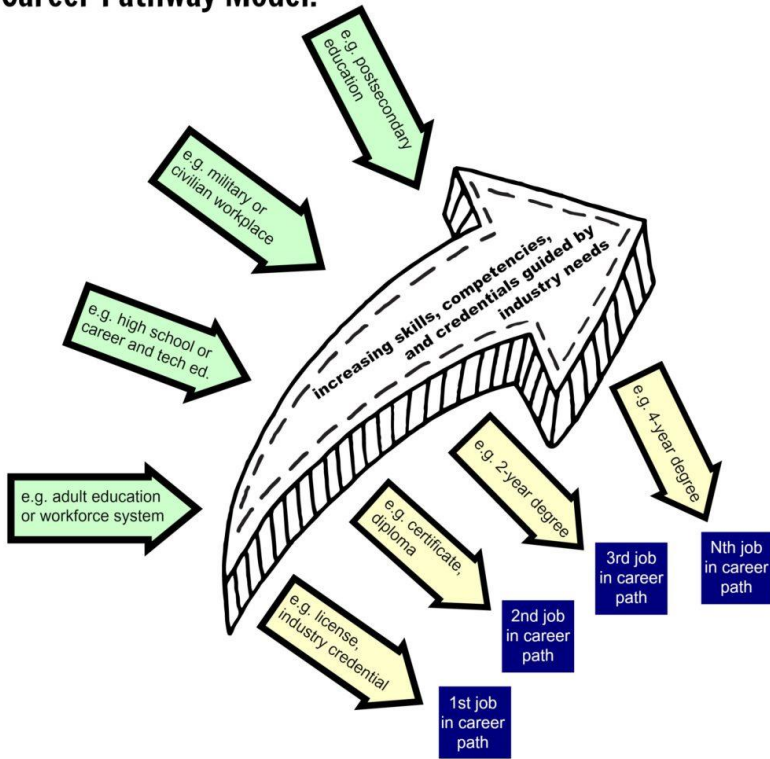
- Include career planning and the results of objective assessments;
- Include education and employment goals;
- Include achievement objectives and services;
- Directly link to one or more performance indicators;
- Identify an appropriate career pathway;
- Specify which of the 14 required elements each individual needs; and
- Be reviewed with the youth participant every month and updated as needed.

Sample Activities for WIOA Elements (*Assessments Required*)

ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITY or SERVICE
Tutoring, Study Skills Training, Instruction	Development of educational achievement skills that leads to the completion of the requirements for a secondary or post-secondary school diploma/credential.	Educational Training; HSE/ABE; Dropout Prevention/Tutoring Basic ABE; Basic ESL/ESOL; Adult Ed/Literacy w/Training
Alternative Secondary School	Alternative secondary school services or drop out recovery services.	Alternative School
Work Experience	Work experiences which include summer employment, year-round employment, pre-apprenticeship, internships/Job-Shadow and On-the-job training opportunities.	Work Exp/Summer Youth; Academic/Occupational Learning in Summer; Work Experience/On the Job Training; Workplace Training/Coop Ed Program; Job Readiness Training/ Subsidized Employment
Occupational Skills Training	An organized program of study that provides specific vocational skills that lead to proficiency in performing actual tasks and technical functions required by certain occupational fields. Occupational Skills Training	Private Sector Training Pre-Employment Skills Training Entrepreneurial Training Skill Upgrade and Retraining
Education Concurrent with Workforce Prep	Integrated education and training that occur concurrently and contextually with workforce preparation in a specific career area.	Education and Workforce Prep
Leadership Development	Opportunities that encourage responsibility, confidence, employability, self-determination, and other positive social behaviors.	Community Service Leadership Development
Supportive Services	Services that enable youth to participate in program activities such as assistance with book, fees, school supplies, transportation, and legal aid services.	Supportive Services – except Needs Related Payment
Adult Mentoring (12 months min)	Participants receive adult mentoring for a period of not less than 12 months that connects to the youth's goals.	Mentoring
Follow-up Services (12 months)	Follow-up services are provided for 12 months unless the participant declines to receive follow-up services or cannot be located or contacted.	Follow-Up (Title I)
Comprehensive Guidance & Counseling	Individualized Counseling that includes drug and alcohol abuse counseling and mental health counseling, and referrals to partner programs.	Comprehensive Guidance & Counseling
Financial Literacy Education	Support the ability of participants to create budgets and learn how to manage spending, credit and debt.	Financial Literacy Education Counseling / Financial Counseling
Entrepreneurial Skills Training	The basics of starting and operating a small business.	Entrepreneurial Training
Labor Market Services	Access to career counseling, Career exploration, career awareness and the use of labor market skills. Familiarity with the RI Labor market, including jobs that are growing and the skills required to succeed in those jobs.	Job Search, Automated Labor Exchange, Job Order Search, Labor Market Info
Transition to Post-Secondary Education	Access to job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, instruction in self-advocacy, work readiness training.	Post-Secondary Training Transition Activities, Counseling, Transition to Post Sec Education/Training

IV. Career Pathways

Career Pathway Model:



A Career Pathway is a combination of rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that:

- **Aligns** with the skill needs of industries;
- Prepares individuals to be successful in **education options**
- **Includes counseling** to support education and career goals
- Includes **contextualized learning** within an occupational cluster
- Organizes education, training, and other services that **accelerates education and career advancement**
- Enables the attainment of a secondary and at least one **post-secondary credential**;
- Supports **entrance or advancement** within a specific occupation or occupation cluster.

V: WIOA YOUTH Minimum Performance Measures - RI Goals

Second Quarter after Exit: Employment	PY2022	PY2023
<i>Employed or in education or training any time in the second quarter after exit.</i>	72.00%	72.50%
Fourth Quarter after Exit: Employment		
<i>Employed or in education or training any time in the fourth quarter after exit.</i>	68.00%	68.00%
Median Earnings		
<i>Median quarterly earnings of those employed in the second quarter after exit.</i>	\$3,200.00	\$3,300.00
Credential Attainment Rate	60.00%	60.50%
<i>Percent of exiters that received education or training who obtain a post-secondary credential or high-school diploma or equivalent by the 4th quarter after exit. Those obtaining a high school diploma or equivalent only count toward the performance rate if they are employed or in education or training leading to a recognized post-secondary credential within the year.</i>		
Measurable Skill Gains		
<i>Percent of participants who, during the course of the program year, are in an education or training program and are achieving measurable skill gains, defined as documented academic or other progress.</i>	46.00%	46.50%
Effectiveness in Serving Employers	Baseline	