

## **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**

- WIOA Youth Program participation is assessed by specific eligibility standards and is determined for interested individuals in one of the two following categories and requirements:
  - I. An in-school youth (ISY) participant must be attending school, not younger than 14 or older than 21, low income, and have one or more of a list of barriers provided in WIOA section 129(a)(1)(C)(iv):
    - Basic skills deficient.
    - An English language learner.
    - An offender.
    - A homeless youth or a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system.
    - 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.
  - II. An out-of-school youth (OSY) participant is not attending any school (as defined under State law), not younger than 16 or older than age 24 at time of enrollment. Because age eligibility is based on age at enrollment, participants may continue to receive services beyond the age of 24 once they are enrolled in the program; and one or more of the following:
    - 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. School year calendar quarter is based on how a local school district defines its school year quarters;
    - A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low-income individual and is either basic skills deficient or an English language learner;
    - An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system;
    - A homeless individual, a runaway, an individual who is in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act, or an individual who is in an out-of-home placement;
    - An individual who is pregnant or parenting;
    - An individual with a disability;

## *TDLWD Youth Services*

---

- A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment. (WIOA sections 3(46) and 129(a)(1)(B).)
  
- Individuals who meet the respective program eligibility requirements may participate in both the adult and youth programs concurrently.
  - Enrollment in both programs, however, is not required.
  - Local areas must identify and track the appropriate funding streams for each program and must ensure no duplication of services.
  
- Service activities are based on the 14 program elements required under WIOA section 129(c)(2). The 14 program elements are:
  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 post-secondary credential;
  2. Alternative secondary school services, or dropout recovery services, as appropriate;
  3. Paid and unpaid work experiences that have academic and occupational education as a component of the work experience, which may include the following types of work experiences:
    - a. summer employment opportunities and other employment opportunities available throughout the school year;
    - b. pre-apprenticeship programs;
    - c. internships and job shadowing; and
    - d. on-the-job training opportunities;
  4. Occupational skill training, which includes priority consideration for training programs that lead to recognized post-secondary credentials that align with in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the local area involved, if the Local Board determines that the programs meet the quality criteria described in WIOA sec. 123;
  5. Education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;

## *TDLWD Youth Services*

---

6. Leadership development opportunities, including community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social and civic behaviors;
  7. Supportive services;
  8. Adult mentoring for a duration of at least 12 months that may occur both during and after program participation;
  9. Follow-up services for not less than 12 months after the completion of participation;
  10. Comprehensive guidance and counseling, which may include drug and alcohol abuse counseling, as well as referrals to counseling, as appropriate to the needs of the individual youth;
  11. Financial literacy education;
  12. Entrepreneurial skills training;
  13. Services that provide labor market and employment information about in-demand industry sectors or occupations available in the local area, such as career awareness, career counseling, and career exploration services; and
  14. Activities that help youth prepare for and transition to post-secondary education and training. Funds for youth services are allocated to state and local areas based on a formula distribution
- Service strategies, developed by workforce providers, prepare youth for employment and/or post-secondary education through strong linkages between need-based academic and occupational learning
  - Out-of-school youth ages 18-24 may be served with WIOA youth funds using an Individual Training Account (ITA); boards should develop criteria for determining appropriate provision of youth ITAs.
  - Local communities provide youth activities and services in partnership with the American Job Center System and under the direction of Local Workforce Development Boards
  - [List of eligible providers for youth services](#)
  - **TDLWD Contacts – Division of Workforce Services:**
    - Briana Moore, Workforce Services Program Director  
615.253.8860 | [Briana.Moore@tn.gov](mailto:Briana.Moore@tn.gov)
    - Sterling VanDerSpuy, Workforce Services Administrator  
615.532.5945 | [Sterling.VanDerSpuy@tn.gov](mailto:Sterling.VanDerSpuy@tn.gov)