

WIOA Youth Program Fact Sheet

UPDATED OCTOBER 2026

WIOA Youth Program Description

Under Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, the WIOA Youth program provides funds to states and outlying areas. States provide local workforce development areas resources to deliver comprehensive youth services that focus on assisting out-of-school youth and in-school youth, with one or more barriers to employment, prepare for employment and post-secondary education opportunities; attain educational and/or skills training credentials; and secure employment with career/promotional opportunities.

WIOA Youth Services: 14 Program Elements

The WIOA Youth program includes the following [14 program elements](#), which are required to be made available in each local area. The program elements outline a vision for supporting youth and young adults through an integrated service delivery system.

1. [Tutoring, study skills training, instruction, and evidence-based dropout prevention and recovery strategies](#)
2. [Alternative secondary school services or dropout recovery services](#)
3. [Paid and unpaid work experiences](#)
4. [Occupational skills training](#)
5. [Education offered concurrently with workforce preparation and training for a specific occupation](#)
6. [Leadership development opportunities](#)
7. [Supportive services](#)
8. [Adult mentoring](#)
9. [Follow-up services](#)
10. [Comprehensive guidance and counseling](#)
11. [Financial literacy education](#)
12. [Entrepreneurial skills training](#)
13. [Services that provide labor market information](#)
14. [Postsecondary preparation and transition activities](#)

WIOA Youth Program Eligibility for Target Populations

WIOA Youth program participants include out-of-school youth (OSY) and in-school youth (ISY).



An OSY is an individual who is:

- (a) Not attending any school (as defined under State law);
- (b) Not younger than age 16 or older than age 24 at time of enrollment; and
- (c) One or more of the following:
 - (1) A school dropout
 - (2) 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
 - (3) 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
 - (4) An offender
 - (5) A homeless individual, a homeless child or youth, or a runaway
 - (6) An individual in foster care or who has aged out of the foster care system or who has attained 16 years of age and left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption, a child eligible for assistance under sec. 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677), or in an out-of-home placement
 - (7) An individual who is pregnant or parenting
 - (8) An individual with a disability
 - (9) A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.

An ISY is an individual who is:

- (a) Attending school (as defined by State law), including secondary and postsecondary school
- (b) Not younger than age 14 or (unless an individual with a disability who is attending school under State law) older than age 21 at time of enrollment
- (c) A low-income individual
- (d) One or more of the following
 - (1) Basic skills deficient
 - (2) An English language learner
 - (3) An offender
 - (4) A homeless individual, a homeless child or youth, or a runaway
 - (5) An individual in foster care or who has aged out of the foster care system or who has attained 16 years of age and left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption, a child eligible for assistance under sec. 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677), or in an out-of-home placement
 - (6) An individual who is pregnant or parenting
 - (7) An individual with a disability
 - (8) An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment



WIOA Youth Program Priorities

- *Out-of-School Youth:* A minimum of 75 percent of the Youth funds allocated to States and local areas, except for the local area expenditures for administration, must be used to provide services to OSY.
- *Work Experience:* Not less than 20 percent of Youth funds allocated to the local area, except for the local area expenditures for administration, must be used to provide paid and unpaid work experiences.
- *Focus on Partnering:* Co-enrollment encouraged where appropriate with WIOA Titles II and IV.

WIOA Youth Program Allotments

WIOA Youth program allotments are based on formula provisions including three factors:

- (1) The number of unemployed in areas of substantial unemployment
- (2) The number of excess unemployed individuals
- (3) The number of economically disadvantaged youth

WIOA Youth Appropriation by Program Year

Program Year (PY)	Appropriation
PY 2026	\$948,130,000
PY 2025	\$948,130,000
PY 2024	\$948,130,000
PY 2023	\$948,130,000
PY 2022	\$933,130,000

WIOA Youth Results for PY 2024

The WIOA Youth program served 121,531 participants in PY 2024.

Measure	Outcome
Percent of participants entering employment, education, or training during the 2 nd quarter after exit	65.9%
Percent of participants entering employment, education, or training during the 4 th quarter after exit	67.4%
Median earnings during the 2 nd quarter after exit	\$5,038
Credential Attainment Rate	62.0%
Measurable Skill Gains	67.4%

