

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Youth Program

The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development's MassHire Department of Career Services provides oversight of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program. WIOA supersedes the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. WIOA increases access to opportunities for employment, education, training, and support services to individuals, particularly those with barriers to succeed in the labor force.

The WIOA Youth Program is a federally funded. The MassHire Department of Career Services allocates WIOA Title I Youth funds to Massachusetts' 16 workforce areas based on procedures defined by the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act. Workforce Boards in each of the 16 workforce areas procure services designed to help in school and out-of-school youth complete their secondary education, enter into post-secondary education/training, or enter into employment. Eligible youth receive comprehensive assessments, career planning, support services, alternative education, work-based learning experiences, and occupational skills training. Youth access these services through MassHire Career Centers or WIOA Youth Service Providers.



A list of the WIOA Youth Service Providers in each of the 16 workforce areas can be found here:

<http://www.mass.gov/massworkforce/programs/youth/>

To be eligible for WIOA Youth services youth must meet the criteria listed below:

<u>Eligibility Criteria for Out-of-School Youth (OSY)</u>	<u>Eligibility Criteria for In-School Youth (ISY)</u>
Age 16 to 24, Selective Service Compliant, and Not Attending School	Age 14 to 21, Selective Service Compliant, Attending School, and Low – Income
<p>OSY must also meet one of or more conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School Dropout ○ Compulsory school age but has not attended school for the most recent school year calendar ○ High school graduate or recipient of its equivalent who is: low income; basic skills deficient; or an English language learner ○ Subject to the juvenile or adult justice system ○ Homeless, or runaway ○ Foster child or has aged out of the foster care system ○ Pregnant or parenting ○ Individual with a disability ○ Low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment 	<p>ISY must also meet one or more conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic skills deficient ○ English language learner ○ An offender ○ Homeless, or runaway ○ Foster child ○ Pregnant or parenting ○ Individual with a Disability ○ Requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment

Please call or visit your local MassHire Career Center to learn more about WIOA Youth Programming. You can find a MassHire Career Center near you by visiting the link below:

<http://www.mass.gov/lwd/employment-services/dcs/find-a-career-center-near-you.html>

WIOA eligible youth have access to the following 14 program service elements:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tutoring, study skills training, and instruction leading to secondary school completion, including dropout prevention; 2. Alternative school offerings; 3. Paid and unpaid work experiences, including summer employment; internships and job shadowing; and pre-apprenticeship programs 4. Occupational skills training; 5. Leadership development opportunities, including such activities as positive social behavior, decision making, and team work; 6. Supportive services; 7. Adult mentoring (not less than 12 months); 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Comprehensive guidance and counseling, including drug and alcohol abuse counseling and other counseling referrals; 9. Follow-up services (12 month requirement); 10. Financial Literacy; 11. Entrepreneurial Skills; 12. Services that provide labor market and employment information in the local area; 13. Activities to help youth transition to postsecondary education and training; 14. Education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster.
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