

Idaho Youth Service Priorities Policy

Approved 10-13-2021

Purpose: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 enacted a comprehensive youth employment program for serving eligible youth, ages 14-24, who face barriers to education, training, and employment. The WIOA Youth program focuses primarily on out-of-school youth (OSY), requiring the state to expend a minimum of 75% of WIOA Youth funds on OSY. The program includes 14 program elements that are required to be made available to youth clients. The youth program prioritizes work experience through a 20% minimum expenditure rate for the work experience program element. Youth services are provided in partnership with the WIOA One Stop System and under the direction of the Idaho Workforce Development Council.

Reference: WIOA Section 129. Use of Funds for Youth Workforce Investment Activities

Program Funding

The Idaho Workforce Development Council directs 100% of Youth program funds towards serving out-of-school Youth; with the exception of Council approved special projects. Council approved special projects may include in-school-youth, utilizing program and/or recaptured funds. All program and special project expenditures will adhere to the 75% minimum for OSY unless the state receives a waiver from USDOL to increase the percentage for ISY.

Youth Service Priorities

The following youth groups shall receive priority of service:

- Low-income youth involved with the justice system;
- Low-income youth in or exiting foster care;
- Low-income youth that are pregnant and/or parenting; and
- Low-income out-of-school youth with disabilities.


The establishment of these WIOA youth program service priorities does not mean that the program will exclusively serve these populations groups. Rather, it will be a concentrated focus of the Idaho youth program to target these four demographic groups.

Additional Guidance

Idaho's definition for WIOA youth "requiring additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment" are youth who meet following criteria:

A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment and:

- A. Has been treated by a professional for mental health issues including traumatic events, depression, or substance abuse related problems. OR



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- B. Has been or is a victim of abuse, or resides in an abusive environment as documented by a licensed professional; OR
- C. Has been unemployed for at least three of the last six months (not necessarily consecutive); OR
- D. Has a family history of chronic unemployment (during the two years prior to application, family members were unemployed longer than employed); OR
- E. Has limited English speaking abilities or cultural displacement. (i.e., refugees).

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