



Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act: Youth Program

FACT SHEET

The federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides employment and training services to dislocated workers, low-income adults and youth. The services are delivered through WorkSource centers statewide. Local Workforce Development Councils oversee the system in partnership with state agencies, community and technical colleges, school districts, business, labor and nonprofits.

The WIOA Youth Program is targeted to in-school (ages 14-21) and out-of-school youth (ages 16-24) who have significant economic and physical barriers to educational attainment or employment. Seventy-five percent of funding is directed toward out-of-school youth.

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act programs are provided through Washington's WorkSource system

Participants can receive counseling, tutoring, leadership development, job training, support services, mentoring and work experience. New program elements include financial literacy training, entrepreneurial skills development, labor market information, and activities to connect youth with continuing education. At least 20 percent of funds must be used to create work experiences, such as pre-apprenticeships, internships, job shadowing and jobs.

Funding and participation

The U.S. Department of Labor allocated nearly \$19.1 million to Washington for WIOA Youth programs for the April 2018-June 2019 program year. Funding for the April 2017-June 2018 program year was nearly \$18.6 million. During that time, 3,822 young people participated in WIOA Youth programs.

Employment outcomes for participants are determined by cross-referencing employer tax-and-wage records. Due to lag times in reporting, it can take up to a year to calculate employment results for participants.





Of those exiting the program from July 2016 through December 2016, 64.7 percent increased their education level or got a job after receiving services.

Administration

There are 12 local Workforce Development Councils in Washington that receive WIOA Youth Program funds. In collaboration with their youth councils and service partners, each council decides how it will provide services to young people. WIOA youth funding has made it possible for local communities to forge strong partnerships with school districts, businesses and youth-focused nonprofit organizations. These partnerships devise strategies appropriate for their communities and focus on helping young people achieve educational and employment success.

Young people interested in more information about the WIOA Youth Program should visit a WorkSource center. Find a list of centers at WorkSourceWA.com.

