

YOUTH ELIGIBILITY WITH LOCAL BARRIERS

Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, Inc. LWIA #26

A youth customer of WIOA must meet general eligibility requirements and at the time of eligibility determination, meet the requirement of an In-School or Out-of-School Youth.

1. To be provided services under the youth funding stream as an out-of-school youth, the individual must be:
 - a. Not attending any school as defined under state law, individuals attending Adult Education provided under Title II of WIOA, YouthBuild or Job Corps are also classified as out-of-school youth;
 - b. Not younger than age sixteen (16) or older than age twenty-four (24); and
 - c. One (1) or more of the following:
 - i. A school dropout as defined by the state;
 - ii. Within the age of compulsory school attendance but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter as defined by the school district and the applicable school based on the student's residence or assignment;
 - iii. A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low-income individual **and** is:
 1. Basic skills deficient (20 CFR 681.290); or
 2. An English language learner.
 - d. Subject to the juvenile or adult justice system;
 - e. Homeless individuals, a homeless child or youth, a runaway, 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 (42 USC 677), or in an out-of-home placement;
 - f. Pregnant or parenting;
 - g. An individual with a disability;
 - h. A low-income individual requiring additional assistance (defined below) to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.
2. For individuals required to attend school under applicable state compulsory school attendance laws, the priority of assistance shall be for the individual to attend school regularly.
3. The term in-school youth means an individual who is:
 - a. Attending school (as defined by state law);
 - b. Not younger than fourteen (14) (unless an individual with a disability attending school under State law) or older than twenty-one (21);
 - i. A youth attending postsecondary education who is twenty-two (22) at the time of eligibility determination would not be eligible for the WIOA youth program because they are in school and over the age of twenty-one (21). That individual could be served through the WIOA adult program.
 - ii. There is one exception to age eligibility for youth attending school. Youth with disabilities who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) may be enrolled as ISY after the age of twenty-one (21) since Illinois law allows youth with disabilities to be served by the K-12 public school system until the age of twenty-two (22). Such youth may only be enrolled as ISY up to the age of twenty-two (22) to receive secondary education services.
 - c. A low-income individual, including an individual that receives or is eligible to receive a free or

reduced-price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (Sec. 3(36)(A)(iv)) or who lives in a high-poverty area; and

- d. One or more of the following:
 - i. Basic skills deficient.
 - ii. An English language learner.
 - iii. An offender.
 - iv. A homeless individual, a homeless child or youth, a runaway, 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 (42 USC 677), or in an out-of-home placement.
 - v. Pregnant or parenting.
 - vi. A youth who is an individual with a disability.
 - vii. An individual who requires additional assistance (defined below) to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.
 1. This criterion can only be used when no other youth barriers exist.
 2. Local Workforce Innovation Boards (LWIBs) must establish a local policy using this criterion.
 3. LWIBs must ensure that less than five (5) percent of their ISY per program year utilize and report this barrier as the sole reason for eligibility determination.

The Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, for the purposes of Youth eligibility, will define '**An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment**' as a youth (**youth in school**) with:

- a. Minimal / Poor or No Work History
 - Minimal / poor work history will be defined as: '*A non-seasonal job that lasted less than 3 months, or was fired from or quit more than two jobs*'.
- b. Truancy or excessive absence from school as documented by the school.
- c. Member of a single-parent household
- d. Public assistance recipients
- e. Court-involved youth or at-risk youth
- f. Test scores below completed grade level
- g. Disabled individual aged 14-24 years old
- h. Have repeated at least one secondary grade level or are one year over age for their grade
- i. Have a core grade point average of less than 1.5
- j. Are emancipated youth
- k. Have been suspended 3 or more times or have been expelled
- l. Are deemed at risk of dropping out of school by a school official
- m. Have been referred to or are being treated by an agency for a substance abuse related problem
- n. Have experienced recent traumatic events are victims of abuse or reside in an abusive environment as documented by a school official or other qualified professional
- o. Have parent(s) who are or have been incarcerated or institutionalized.
- p. Underserved and historically marginalized individuals which include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) Veterans;
 - 2) individuals with disabilities;
 - 3) persons of color; women; justice-involved individuals;
 - 4) immigrants; refugees;
 - 5) homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness; low-income individuals;
 - 6) individuals in or aged-out of Foster Care;
 - 7) GED candidates and recipients; public assistance recipients; individuals who are basic skills deficient;
 - 8) UI Profilees; individuals unemployed for an extended period; individuals who have exhausted their UI benefit;
 - 9) lower-wage workers; child-care-challenged workers;
 - 10) high-unemployment-area residents; rural residents; individuals residing in a Qualified Census Tract (QSI) or a Disproportionately Impacted Area (DIA); and individuals with other employment barriers.

The Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, for the purposes of Youth eligibility, will define '**faces serious barriers to employment**' as a youth (**out of school youth**) with:

- a. Minimal / Poor or No Work History
 - Minimal / poor work history will be defined as: '*A non-seasonal job that lasted less than 3 months, or was fired from or quit more than two jobs*'.
- b. Truancy or excessive absence from school as documented by the school.
- c. Member of a single-parent household
- d. Public assistance recipients
- e. Court-involved youth or at-risk youth
- f. Disabled individual aged 14-24 years old
- g. Test scores below completed grade level
- h. Have repeated at least one secondary grade level or are one year over age for their grade
- i. Have a core grade point average of less than 1.5
- j. Are emancipated youth
- k. Have been suspended 3 or more times or have been expelled
- l. Are deemed at risk of dropping out of school by a school official
- m. Have been referred to or are being treated by an agency for a substance abuse related problem
- n. Have experienced recent traumatic events are victims of abuse or reside in an abusive environment as documented by a school official or other qualified professional
- o. Have parent(s) who are or have been incarcerated or institutionalized.
- p. Underserved and historically marginalized individuals which include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) Veterans;
 - 2) individuals with disabilities;
 - 3) persons of color; women; justice-involved individuals;
 - 4) immigrants; refugees;
 - 5) homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness; low-income individuals;
 - 6) individuals in or aged-out of Foster Care;
 - 7) GED candidates and recipients; public assistance recipients; individuals who are basic skills deficient;
 - 8) UI Profilees; individuals unemployed for an extended period; individuals who have exhausted their UI benefit;
 - 9) lower-wage workers; child-care-challenged workers;
 - 10) high-unemployment-area residents; rural residents; individuals residing in a Qualified Census Tract (QSI) or a Disproportionately Impacted Area (DIA); and individuals with other employment barriers.