
DATE: August 19 , 2026
TO: Youth Committee & BED Committee
FROM: Noramah Burch, WIOA Youth and Young Adult Program Manager
RE: **WIOA Youth Draft Performance PY 25-26**

BACKGROUND

The WIOA Youth Program is a federally funded program designed to help young people, ages 14-24, who face barriers to education, training, and employment. It provides personalized support such as paid internships, job training, academic assistance, and career mentoring to help them transition into stable jobs or higher education. For PY 25/26, the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County (WDBCCC) received a \$2,576,509 allocation for WIOA Youth. This was a substantial increase of \$820,099 from PY 24/25.

WIOA Youth Program Target Population:

- high school dropouts
- truant
- justice-involved
- homeless
- current or former foster youth
- pregnant or parenting,
- youth with a disability
- basic skills deficient, including English Language Learners

The WIOA Youth Program emphasizes educational attainment, career exploration, and employment readiness. The overarching program goal is to equip participants with skills, experience, and support necessary to successfully transition into postsecondary education, training, or meaningful employment while fostering long-term self-sufficiency and career advancement.

Key WIOA Youth Program Services and Activities:

- **Work-based learning:** includes work experiences such as internships, apprenticeships, and on-the job training
- **Occupational skills training:** training in various fields to help youth acquire in-demand skills
- **Education and training:** support for earning high school diplomas or equivalencies, as well as opportunities for postsecondary education and training
- **Leadership development:** build confidence, employability, and positive social behaviors

- **Supportive services:** address barriers to participation, such as assistance with transportation, childcare, and housing
- **Mentoring:** provides guidance, support and encouragement from adult mentors to help youth develop their skills and character
- **Financial literacy education:** youth develop the skills to manage their finances effectively
- **Labor market and employment information:** information about job opportunities and the skills needed to succeed in the workforce
- **Follow-up services:** follow-up support for a minimum of one-year to ensure youth maintain their employment and continue to make progress

CURRENT SITUATION

Continuous Program Improvement and Community of Practice

Throughout the year, the WDBCCC partnered closely with contracted providers to strengthen program quality by:

- Providing 4-6 technical assistance trainings annually
- Developing standardized forms and guidance documents
- Answering policy and case management questions
- Promoting consistent implementation across providers
- Sharing best practices and program updates
- Maintaining a youth provider resource hub including program guidance, visual process flows, eligibility and enrollment resources, assessment and ISS tools, policies, training opportunities, career fair announcements, and other relevant resources for case managers and participants

Impact on community and workforce

- Serving vulnerable populations
- Improving educational outcomes
- Reducing poverty
- Increasing employability: youth gain essential workplace skills including time management, professionalism, and communication, making them more competitive in the job market
- Reducing unemployment through employment services, internships, apprenticeships, and job placement assistance to help participants transition successfully into the workforce or post-secondary education
- Developing career pathways that connect education with employment opportunities
- Ensuring training alignment with regional economic priorities through partnership with schools, employers, regional workforce boards, community colleges, and community organizations

Partners

- Contra Costa County Office of Education
- Mt. Diablo Unified School District
- International Rescue Committee

Performance Updates

Youth and Young Adults Served	
In-School	68
Out-of-School	97
Total	165

Performance Indicator	WDBCCC Performance	State Targets
Credential Attainment	63%	60.5%
Measurable Skills Gain	80%	61%
Q2 Employment/Post-Secondary	58%	72%
Q4 Employment/Post-Secondary	55%	71%

NEXT STEPS

With the 46.69% increase in WIOA Youth formula funding from PY 24/25 to PY 25/26, we were able to expand our service capacity and expertise by adding a third WIOA Youth provider, International Rescue Committee (IRC). IRC is a multilingual organization specializing in serving English Language Learners, immigrants, and refugees. As PY 26/27 begins, we will continue onboarding.

For any questions, please contact Noramah Burch, WIOA Youth and Young Adult Program Manager at 925-655-3811 or email at nburch@ehsd.cccounty.us