
DATE: March 18, 2026
TO: Full Board/Executive Committee
FROM: Noramah Burch, Youth Program Manager
RE: **WIOA Youth/Young Adult Program Midyear Report**

BACKGROUND

The WIOA Youth Program is a federally funded U.S. 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.

Key WIOA Youth Program Services and Activities:

- **Work-based learning:** This includes paid work experience such as internships, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training.
- **Occupational skills training:** The program offers training in various fields to help youth acquire in-demand skills.
- **Education and training:** This includes support for earning high school diplomas or equivalencies, as well as opportunities for postsecondary education and training.
- **Leadership development:** Opportunities for leadership development are provided to foster confidence, employability, and positive social behaviors.
- **Supportive services:** These services address barriers to participation, such as assistance with transportation, childcare, and housing.
- **Mentoring:** Adult mentoring provides guidance, support, and encouragement to help youth develop their skills and character.
- **Financial literacy education:** This helps youth develop the skills to manage their finances effectively.
- **Labor market and employment information:** Youth receive information about job opportunities and the skills needed to succeed in the workforce.
- **Follow-up services:** The program provides follow-up support for a minimum of one -year to ensure youth maintain their employment and continue to make progress.

PERFORMANCE

- **122** Youth served (program year-to-date)
- **202** instances of career exploration and job-readiness training
- **33** participated in paid work experiences with local employers for thousands of hours of contribution to local employers.
- **98** supportive services were provided (transportation assistance, tools, clothing, incentives)

- Service delivery continues to be refined by providing 4-6 technical assistance training courses per year, standardizing tools and processes (when feasible) across providers
- Program retention was enhanced by raising the work-experience wage to \$18.00/hour with opportunities for advancement and wage increases helping to meet the 40% Work Experience Expenditure threshold
- The two service providers selected through the spring 2025 RFP began the new contract cycle
 - Contra Costa County Office of Education – East and West
 - Mt Diablo Unified School District – Central
- Sole Source Contract with International Rescue Committee – expected July 1, 2026
- WIOA Outcomes are on-target to meet benchmarks by the end of the program year.
 - Measurable Skills Gain 73.2%
 - Credential Attainment 56.10%
 - Placement in employment and/or post-secondary 2nd Quarter 48.50%
 - Placement in employment and/or post-secondary 4th Quarter 51.60%

FUNDING

Of particular significance is the 47% increase in funding (\$80,099) compared to the prior year. Youth provider contract renewals will increase the number of youth served, expand services to additional sites, fund additional services and on board an additional youth provider.

For any questions, please contact Noramah Burch, Workforce Services Specialist Youth Program Manager at 925-655-3811 or email at nburch@ehsd.cccounty.us