

WorkSource Information Notice (WIN)

Employment System Policy & Integrity Division

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Number: WIN - 0053
Date: January 29, 2014
Expiration Date: N/A

TO: Workforce Development System Partners

FROM: Amy L. Smith, Director of Workforce System Policy

SUBJECT: The YouthBuild Program, Co-Enrollment and the Sequential Service Strategy

Purpose:

To provide information regarding the national YouthBuild program, including WIA 1-B co-enrollment opportunities. Specifically, this WIN responds to TEGL 11-09 Change 2, providing guidelines (refer to Sec. 3) for the “sequential service strategy.”

Action Required:

Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) and their contractors, as well as Employment Security Regional Directors, must distribute this guidance broadly throughout the system to ensure that staff and partners in the WorkSource System are familiar with its content and requirements.

Content:

1. Background

YouthBuild is a youth and community development program that utilizes a successful alternative education pathway program to help out-of-school youth who are often significantly behind in basic skills to obtain a high school diploma or GED and advance towards post-secondary education and career pathways in high-growth, high demand occupations (TEN 44-07).

The YouthBuild program offers youth stipends and/or wages while they are participating in the program, utilizing an “earn while you learn” approach to training. Participants have an opportunity to work side-by-side with professionals within the construction field in a mentoring environment and many continue in the construction field or move on to employment in other industries.

The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration’s (DOLETA’s) YouthBuild webpage offers many helpful resources, including the [YouthBuild Grant Application FAQ](#).

2. Benefits of Partnering with YouthBuild Programs, Including Co-Enrollment

Through referrals to YouthBuild programs or established memorandums of understanding (MOUs)

with YouthBuild providers, out-of-school youth served in the WorkSource System will have additional opportunities to receive intensive academic and occupational skills training. Youths served through the YouthBuild program can benefit greatly from the professional expertise and knowledge of WorkSource partners and WIA staff.

Many YouthBuild participants receive a diploma or GED upon completion, go on to post-secondary education, and/or are placed in employment. YouthBuild eligibility criteria closely resembles that of the WIA Youth and Adult programs, and it is likely that YouthBuild participants will meet the eligibility requirements of the WIA 1-B Adult or Youth programs and could be co-enrolled. Partnering with YouthBuild programs could result in coordinated service delivery and leveraged resources, and when co-enrolled participants enter a pre-apprenticeship program, or employment with local employers, the results count towards WIA performance outcomes. The combination of intensive, academic and occupational training increases the likelihood of successful performance outcomes.

Regarding Co-enrollment:

95% of WIA 1-B Youth must be low-income to be eligible for the program, and many WIA 1-B Adults are low-income as services are prioritized to low-income individuals. YouthBuild utilizes low-income status as one of the eligibilizing barriers for out-of-school youth, so co-enrollment is typically possible for WIA 1-B Youth and Adults ages 16-24. Section 3 outlines the intent behind “drop-out” status under the YouthBuild program. Please note that “Drop-out” under the YouthBuild program is not identical to “out-of-school” or “drop-out” under WIA 1-B.

3. YouthBuild Eligibility Clarification under the Sequential Service Strategy

This guidance applies to current or future YouthBuild program grant recipients and only addresses one component of YouthBuild program eligibility – high school drop-out status. See 20 CFR 672.300 for the complete eligibility criteria.

The flexibility for YouthBuild grantees to use a “sequential service strategy” is an incentive for more programs to move towards high school diploma granting academic components. It also supports earlier dropout recovery of future YouthBuild participants and prevents programs from having to drop youth out of their program so they can then reenroll as an out-of-school youth.

The definition of high school drop-out, for the purposes of YouthBuild program eligibility, was permanently expanded by TEGl 11-09, Change 1, to include youth coming from YouthBuild Charter Schools. Change 2 clarifies that the intent was not to expand eligibility beyond youth in YouthBuild Charter Schools, as the intent was to recognize that YouthBuild Charter School participants are most in need. To clarify, the sequential service strategy provision is limited in scope to only YouthBuild-operated Charter Schools and does not apply to broader alternative school settings within communities that may partner with YouthBuild programs to offer specialized educational services or from which YouthBuild programs may be seeking to recruit participants. The flexibility is only granted to YouthBuild programs with alternative schools that award high school diplomas and not GEDs.

YouthBuild is intended to mainly target youth that are disengaged from education and are lacking in credentials. Youth that have re-enrolled into alternative schooling on their own have chosen to re-engage and are not those most in need of services.

For additional eligibility guidance refer to the YouthBuild webpage and the TEGls listed below.

Note: This expanded definition of “drop-out” does not apply to WIA Title 1-B programs. That being said, “drop-out” status is not required under the WIA 1-B Youth or Adult programs so co-enrollment is still a possibility.

References:

- TEN 44-07
- TEGs 11-09, 11-09 Change 1 and 11-09 Change 2.
- [DOLETA's YouthBuild Webpage](#)
- [20 CFR 672](#)
- WorkSource System Policy 1019, [Attachment A – Eligibility Handbook](#)

Website:

http://www.wa.gov/esd/1stop/policies/state_guidance.htm

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