



# WIA Funded Youth Programs

## Northern Cook County Youth Services

### Innovative, Intensive, and Community Driven Service Models

The Youth Council of the Workforce Board of Northern Cook County has granted out two million dollars in Workforce Investment Act Youth Funds to local area service providers, in northern Cook County, to deliver youth services. The programs awarded funds collectively serve over 500 youth annually; youth identified as needing assistance to be successful in completing high school, pursuing post secondary education and training and finding and retaining employment. Innovative, intensive and comprehensive program delivery strategies is what these unique programs deliver, successes are told in the youth stories -- stay tuned as the youth stories are composed.

#### Youth team-leads and peers direct youth towards success as part of Elgin's Workforce Transition Program

**Elgin Community College** has been a cornerstone of the Elgin area for sixty one years with one of its successes being the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program. The success of the WIA Youth Program at Elgin Community College is based on a progressive model where youth begin with a comprehensive assessment move through career modules, career treks and work readiness and life skill workshops and continue on to volunteer work in the community, and then graduate to paid internships and job shadowing at local employers. Elgin Community College utilizes cohort groups, peer mentors, and youth team leads to assist the youth to stay on track and progress through the services with the goal being post secondary training and employment. The expansion of the program this year accommodates homeless youth to meet the demands of the communities served by Elgin Community College which currently has over 3,000 homeless students in School District U46 alone.

For more information contact: Vicki Miranda  
410 Renner Drive, Elgin, IL 60123, (847) 214-6932,  
VMiranda@elgin.edu. Population served is both in school and out of school youth in the Elgin Community College district.

#### Career Pathways to Sustainable Employment Keep the Youth Focused

**The Youth Job Center of Evanston, Inc.'s WIA Funded Youth Program** works with youth ages 17-21 requiring assistance to prepare for post-secondary education programs or to connect to the workforce. The program provides eligible youth with viable career options, one on one and group case management, job specific training through internship/work opportunities and job placement. Youth who are assessed as suitable for post-secondary training will receive career guidance and funding assistance in order to pursue training in industry sectors of high growth. These training opportunities, as well as linkages to apprenticeships, career pathways and advanced training will provide clients with the specific set of occupational skills and certification for jobs in high growth industries. Clients in need of work experience in their career field will be eligible for a paid internship component.

For more information contact: Molly Verble,  
1114 Church Street, Evanston, IL 60201;  
(847) 864-5627, MVerble@youthjobcenter.org

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[www.workforceboard.org](http://www.workforceboard.org)

### Youth overcome challenges to success through academic and employment opportunity

**Maine Township High School District 207 JumpStart Program** since 1996 has provided workforce development services to students. The mission of the program is: To help youth help themselves get the "perfect" job - the best job the youth can get based on current realistic skills, true abilities, and educational level. The "perfect" job keeps changing and evolving. A key element of the program delivery is the emphasis on skills that employers want in a worker. The eligible youth are enrolled in education, training, and work experiences to gain these skills. The program has contributed to almost ½ of the youth in work experience being offered permanent employment, a decrease in drop-out rates, and an increase in partnerships with employers in the community.

For more information contact: Laura Cook; 2601 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge, IL 60068, (630) 674-2513, [LCook@maine207.org](mailto:LCook@maine207.org). Referral is required by a student's guidance counselor. Population served is high school youth needing assistance in connecting to the workforce or post-secondary education programs.

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### A connection for students to post-secondary education and local employment.

**Township High School District 214 Workforce Investment Act In School Youth Services** which has been providing workforce development services to district students since 1973. The program prepares students in transitioning and connecting to post-secondary education and local workforce opportunities. The program is offered to eligible youth during the school year and summer months and is a series of job readiness classes and workshops aligned with supported work experiences at local business. The success of the program has been through the students it has touched -- improvements in school attendance, reduced relearning process; fewer drop outs; and less disciplinary referrals. The program works with the students to develop competencies that are meaningful to entry into adulthood and the workforce.

For more information contact: Ken Kozin, 2121 S. Goebbert Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL 60005.;(847) 718-7942, [KKozin@nsseo.org](mailto:KKozin@nsseo.org). A referral from the District's Special Education office is required. The program serves high school students with disabilities requiring additional assistance with being connected to the workforce.

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### Youth map out a career plan while achieving short term goals.

**Business and Career Services (BCS)** is a non-profit organization that was formed by the one-stop partners in Arlington Heights in 2003. A WIA Youth Program housed in the Arlington Heights workNet Center serves youth through a variety of services that focuses on obtaining and maintaining employment such as job placement assistance, career counseling, occupational scholarships, paid work experience, and wrap around services to assist youth in their success. BCS has enrolled almost 200 youth in the program and assists youth with mapping out future plans along with short term career goals. BCS continues to strengthen partnerships with community organizations to bridge gaps in services for the youth.

For more information contact: Amanda Rothenburger, 723 Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005; (847) 437-9393, [ARothenburger@worknetncc.com](mailto:ARothenburger@worknetncc.com). The program serves out of school youth requiring assistance to prepare for post-secondary education programs or to connect to the workforce.

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### Diverse services meet the needs of the communities and youth population.

**Jewish Vocational Services (JVS)** has 126 years of experience delivering vocational services in the community. JVS' WIA Youth Services continues to grow and expand to meet the needs of the diverse youth population being services. JVS has expanded services leveraging successful program models: the Youth Environmental Services Program, the Supported Employment Program, a summer paid work experience program, and the Extra-learning Program. In addition to continuing to collaborate and partner with community and education institutions to foster youth and student success programs.

For more information contact: Michele Ackerman; 300 Revere Drive, Northbrook, IL 60062; (847) 412-4300, [MicheleAckerman@jvschicago.org](mailto:MicheleAckerman@jvschicago.org). The program serves youth needing assistance with academic performance in order to complete high school and youth requiring assistance to prepare for post-secondary education programs or to connect to the workforce.