



FY/2425 - Illinois Youth Investment Program Description

1. Background

The **Illinois Youth Investment Program (IYIP)** was established to provide Illinois' at-risk youth ages 16-24, with the opportunity to participate in the employment recovery of the State. IYIP is currently offering both short-term, long-term and career development employment programming. The **Illinois Youth Investment Program (IYIP)** is a multi-faceted approach to youth employment that invests in the future of Illinois' at-risk transition-age youth (16-24). This approach to youth employment accounts for the youth's employment barriers as well as the physical, emotional, social, and mental health needs while helping them to secure and sustain long-term and/or career employment, ensuring a greater likelihood of success and self-sufficiency.

To maximize the impact of IYIP, DHS identified Illinois counties with the highest confirmed COVID cases (June 2021) and those more populous Illinois counties with the highest rates of poverty, further exacerbated by the economic devastation and closure of business caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

2. Eligible Youth Populations

Low income and/or at-risk in-school and out-of-school youth ages 16-24 who can document Illinois residency and are able to provide an I9 prior to employment. A youth must demonstrate one or more risk factors. Examples of risk factors that will deem a youth qualified for the program include:

Youth residing in a household receiving TANF funds	Youth with siblings who dropped out of school
Youth residing in a household receiving SNAP funds	Youth with siblings who are teen parents
Youth is eligible for Free/Reduced lunch	Youth has current or prior justice system involvement
Youth living in a single-parent household	Youth with siblings who are involved in the juvenile justice system
Youth experiencing academic difficulties	Youth with one or both parents who are incarcerated
Youth is in danger of or has been previously held back	Youth with siblings who are gang involved

to repeat one or more academic years	
Youth experiencing truancy concerns	Youth is reported to be gang involved
Youth is reported to have behavior issues	Youth has current or prior DCFS system involvement
Youth is reported to be a victim of bullying	Youth is experiencing homelessness
Youth is reported to be a perpetrator of bullying	Youth is pregnant
Youth is unsupervised after school	Youth is parenting
Youth has an IEP (Individual Education Plan)	Youth has a disability
Youth has witnessed or been a victim of family violence	Youth with no work experience
Youth identifies as LGBTQ	Youth with a history of employment failure
Youth has current or prior school expulsions or suspensions	

a. Illinois WorkNet Account Requirement:

All youth must register in Illinois workNet or other data system as directed by IDHS. Youth's completed application must be reviewed and verified for eligibility. Verified applications will be signed by the participant and case manager. Assessments and service provision for all youth served must be documented in Illinois workNet unless otherwise directed by IDHS. Data will be collected, tracked and reported for all youth referred/served in the program. To register in Illinois workNet go to <https://www.illinoisworknet.com/Pages/Register.aspx?ReturnUrl=/>

b. How To Apply - Online Application

- To apply to the IYIP program, first review the entire program description and click [here](#).

c. Youth Enrollment: A youth may be enrolled in short-term programming and long-term programming during the annual project period as long as they are not enrolled in both at the same time.

Short-term Programming – Summer Youth Employment Program June 1st through September 30th

Overview

Short-term programming is designed to target those youth who are interested in short-term employment with a goal of developing workplace skills and gaining employment experience while exploring potential Career Pathways. Community-based providers will partner with local employers to provide employment for youth workers. Youth targeted in this category will be placed in age-appropriate, ability-appropriate, and experience-appropriate opportunity. This may

be accomplished by placing and supporting youth in unsubsidized employment, or through an agreement with the employer to fully or partially subsidize the youth's wages for a period not to exceed 3 months (13 weeks).

Youth may participate in Career Exploration Activities and/or a Career Development Experience in an effort to prepare youth for a long-term employment placement or a Youth Apprenticeship placement. Youth may participate in a short-term Pre-Apprenticeship Program in an effort to prepare youth for placement in a Registered or Non-registered Apprenticeship or other Industry-linked Credentialing Program as described. Refer to the **Definitions** appendix for a description of each work experience/placement.

Short-term programming may occur at any time during the annual project period. The provider may offer short term programming: Multiple times per year

- Multiple times per year, with separate cohorts,
- On a rolling basis

Objective

The primary objective for youth served in short-term programming is to develop their "Essential Employability Skills" and to earn a minimum of 180 hours of entry- level work experience.

Placements

All youth will be placed in one or more of the following short-term, (not to exceed 13 weeks) paid work experiences **requiring a minimum 180 hours of paid work.**

- Work-Based Learning
- Career Development Experience
- Pre-Apprenticeship Program

Long-term & Career Development Programming

Overview

Long-term and career development programming is designed to target youth who are ready to focus on long-term employment. These youth may have an identified career path or may still be exploring employment interests. Community-based providers will develop partnerships with established employers and/or Industry Association training programs to identify, refer and support youth participants. Upon enrollment into the program, youth will receive services to ensure they are prepared for employment, including assessments, case

plans, employment readiness and other support services. For long-term and career development programming, youth will be placed within three months of enrollment, in age-appropriate, ability-appropriate, and experience-appropriate long-term employment, career development training program or placed as an AmeriCorps volunteer service member in a youth's identified area of interest. Once completed, career development training programs (including apprenticeships or credentialing programs) will provide the youth with immediate full-time job placement opportunities. Long-term employment opportunities, career development training and AmeriCorps member placements must be linked to one of the 17 nationally recognized career clusters:

Agricultural, Food & Natural Resources	Finance	Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
Architecture & Construction	Government & Public Administration	Manufacturing
Arts	Health Science	Marketing
Audio/Video Technology & Communications	Hospitality & Tourism	Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
Business Management & Administration	Human Services	Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
Education & Training	Information Technology	

Fully or partially subsidized wages may be paid by the grant for youth participating in long-term employment opportunities and/or career development training programs for a total period not to exceed 6 months (26 weeks). Subsidized wages may NOT be paid to youth participating in an AmeriCorps service member placement as the AmeriCorps placement agency will cover participant stipends.

Objective

The primary objective for program youth is long-term unsubsidized employment in a targeted Illinois industry.

Placements

All youth will be placed in either targeted long-term employment or an apprenticeship program. Youth may instead or also seek to attain a Recognized Postsecondary Credential (Industry-linked Credential, Certification or License) through other established on-the-job-training programs that lead directly to sustained employment. Youth may also be placed as an AmeriCorps volunteer service member. All youth will be placed within three months of enrollment into this program. Youth may continue to receive support services while enrolled in the program. Below are the placement types:

- Youth Apprenticeship
- Non-Registered Apprenticeship
- Industry-linked

- Registered Apprenticeship
- AmeriCorps Volunteer Service Member
- Credential, Certification or License
- Long-term Employment

Youth Wages

Payroll request are every two weeks during this subsidized period if this is formally agreed to in writing by both the employer and provider and the job meets all of the following criteria:

1. The job being subsidized meets the definitional criteria herein as an actual "Work Experience".
2. The position may be a full or part-time work experience, internship or apprenticeship.
3. The work experience is for a minimum **180 hours for short-term programming** and **450 hours for long-term programming**.
4. The position is at an official job site of the employer (exceptions must be pre-approved by IDHS in writing).
5. The position has a corresponding job description.
6. The youth **MUST** be paid a legal wage; however, it is not necessary for that wage to be subsidized by the grant.
7. The youth's wage is at least minimum wage.
8. The subsidy does not exceed the maximum allowed under the grant, \$17.00 per hour.
9. The youth's immediate supervisor is employed by the employer and not the provider unless the provider is the employer.

Program participants may be employed directly by the Grantee under the following conditions

1. The job being subsidized meets the definitional criteria herein as an actual "Work Experience" and meets all above criteria.
2. The position is at an official job site of the grantee (exceptions must be pre-approved by IDHS in writing).
3. The maximum number of youths that may be employed at the Grantee agency at any one time is 10. Exceptions may be considered in special circumstances on a case-by-case basis.