**YOUTH PROGRAM ELEMENTS**

In order to support the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, entry into postsecondary education, and career readiness for participants, the local region shall competitively procure youth program elements consisting of:

1. Tutoring, study skills training, instruction, and evidence-based dropout prevention and recovery strategies that lead to completion of the requirements for a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (including a recognized certificate of attendance or similar document for individuals with disabilities) or for a recognized postsecondary credential;

2. Alternative secondary school services, or dropout recovery services, as appropriate;

3. Paid and unpaid work experiences that have as a component academic and occupational education, which may include

a. summer employment opportunities and other employment opportunities available throughout the school year;

b. pre-apprenticeship programs;

c. internships and job shadowing; and

d. on-the-job training opportunities;

4. Occupational skill training, which may include priority consideration for training programs that lead to recognized postsecondary credentials that are aligned with in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the local area;

5. Education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;

6. Leadership development opportunities, which may include community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social and civic behaviors, as appropriate;

7. Supportive services;

8. Adult mentoring for the period of participation and a subsequent period, for a total of not less than 12 months;

9. Follow-up services for not less than 12 months after the completion of participation, as appropriate;

10. Comprehensive guidance and counseling, which may include drug and alcohol abuse counseling and referral, as appropriate;

11. Financial literacy education;

12. Entrepreneurial skills training;

13. Services that provide labor market and employment information about in-demand industry sectors or occupations available in the local area, such as career awareness, career counseling, and career exploration services; and

14. Activities that help youth prepare for and transition to postsecondary education and training.

**YOUTH PROGRAM DESIGN REQUIREMENTS** - Must include:

1. Objective assessment;

2. Development of service strategies and goals directly linked to one or more of the performance indicators;

3. Activities leading to the attainment of a secondary school; diploma or its recognized equivalent, or a recognized postsecondary credential;

4. Preparation for postsecondary educational and training opportunities;

5. Strong linkages between academic instruction (based on State academic content and student academic achievement standards established under section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311));

6. Occupational education that lead to the attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials;

7. Preparation for unsubsidized employment opportunities, in appropriate cases; and

8. Effective connections to employers, including small employers, in in-demand industry sectors and occupations of the local and regional labor markets.

**YOUTH CORE INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE**

1. Percentage of program participants who are in education or training activities, or in unsubsidized employment during second quarter after exit

2. Percentage of participants who are in education or training activities or in unsubsidized employment during fourth quarter after exit

3. Median earnings of participants in unsubsidized employment during second quarter after exit

4. Percentage of participants who obtain a recognized post-secondary credential, secondary school diploma or equivalent during participation or within 1 year after program exit

5. Percentage of participants who during a program year are in education that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential or employment and who are achieving measurable gains towards those goals

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

1. INFORMATION AND REFERRALS. — Local regions shall ensure that each eligible youth applicant shall be provided—

a. Information on the full array of applicable or appropriate services that are available through the local board or other eligible providers or one-stop partners, including those providers or partners receiving funds under this subtitle; and

b. Referral to appropriate training and educational programs that have the capacity to serve the participant either on a sequential or concurrent basis.

**2.** APPLICANTS NOT MEETING ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Each eligible provider of a program of youth workforce investment activities shall ensure that an eligible applicant who does not meet the enrollment requirements of the particular program or who cannot be served shall be referred for further assessment, as necessary, and referred to appropriate programs to meet the basic skills and training needs of the applicant.

1. INVOLVEMENT IN DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION. —The local region shall ensure that parents, participants, and other members of the community with experience relating to programs for youth are involved in the design and implementation of the youth program design requirements.
2. 2. NONINTERFERENCE AND NON-REPLACEMENT OF REGULAR ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS.—No funds shall be used to provide an activity for eligible youth who are not school dropouts if participation in the activity would interfere with or replace the regular academic requirements of the youth.
3. 3. LINKAGES.—Local regions shall establish linkages with local educational agencies responsible for services to participants as appropriate.
4. **4.** VOLUNTEERS. —The local region shall make opportunities available for individuals who have successfully participated in programs carried out under this section to volunteer assistance to youth participants in the form of mentoring, tutoring, and other activities.

**USE OF YOUTH FUNDS**

1. At least **75%** of local youth formula funds must be used to serve out-of-school youth

2. At least **75%** of the Governor’s youth set aside (10% statewide) funds must be spent on activities that support out-of-school youth

3. Local regions must competitively procure the 14 Youth Program Elements described on pp. 4-5 below.

4. At least **20%** of local youth formula funds must be used for paid and unpaid work experiences, as described under the Youth Program Elements.

5. Local regions may implement a pay-for-performance contract strategy for Youth Program Elements, using not more than 10 percent of the total local formula funds