

Virtual Session 1



Summer Learning
& Enrichment

COLLABORATIVE

Tabletop Session Summary

May 27, 2021

In It Together: Maximizing Partnerships Between Education and Workforce to Support High School Students

Presenters: Jennifer Kemp and Sara Hastings, [Division of Youth Services, Employment and Training Administration, United States Department of Labor](#)

This tabletop discussion explored options for using funding from the United States Department of Education and the Department of Labor for youth summer employment and work-based learning.

Session Highlights

- » Empathy is important to understanding and designing creative programs that meet the needs and interests of youth.
- » Over the last ten years, Albany, New York has been examining its summer youth employment program. The program is primarily city-funded. They examined outcomes for youth who were enrolled in the summer youth employment program and outcomes for youth who did not get into the program. Regardless of race, they found that school completion rates increased when youth were engaged in summer youth employment.
- » The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program provides the structure for serving youth. The program focuses on youth facing barriers to employment (e.g., individuals experiencing homelessness, pregnant or parenting, justice-involved, or who have a disability) and who are either enrolled in school and low-income (ages 14-21) or not attending school (ages 16-24).
- » Services through this funding can include tutoring, mentoring, job training and employment opportunities, leadership development, entrepreneurial skills training, postsecondary education preparation, financial literacy education, and other support services.
- » One program cannot do it all alone, however. Partnering is the key to maximizing resources and to avoid duplicating effort in supporting young people.

Shared Resources

- » [America's Service Locator](#)
- » [Career Pathways Toolkit: An Enhanced Guide and Workbook for System Development](#)
- » [DOL Scholarship Finder](#)
- » [Entrepreneurial Skills Training for Youth](#)
- » [Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs](#)
- » [VentureLab](#)



- » [WIOA Youth Program Eligibility](#)
- » [Youth CareerConnect Grant Program: A Model for Youth Workforce Development and College Prep](#)
- » [Youth Connections Community](#)
- » [Youth.gov](#)

Questions and Answers on In It Together: Maximizing Partnerships between Education and Workforce to Support High School Students

Volunteer work is often important in applications for postsecondary education. What suggestions do you have for completing this service for students who need paid work to support their families?

There are different program models like city parks and conversation corps that help young people get work experience while improving public spaces. These work-based learning opportunities can provide the type of transformative experiences that postsecondary institutions may look for in applicants.

Entrepreneurial skills training is one of the services that youth can receive under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Program. What does that program element look like in practice?

The entrepreneurial skills training program element includes entrepreneurship education, enterprise development, and experiential programs. Entrepreneurship education programs would provide participants the opportunity to learn specific skills about what it means to open a business. Enterprise development programs, on the other hand, would help young people to actually start their own business from ideation and developing a business plan to execution of the plan. Experiential programs provide participants experience in the day-to-day operations of a business.

Do you think that because of the pandemic more youth will be enrolling in summer employment programs as an opportunity to take a break from the virtual programming of the last year? In addition, what do these programs need to do to be able to attract more youth?

It is unclear if there will be an increase in enrollment specifically due to the pandemic. These programs have typically had an overabundance of applicants. Social media and word of mouth have been avenues for attracting youth to these programs.

Proper work attire and transportation are often barriers to employment. Can WIOA funds be used to address these needs?

Yes. Work attire and transportation needs would fall under support services.