

Heartland Community College Contract Abstract

This contract has been entered into for the purpose of providing a drop-out recovery program for the youth. The contract began on July 1, 2018 and will terminate on June 30, 2019. This contract is renewable for two additional years at the discretion of Career Link. The funding amount is \$63,345. The enrollment goal is 30-50 students. To participate students must meet the eligibility criteria for out-of-school youth as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Heartland Community College will provide the intensive education and employment skills program for McLean County youth. The program will serve students, ages 16-24, that have dropped out of high school, have a deficiency in literacy or numeracy, and are economically disadvantaged, will be provided an opportunity to participate in a GED Recovery Program.

Heartland Community College will provide all four required elements of the program – instruction for GED preparation, for literacy and numeracy gains, for employment related skills and incentives to motivate students to achieve. The College will also partner with other groups and businesses to provide work experience opportunities.

Heartland Community College's Adult Education department will provide classes to prepare participants for the High School Equivalency (HSE) exams (GED and HiSet) and to develop career skills. Students will explore careers by taking the career interest inventory, Career Cruising. With the results, they will dig deeper into the Career Cruising site to research career clusters and career possibilities. Also, they will participate in resume workshops and mock interviews. Finally, they will practice soft skills to help prepare them for the workplace including critical thinking skills, teamwork, organizational skills, work ethic and communication skills.

The program design will include the Optional Component for employer involvement. The Drop-Out Recovery Coordinator role will be expanded to a full-time position that will be partially funded by the Drop-Out Recovery grant and partially funded by other state and federal grants. This increase will allow time for the Coordinator to reach out and make connections to employers, offer more one-on-one resume and interviewing counseling, and help with job placement. This employee will continue to work closely with Career Link to set up workplace opportunities. Those connections will lead to the interviewing and hiring of students.

Incentives will be offered for exemplary attendance, demonstrated learning gains, successfully passing the U.S. and Illinois Constitution test, demonstrated readiness for sections of the HSE exam, successful completion of sections of the HSE exam, transition to college-level coursework or job attainment.