

YouthBuild McLean Contract Abstract

This contract has been entered into for the purpose of providing Transition Services to participants of Career Link's youth drop-out recovery programs. The contract began 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 \$84,500.

YouthBuild McLean will provide the intensive education and employment skills program for youth served by Heartland Community College. It is envisioned that the staff would be similar to a mentor. Although not exactly a mentor, that word will be used hereafter for ease of reference. A key component will be for the mentors to build a relationship with the student. Both the GED provider and Career Link will facilitate the establishment of this relationship. Mentors will provide support and guidance to the student. The mentor will be familiar with additional resources to help address these barriers. The mentor will be actively engaged during the GED preparation phase and for at least six months after the student receives their GED. Further participation will depend on the circumstances that the student finds himself or herself in. The Career Link Career Planner and the mentor will discuss the need for further involvement. Typically, if the student enrolls in post-secondary training there would be an expectation for at least one semester of continued contact.

The vision for the Transition Services Program is to engage Career Link youth through developing rapport, enrolling them in YouthBuild vocational programming, providing intensive case management support, offering exposure to employment through internships and an opportunity to earn college credits through completing a career success course taught at YouthBuild. Youth will be connected to the transition program staff at YouthBuild as soon as possible. Monthly meetings and contact with program staff will ensure that a strong bond is created to help with meeting program objectives. Participants will have access to career services through the onsite career center not only while in follow up, but also for the rest of their lives. This will ensure participants will always have support in finding ways to be productive members of our community. Youth will also complete the Everfii Financial Literacy program. Case management support will include bi-monthly meetings, home visits, advocacy within the court system and partnering with local social service agencies to assist youth with accessing support to assist with removing barriers.

All participating youth will have access to a variety of engaging, youth focused activities such as job and career fairs, our annual "Next Step Inspiration" fair, youth in government days, leadership development activities, college visits and training center tours. Employer based soft skill trainings, internship fairs, mock interviews, armed service seminars and many more career focused training opportunities will be made available to all youth participants to provide as much information possible to make informed career choices.

In addition to supportive services available for program participants like bus passes, access to professional clothing, post-secondary education supplies/enrollment fees, registration fees for childcare and application fees for housing YouthBuild McLean County will provide incentive payments for achieving successful program milestones.