

Youth Employment Efforts during COVID-19 -- State and Sub-State Practices (07-30-2020)

(Members of the NASWA E&T Committee submitted some practices* and others were discovered through internet searches.)

MASSACHUSETTS*

Youthworks:

Commonwealth Corporation is the Quasi-Public that is under the purview of Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. "They have done truly amazing work with the Summer Program and getting it up and going virtually." Go to www.commcorp.org and scroll down and click on [YouthWorks](#).

ILLINOIS

COVID-19 Summer Youth Employment Programs (C-SYEP):

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=125094>

CONNECTICUT*

Connecticut Youth Employment Program:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/06-2020/Governor-Lamont-Expands-States-Youth-Employment-Program-Amid-COVID19-Crisis>

The State of Connecticut is operating Youth Employment Programming during the summer and throughout the year. There are three funding sources that are currently being utilized each with a slight variation. The programs are administered through the CT Department of Labor and operated through the 5 Regional Workforce Development Boards (WDBs). The programs are as follows:

1. CT Department of Children and Families - DCF Funded Youth Employment Program serving 14-24 year old DCF supported participants – Summer and Year-Round Components
2. CT Youth Employment Program – Traditional/Annual Youth Employment Program serving 14-21 year old participants – Summer and Year-Round Components
3. Governor's Summer Youth Initiative supported with CARES Act funds – Serving 16-24 year old participants – to provide opportunities until December 30, 2020 with FQHCs and AHECs (and other providers) to address certain aspects of the health crisis

Here are links to the Youth Employment Programs of the 5 WDBs:

- Capital Workforce Partners (North Central Region)
<https://capitalworkforce.org/syelp/>
- Eastern Workforce Investment Board

- <https://www.ewib.org/summer>
- Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board
<http://www.nrwib.org/cyep>
- Workforce Alliance (South Central Region)
<https://www.workforcealliance.biz/youth-and-young-adults/summer-youth-employment/>
- The WorkPlace Inc. (Southwest Region)
<https://www.workplace.org/summer-youth-earn-learn-employment-program/>

NORTH CAROLINA*

Student Response Corps:

In North Carolina, Governor Cooper recently [announced the “Student Response Corps,”](#) a virtual summer internship program for college students for public service opportunities in local governments and nonprofits. Interested students can access a database of internship and employment opportunities [here](#).

NEVADA*

Workforce Connections:

Workforce Connections is currently partnering with the City of Las Vegas regarding summer employment opportunities. They have referred students to WIOA Title I Youth programs for WBL activities. Eligibility determination activities are currently taking place.

Nevada State Parks:

Lincoln County Workforce is partnering with the Nevada State Parks and have placed youth on work experience activities with state parks located in Lincoln County.

Note: Workforce Connections is also in the process of adding two online platforms which will increase youth engagement and participation virtually. Both platforms provide internships and various other youth elements. This is being implemented to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. (See Nevada attachments)

MARYLAND*

Three areas in Maryland provided information. According to Lloyd Day, the state supplements summer youth with state funds, in addition to WIOA funds.

Baltimore County—Hybrid Summer Youth Employment Program

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/News/BaltimoreCountyNow/olszewski-announces-innovative-hybrid-summer-youth-employment-program>

Baltimore City – **YouthWorks 2020** (see Maryland attachment)

Upper Shore – 14 Elements

The Upper Shore is using an online platform called 14 Elements. 14 Elements provides instruction, quizzes, and measures competency tied to the 14 WIOA Youth required elements. We are serving 12 youth and the first week management report indicates that the Youth are engaging, learning and mastering the material. <https://14elements.net/>

Frederick County - YouthWORKS! Summer Jobs Program

YouthWorks is a 6-week paid work experience for youth ages 14 to 21, facing barriers to employment. <https://www.frederickworks.com/summer> Due to the pandemic youth received virtual job readiness training and we are serving a smaller number of youth. The youth are working in a variety of types of positions, some of them are working from home.

YouthWORKS! Virtual Career Academy – participants in this program will receive 65 hours of job readiness training and career exploration over a 5-week period (July 13-August 21). Youth who successfully complete the program will receive a \$650 stipend. Youth will use the Virtual Job Shadow web-based platform for interest assessments and career exploration based off of those interest assessments and local Labor Market Information. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, youth will participate in live instruction, group interactions and presentations. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, youth will complete work independently and have one on one check ins and goal setting meeting with program staff. At the end of the summer youth will have compiled a “road map” with career goals in line with a career pathway of interest.

For Out of School WIOA Youth we have just started a 3-month career exploration program called **Youth Pathways**. This program includes job readiness training, career exploration and a paid work experience. <https://www.frederickworks.com/youth-pathways>

COLORADO*

Denver

The Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program has moved to a 100% virtual platform for Summer 2020 for about 400 youth participants. The experience focuses on a foundational work experience activity using a Google Digital Applied skills platform. The experience includes 40 hours of foundational workforce elements, such as resume development, understanding the digital footprint, communicating effectively, and financial literacy. The second part includes career exploration focusing on topics such as: business and entrepreneurship, arts, finance, and IT.

Weld

[Weld Works for Youth Summer Program](#) - This summer Weld successfully placed 83 14-15 year old's on worksites, even with everything going on with the pandemic!

Larimer

We do have three things of note that we were able to sustain in what I'd call our WIOA Title III programs:

- We are currently operating two conservation corps teams (Larimer County Conservation Corps), employing a total of 14 members (ages 18-25) and 4 leaders. Much of this is funded through contracts we secure with land managers, but we did utilize \$30,000 in CSBG investments to sponsor some young people who are experiencing poverty. Link is here: <https://www.larimer.org/ewd/young-adults/lccc>
- Second is our partnership with our Northern Colorado Manufacturing Partnership and manufacturing businesses. The partnership funds 50% and the manufacturing business funds the other 50%. This purchases a paid summer internship program for youth, ages 16-18, to work within manufacturing employers to aid in their talent attraction/development strategy. We provide the full cycle of services (marketing to youth, recruitment of businesses, application vetting, on-boarding for payroll/workers comp/taxes, bi-weekly payroll, evaluation structure for learning, on-going support, and program conclusion). This year, we were able to salvage approximately 10 positions. We've taken down the content on-line for this program, but you can see we call it High School Summer Internship program here: <https://www.larimer.org/ewd/young-adults/careerrise/summer-opportunities> I'd have to triple check, but I believe we've supported 5 young adults here.
- Finally, we were able to continue our youth employment work with our local Health Department. They've obtained a funding stream that pays for the same scenario I described in the manufacturing paragraph. The difference is occupations/duties and the project extends beyond the summer.

Much of our WIOA Title I programs have come to a halt, leading to only a couple of youth in active work-based learning activities.

Adams

We are planning activities we can do virtually right now; no large events scheduled yet. We are still available for job search assistance, finding volunteer and internship opportunities, and career exploration.

This is our current website about our services for youth:

<http://www.adcogov.org/governors-summer-job-hunt>

Mesa

- We have a Governor's Summer Job Hunt employee on staff all year long. Information can be found on our website: <https://mcwfc.us/services/young-adults/>
- We also have a youth/young adult career exploration website that is maintained through a community collaboration. That website is linked on the above web page, but directly it is <https://findyourfuture.us/>

ADW

- [Young Adult Career Expo](#) is a multi-day virtual for youth interested in apprenticeship and trades after high school. It is in partnership with DVR and SWAP (due to COVID, we had to go to a virtual platform)
- Collaborating with Master's Apprentice to assist potential pre-apprentices in the trades industry. We have been working with them virtually.
- We have currently placed 2 young adults in Work Experience Activities this summer at a barber shop and Cherry Creek School District IT department.
- We are also offering social-distanced tutoring for GED and skills upgrade by referring to our in-house GED instructor as well as our tutoring vendor, Right On Learning. We also have been referring customers to our online high school vendor, Cengage.
- We are continually working with the local school districts to offer virtual services to their students. For example, in collaboration with the Sheridan School District, we virtually meet with a group of students and talk about our services every Wednesday (also known as Workforce Wednesday) and offer job search assistance workshops as well as enroll eligible students into the WIOA Program.

Boulder

- At this point in time, we will not have a summer youth employment program. Due to the high volume in our call center (staff being pulled between case management and UI support), we just don't have the capacity to have one. Now, that doesn't mean we won't support youth if they come in and want a WBL, and the employer can support it with safety protocols in place.

Pikes Peak

- They are continuing to serve Youth. During March 12 -29, 2020, we hosted a Young Adult Virtual Job Fair, for youth job seekers, ages 16-24. We had 48

businesses and 42 job seekers attend. Here is a link to the Governor's Summer Job Hunt webpage: <https://ppwfc.org/governors-job-hunt/>

Jefferson

- We do not have any active plans to have a youth employment program this summer. All previous plans have been halted.

CRWC

- The CRWC generally has an uptick in WE activity in the summer but nothing that is a focused Summer Program.

BOSTON

SuccessLink:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/youth-engagement-and-employment/successlink-jobs>

WASHINGTON, DC

Mayor Barry Summer Youth Employment Program:

<https://does.dc.gov/service/mayor-marion-s-barry-summer-youth-employment-program>

NEW YORK CITY

NYC Summer Youth Employment Program:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships/summer-youth-employment-program-syep.page>

SEATTLE

Seattle Youth Employment Program:

<http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/services-and-programs/youth/seattle-youth-employment-program>

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Covid Corps:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/activitiesandprograms/CovidCorps/>