



COUNSELING TO CAREER

YOUTH PROGRAMS

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Three Rivers and the Mississippi Partnership Workforce Development Area plans to serve youth who are:

- Not attending any school (including post-secondary school and non-credit courses offered by colleges)
- Not less than 16 and not more than age 24;
- Is in the one or more of the following categories:
 - ✓ A school dropout;
 - ✓ A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance (ages 6-17), but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter;
 - ✓ An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system;
 - ✓ A homeless, runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, or in an out-of-home placement;
 - ✓ Pregnant or parenting;
 - ✓ An individual with a disability;
 - ✓ Have attained a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is low income and basic skills deficient or English language learner; or
 - ✓ Low Income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment

Each county within our 27 county region will house a C2C Counselor. These counselors will be properly trained to help youth cope with existing problems and assist them in character development so they may begin the path to a better and brighter future.

Our goal with each youth is to provide one-on-one counseling to develop a “truly personalized” Individual Service Strategy that helps the youth with short-term school/career goals as well as long term. Military Exploration will be made available to

each youth during the counseling process if the student has a desire/interest in that career field.

Each youth will be offered the 14 required WIOA program elements and up to three locally required elements including Work Ethics and WorkKeys testing and will be provided with each element that applies to their newly developed ISS. Each youth will also be required to take the WorkKeys and obtain a Career Readiness Certificate (CRC). A third locally required program element may be incorporated into the C2C youth program in the future at the discretion of The Mississippi Partnership Workforce Development Board. If an additional program element should develop, C2C youth providers will be required to incorporate it into their program if funds are available as determined by the Fiscal Agent.

After the ISS, assessment test and appropriate WIOA paperwork has been completed, each youth will be required to take work ethics training. Minimum topics to be included in the work ethics training are:

- Appearance/Dress
- Attitude and Body Language
- Attendance and Punctuality
- Communication and Following Instructions
- Dependability/Responsibility
- Time Management
- Decision Making and Problem Solving
- Leadership and Motivation
- Financial Knowledge and Management

During the course of work ethics training, youth who are also lacking in basic literacy skills can also be provided with tutoring to increase reading, math and language scores. Youth who did not receive a high school diploma and have not yet received a GED will be referred to the appropriate ABE/GED location within their county to work toward furthering their educational goals.

Once work ethics training is complete, the youth will receive a certificate of completion which must be approved by the fiscal agent staff.

The C2C counselor will also be responsible for finding the youth an appropriate worksite that helps achieve the goals set by the youth which has been outlined in the youth's ISS.

Each worksite will be carefully chosen and each worksite supervisor will also receive one-on-one training to help them understand the importance of the youth's work experience. All employers will be offered a temporary worker complete with pay, worker's compensation insurance, etc. The employer's responsibilities are quite simple:

ensure that the youth use the skills that were taught during work ethics training and continue to be a positive mentor for them along the way.

The C2C counselor will be responsible for ensuring each youth has completed the short-term steps outlined in their ISS including:

- ✓ obtaining a Career Readiness Certificate (CRC)
- ✓ completing the work ethic training receiving a certificate
- ✓ completing a GED (if needed)
- ✓ completing work experience
- ✓ entering college, advanced training, military or become employed

Now it is time for them to begin working towards their long-term goals which should include furthering their education by enrolling into college or receiving technical training or obtaining full-time employment. The counselor will assist the youth with preparing for their long term goals prior to exit to ensure that the student continues on their pathway to success!