

## WIOA YOUTH PROGRAMS – PROGRAM DESIGN

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A youth may be served in The Mississippi Partnership C2C youth a program that is:

1. Not attending any school (including post-secondary school and non-credit courses offered by colleges) ;
2. Not younger than 16 and not older than age 24;
3. Is in one or more of the following categories:
  - a. A school dropout;
  - b. 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;
  - c. An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system;
  - d. A homeless, runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, or in an out-of-home placement;
  - e. Pregnant or parenting;
  - f. An individual with a disability;
  - g. Have attained a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is low income and basic skills deficient or English language learner; or
  - h. Low Income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment

Unlike WIA, WIOA does not require that all out-of-school youth to be low income. If a youth does not qualify under any of the barriers listed in 3.(a)-(f) above but would qualify under barriers (g) or (h) with the exception of the low income requirement, the WIOA allows for an exception to the low income requirement. Not more than 5 percent of the Mississippi Partnership youth served in the C2C Youth Program may be exempt from the low income requirement. ***No non-low income youth may be enrolled into WIOA without prior permission from the Fiscal Agent.***

Low income is defined as an individual who can be placed in one or more of the following categories:

1. receives, or in the past 6 months has received, or is a member of a family that is receiving or in the past 6 months has received, assistance through the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families program under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), or the supplemental security income

- program established under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), or State or local income-based public assistance;
2. is in a family with total family income that does not exceed the higher of—
    - a. the poverty line; or
    - b. percent of the lower living standard income level;
  3. is a homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e–2(6))), or a homeless child or youth (as defined under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)));
  4. receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);
  5. is a foster child on behalf of whom State or local government payments are made; or
  6. is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the income requirement of clause (ii), but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet this requirement.

<b>LOW INCOME GUIDELINES for PY 2016</b>		
<b>FAMILY SIZE</b>	<b>Non-Metro Residents</b>	<b>Metro Residents (DeSoto, Marshall, &amp; Tate Counties Only)</b>
1	\$11,880	\$11,880
2	\$16,020	\$16,020
3	\$20,169	\$20,300
4	\$24,898	\$25,062
5	\$29,382	\$29,579
6	\$34,361	\$34,595
7	\$39,340	\$39,611
8	\$44,319	\$44,627
9	\$49,298	\$49,643
10	\$54,277	\$54,659

For family units in excess of ten (10) family members,

1. Add \$4,979 for each additional member if the family resides in a non-metro area, or
2. Add \$5,016 for each additional member if the family resides in a metro area.

# ASSESSMENT AND SERVICE STRATEGY

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Funds allocated to each local workforce area are to be used to carry out programs that:

1. Provide an **objective assessment** of each participant for the purpose of identifying appropriate services and career pathways. The objective assessment includes:
  - a. Basic skills level,
  - b. Occupational skills,
  - c. Prior work experience,
  - d. Employability,
  - e. Interests and aptitudes (including interests and aptitudes for non-traditional jobs),
  - f. Supportive service needs, and
  - g. Developmental needs.

A new assessment of a participant is not required if the provider carrying out such a program determines it is appropriate to use a recent assessment of the participant conducted pursuant to another education or training program.

It is the responsibility of each youth program provider to ensure that an appropriate assessment is completed for each youth entering the WIOA youth program. Documentation must be maintained in the participant's file showing pertinent information on the assessment used, date completed, scoring, and other facts related to the assessment given.

***Assessment prior to enrolling a youth in the program is a major key to a successful outcome.***

2. Develop **service strategies** for each participant that are directly linked to performance indicators and shall identify:
  - a. Career Pathways that include education and employment goals (including, in appropriate circumstances, non-traditional employment);
  - b. Appropriate achievement objectives; and
  - c. Appropriate services for the participant, taking into account the assessment conducted.

A new service strategy of a participant is not required if the provider carrying out such a program determines it is appropriate to use a recent service strategy of the participant conducted pursuant to another education or training program.

It is the responsibility of each youth program provider to ensure that an appropriate service strategy is completed for each youth entering the WIOA youth program. Documentation must be maintained in the participant's file showing information on the completion of the service strategy, including the involvement of the participant and a description of those program elements that are planned for that participant.

It is the responsibility of each youth program provider to ensure that an appropriate assessment is completed for each youth entering the WIOA youth program. Documentation must be maintained in the participant's file showing pertinent information on the assessment used, date completed, scoring, and other facts related to the assessment given.

The service strategy should be constantly revised to reflect the current status of the youth, and updated at least monthly to indicate any accomplishments or changes and the overall provision of services.

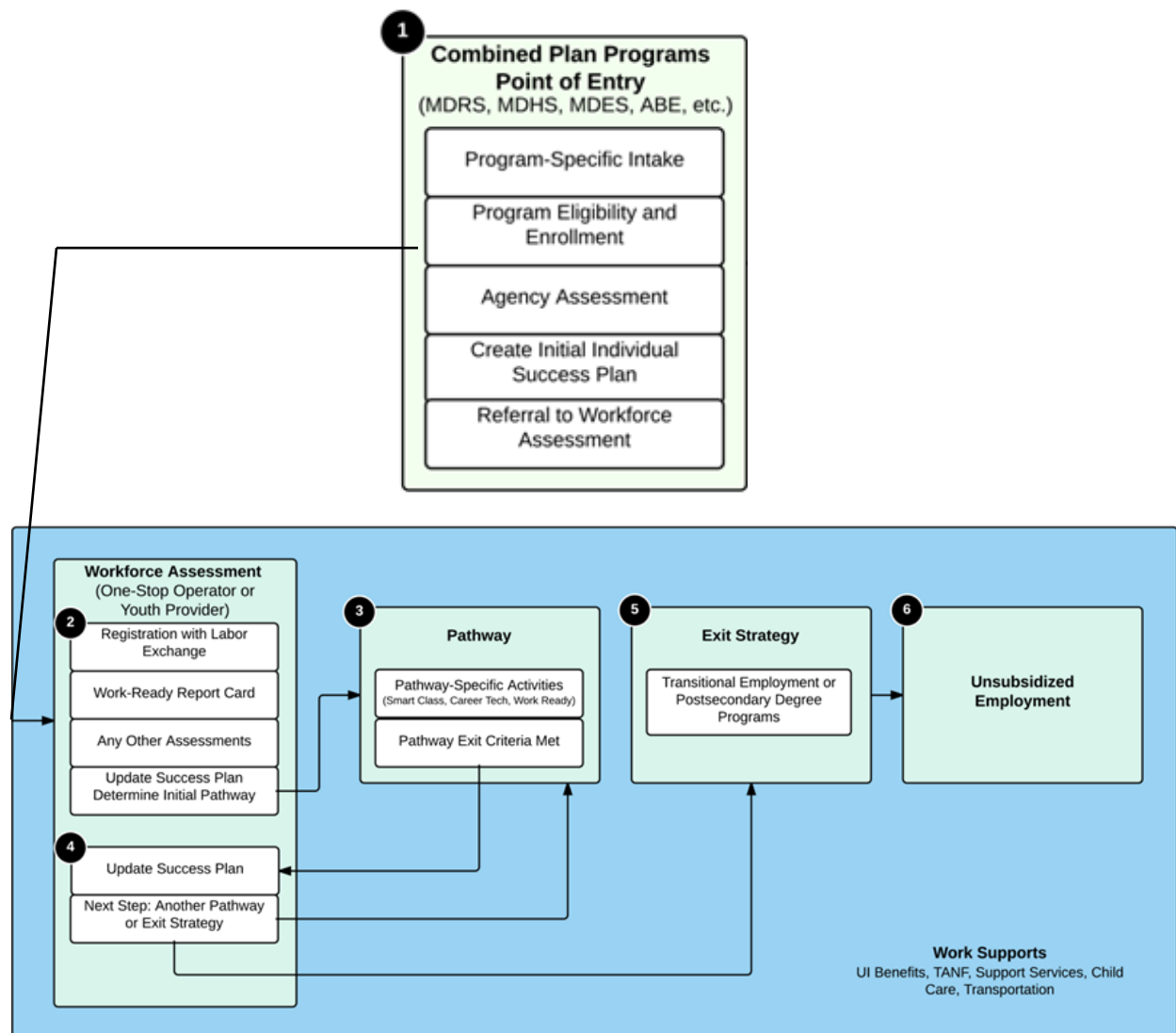
3. And should provide services that:
  - a. Lead to the attainment of a secondary school diploma or GED, or a recognized post-secondary credential
  - b. Prepare youth for post-secondary educational opportunities;
  - c. Strong linkages between academic and occupational education;
  - d. Prepare youth for unsubsidized employment opportunities, in appropriate cases;
  - e. Effective connections to employers, including small employers, in-demand industry sectors and occupations of the local and regional markets.

In all cases, C2C youth programs must use a combination of the program elements (described in the next section) to accomplish the five requirements listed above. Completing an assessment and developing a service strategy should arrive at the best combination of services for each youth. This combination of services should then eventually result in the desired educational/occupational outcome for the youth, achieving the individual goals that have been set and also contributing to the overall performance of the program.

# MISSISSIPPI SMART START CAREER PATHWAY

The Mississippi Smart Start Career Pathway model is an integrated compilation of programs and services intended to develop basic, technical, and employability skills; provide continuous education and training; work supports that lead to high-demand jobs in targeted sectors.

The MS Smart Start Career Pathway Model:



WIOA places emphasis on the development of career pathways for youth. A connection to a career pathway must be included as part of the youth's individual service strategy or MS Smart Start Success Plan.

