

2019 Youth Reentry Grant Awardees

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry awarded 10 entities Youth Re-Entry Grants to support the Commonwealth's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan. The purpose of this grant is to support youth reentry programs that will blend academic and occupation training, provide specific linkages to area employers in high-priority/in-demand occupations, provide needed supportive services and mentorship, and offer clear connections to education and training.

Additionally, these programs will feature close working relationships between Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB's), the PA CareerLink® system, county and/or state justice systems, community or faith-based organizations, the federal bonding program, career and technical education centers, Job Corps, and institutions of higher education. The grants support expanded youth reentry programs for young people, 18-24 years old. The goal of this initiative is to engage youth, who were incarcerated or were subjected to the justice system, in a career pathway leading to postsecondary education, advanced training, and/or meaningful employment. Additional objectives of this grant are to:

- Identify significant barriers to pursuing education/lack of a high school diploma/GED.
- Addresses service delivery to participants with a criminal record or other significant contact with the justice system.
- Bring together county and/or state justice systems, including Pennsylvania Academic & Career/Technical Training (PACTT) affiliates, judges, corrections staff, parole boards, county commissioners, business, education, workforce, and provider partners to achieve the overall project goals.
- Establish connections to postsecondary education so that participants can be exposed to the importance of advanced education and, in appropriate circumstances, to enroll in and begin taking college courses.
- Maintain connections to employers and jobs, including paid work experience opportunities, to ensure that participants can be self-sufficient while they are moving towards academic and occupational credentials.

Grants were awarded utilizing state Reemployment Fund resources. A list of grantees and brief summaries of their projects follow.

Applicant	Amount
Berks County Workforce Development Board	\$500,000.00
Lackawanna County Workforce Development Board	\$500,000.00
Lehigh Valley Workforce Development Board	\$988,924.73
Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Development Board	\$500,000.00
South Central Workforce Development Board	\$500,000.00
Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Board	\$492,509.00
Southwest Corner & Westmoreland/Fayette Workforce Development Boards	\$500,000.00
Three Rivers Workforce Development Board	\$527,463.73
Tri-County Workforce Development Board	\$500,000.00
West Central Workforce Development Board	\$800,000.00
TOTAL	\$5,808,897.46

Grantee: Berks County Workforce Development Board
Grant Title: Berks Connections: R3 Prep for Young Adults
Amount Awarded: \$500,000.00

Location: Berks County

Project Summary: The Berks County Workforce Development Board (Berks WDB), will integrate and draw upon the success of two well-established and proven programs, PA Career-Link® Berks County's Young Adult Program (ResCare) and Berks Connections/Pretrial Services' Rebuilding Reentrants and Reading (R3). "R3 Prep" is designed to implement an adaptive life skill and academically-focused preparatory pathway enabling 18 to 24-year-old "Justice-Affected Individuals" to co-enroll in and successfully complete a dual-track learning experience that can lead to both educational advancement and long-term professional development in apprenticeship, family-sustaining careers. R3 Prep will provide educational, social, and cognitive supports to reentrant and justice-affected young adults to prepare them for success in Rebuilding Reentrants and Reading (R3), a premiere registered pre-apprenticeship program whose outcomes regarding employment success and recidivism reduction have been well documented.

Grantee: Lackawanna County Workforce Development Board
Grant Title: Lifeline to Success
Amount Awarded: \$500,000.00

Location: Lackawanna County

Project Summary: The Lackawanna County Workforce Development Board, in collaboration with Pathstone Incorporated, proposes an aggressive plan of action to expand/enhance the availability of educational, employment, and training services for 75, 18 to 24-aged young adults in Lackawanna County. The goal of this initiative is to comprehensively support youth who were incarcerated or subjected to the juvenile justice system through the provision of intensive, one-on-one case management services; adult mentoring; GED preparation and testing; occupational skills training; work experience; On-The-Job Training (OJT) opportunities; and additional supportive services such as child care assistance, housing assistance, work-related clothing, attainment of a driver's license, other transportation reimbursements, and linkages/referrals to other community services, as appropriate. This, in turn, expands the goal to placement in employment in areas where the affected youth will succeed, thrive, and avoid prior pitfalls.

Grantee: Lehigh Valley Workforce Development Board
Grant Title: Lehigh Valley Youth Reentry Demonstration Project
Amount Awarded: \$988,924.73

Location: Lehigh and Northampton Counties

Project Summary: The Workforce Board Lehigh Valley (WBLV) will integrate the PA CareerLink® Lehigh Valley workforce system into Justice Systems of Northampton and Lehigh Counties that provide referrals of youth who were incarcerated or subject to the justice system to re-engage youth into education, training and employment with personalized services of skills and interest assessments, career pathways, supportive services, and case management. Our post-secondary education partners, Northampton Community College and Lehigh Carbon Community College, will coordinate the education and training needs of participants, and the PACTT Alliance will provide expertise in Employability and Soft Skills.

WBLV will design, develop and conduct a comprehensive targeted outreach campaign, resulting in referral and enrollment of Youth Reentry program participants. The coordination process established through the LEAP program will be enhanced through the purposes of the Youth Reentry Demonstration Grant, which will reengage youth ages 18-24 into education, training, and employment.

Grantee: Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Project REAL (Reconnect, Engage, Advocate and Lead)

Amount Awarded: \$500,000.00

Location: Luzerne and Schuylkill Counties

Project Summary: The LSWIB will leverage existing WIOA Career Navigators and Business Services Representatives and hire a FTE Life Coach/Family Advocate, .5 FTE Intake/Outreach Coordinator, and .5 FTE Career Navigator to provide the specialized services to a minimum of 50 reentry young adults referred from the courts and other justice-involved organizations. We will provide them with individualized services designed to alleviate their barriers to employment and one-on-one mentoring. Job-ready young adults will then be placed in a carefully chosen work experience that will lead to unsubsidized employment and self-sufficiency.

Grantee: South Central Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: South Central Youth Reentry Initiative

Amount Awarded: \$500,000.00

Location: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lebanon, Perry and York Counties

Project Summary: Implement a Youth Reentry program that utilizes embedded staff, mentorship, technology and post release engagement to serve incarcerated youth between the ages of 18-24. The objective is to serve 24 youth, 8 at each of three facilities.

Grantee: Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: reSTART Youth

Amount Awarded: \$492,509.00

Location: Bedford, Blair and Cambria Counties

Project Summary: reSTART Youth will provide a platform for essential collaboration between workforce development services, the juvenile justice system, and service providers necessary for strategic removal of barriers faced by youth reentrants and the vital continuum of care for successful, sustainable, gainful employment.

Grantee: Southwest Corner and Westmoreland/Fayette Workforce Development Boards

Grant Title: The Youth Reentry Cooperative Network

Amount Awarded: \$500,000.00

Location: Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland Counties

Project Summary: The Youth Reentry Cooperative Network (YRCN) is a collaborative project between the Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board and the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Development Board. The program will serve youth ages 18-24 from Beaver, Fayette, Greene,

Washington, and Westmoreland Counties who were incarcerated or were subjected to the justice system. Through program efforts, participants will engage with career pathways that will include post-secondary education, soft-skills training, advanced training, and/or meaningful employment. If the returning youth does not have a high school diploma, youth will be worked back into the school system, or connected to a local GED/remediation program which is offered within all PA CareerLink® centers.

Grantee: Three Rivers Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Partner4Work Youth Reentry Demonstration Project

Amount Awarded: \$527,463.73

Location: Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh

Project Summary: A partnership between Partner4Work, Allegheny County DHS, Auberle, Allegheny County Jail Collaborative and local programs targeted at foster care young adults will work to provide young adults with justice system involvement opportunities for targeted workforce training programs that are tied directly to employers. Participants will be recruited based upon their interest in several in-demand industries in Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh, with employers assisting in developing a screening process to ensure participants are entering fields in which they have long-term interest and meet some initial criteria. This program will build upon existing programming, especially that of the Auberle Employment Institute, and create targeted career pathway opportunities for participants, while providing them necessary support to complete any trainings or on-the-job work experiences. Partner4Work has recruited several employers (and will add more during a planning phase) to help guide training program development.

Grantee: Tri-County Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Youth Reentry Demonstration Project

Amount Awarded: \$500,000.00

Location: Armstrong, Butler and Indiana Counties

Project Summary: The Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (TCWIB) serving Armstrong, Butler, and Indiana Counties is proposing a project for a youth reentry program piloted in Butler County for young adults, ages 18-24 who were incarcerated or were subjected to the justice system (30 per year). The goal is to engage youth in a career pathway leading to postsecondary education, advanced training, and/or meaningful employment. The program will prepare young adults with secondary dropout reengagement and align individuals' skill sets and training gaps to pursue the relevant education and employment. It is hoped that youth will explore and begin a career pathway that will increase opportunities through life and decrease recidivism.

Grantee: West Central Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Community Connections

Amount Awarded: \$800,000.00

Location: Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Warren Counties

Project Summary: The project partners will: conduct participant risk assessments for probability of success in the program; needs assessments to determine - skill sets and training gaps, need for supportive services, services and activities to be scheduled, training options, case management and

support systems, and progress of individuals through training and/or employment. Participants without a high school diploma will be enrolled in literacy instruction and co-enrolled in career exploration to identify a career pathway to pursue. Each participant will be assigned a joint adult mentoring team for advice throughout program participation. The adult mentoring team will refer individuals when appropriate for co-enrollment in WIOA services. WIOA funds will be utilized to place eligible participants in paid work experience, On the Job Training (OJT) and/or Individual Training Accounts (ITAs).