

Greater Nebraska Out-of-School Youth Program: Eligibility Overview

A local area program of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

General Requirements

Program participants must be either a(n):

1. Citizen or national of the United States; **or**
2. Immigrant authorized to work in the United States

Mandatory Requirements

In addition, program participants must:

1. Provide equal opportunity (EO) data on race, ethnicity, age, sex, and disability
2. Not be younger **than age 16** or older **than age 24**
3. Not be attending school, including secondary school or postsecondary school

Sub-Requirements

Program participants must also be one of the following:

- School dropout
- Within the age of compulsory school attendance under state law but has not attended for at least the most recent complete school-year quarter or calendar-year quarter
- Recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent and **low-income** and either:
 - a. basic skills deficient; or
 - b. an English language learner
- Homeless
- Offender
- In foster care
- Pregnant or parenting.
- Has a disability.
- Requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment and is **low-income**.

This desk aid is provided by the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Board and is only intended to be used as a resource for making referrals to the program. Actual eligibility can only be determined by Youth Program staff at an American Job Center or Nebraska Department of Labor Job Center. To learn more about the program or find the nearest service location, visit dol.nebraska.gov.



Glossary of Terms

Basic Skills Deficient

- A youth who has English reading or writing skills or computing skills at or below the 8th grade level based on a generally accepted standardized test; or
- A youth or adult who is unable to compute or solve problems, or read, write, or speak English at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual's family, or in society.

English Language Learner

An individual who has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or comprehending the English language and:

- Whose native language is a language other than English; or
- Who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.

Foster Care

This is an individual that:

- a. Is in foster care;
- b. Has aged out of the foster care system;
- c. Has attained age 16 and left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption;
- d. Is eligible for assistance under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program,
- e. Or is in an out-of-home placement

Homeless

Individuals lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and are:

- a. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- b. Living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground due to the lack of an adequate alternative;
- c. Living in an emergency or transitional shelter; or
- d. Waiting foster care placement.

Individuals could also be considered homeless if:

- a. Their primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings,
- b. They are a migratory youth,
- c. They live in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or training station, or
- d. Is a runaway.

Individual with a Disability

An individual with a disability as defined in Section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Low-Income Eligibility Criteria

1. The individual currently receives or is a member of a family currently receiving assistance through:
 - a. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;
 - b. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program;
 - c. Supplemental Security Income through the Social Security Administration; or
 - d. State or local income-based public assistance.
2. In the past six months, the individual has received or is a member of a family that has received assistance through:
 - a. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;
 - b. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program;
 - c. Supplemental Security Income through the Social Security Administration; or
 - d. State or local income-based public assistance.
3. The individual is in a family whose total family income does not exceed the higher of:
 - a. The current Federally-established poverty line; or
 - b. Seventy percent of the Federally-established lower living standard income level (LLSIL).
4. The individual is a homeless individual
5. The individual receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced-price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, unless the individual is a recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent.
6. The individual is a foster child on behalf of whom state or local government payments are made.
7. The individual is an person with a disability whose income meets the income requirement of Sections 3.a. or 3.b.
8. The individual lives in a high-poverty area.

Offender

An adult or juvenile who:

- Is or has been subject to any stage of the criminal justice process and for whom services under Youth, Adult, or Dislocated Worker programs may be beneficial; or
- Requires assistance in overcoming artificial barriers to employment resulting from a record of arrest or conviction.

Pregnant or Parenting

A pregnant individual is the expectant mother only. An individual who is parenting is a mother or father, custodial or non-custodial.

Requires Additional Assistance

The Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Board defines "requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment" as meeting one or more of the following applications:

- Youth who have not completed high school or other educational programs necessary to secure and maintain entry-level employment;
- Youth who are deficient in basic skills and/or pre-employment/work maturity skills, including those needing English as a Second Language instruction and remedial training for GED;
- Youth who have been identified as a dropout risk, unlikely to graduate due to a lack of credits, and other risk factors cited by school, law enforcement, or community officials such as eligibility to receive free or reduced lunch benefits;
- Youth who are defined as "neediest" – youth in foster care (especially those aging out of foster care), youth in the juvenile justice system, children of incarcerated parents, migrant youth, Native American youth, Indian youth, and youth with disabilities including learning disabilities;
- Youth residing in a defined Area of Substantial Unemployment or;
- Youth who have been unable to obtain or secure employment during the last six months.

School

The term school is defined by state law. Nebraska State Law defines school as a school approved by the Nebraska State Board of Education, including:

- Accredited public and private secondary schools;
- Accredited denominational and parochial secondary schools;
- Schools that elect not to meet accreditation requirements, including home schools; and
- Alternative schools, classes, or education programs established in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-266 for the benefit of expelled students

Nebraska State Law does not include postsecondary institutions in its definition of school. For the purpose of eligibility, the following providers or program are considered schools:

- All postsecondary institutions that are accredited according to the requirements of the U.S. Department of Education;
- All private postsecondary career schools that are licensed or authorized to operate by the Nebraska Department of Education; and
- All private postsecondary career schools that are licensed or authorized to operate in other states according to the requirements of the states in which they operate.

Providers of WIOA Title IC (Job Corps), Title ID (YouthBuild), and Title II (Adult Education and Family Literacy Act) programs are not considered schools for the purposes of determining school status.