

ULSTER COUNTY YOUTH FOLLOW-UP POLICY

PURPOSE: To clarify and provide guidance to program Staff (or “Staff”) in providing follow-up services to youth program participants (or “Youth”). Follow-up services help ensure that Youth continue to succeed in employment and educational goals after completion of participation in the youth program.

REQUIRED: Per WIA and WIOA, youth follow-up services must be provided for 12 months following their exit from the youth program. The services Youth receive while in follow-up status can be the same as services they received while active in the year-round program (e.g., adult mentoring). Examples of these services are outlined in the “Services” section below. Providing these follow-up services does not require Staff to create a new WIA/WIOA enrollment. However, if Staff feel as though the Youth would benefit from more rigorous services (e.g., occupational skills training), they can re-enroll the Youth into the year-round program.

POLICY: All Youth enrolled in Ulster County WIA/WIOA funded youth programs must be provided with follow-up services for not less than 12 months after the completion of WIA/WIOA Youth Program participation.

All Youth must receive some form of follow-up services; the types, scope, and duration of services must be based on the individual needs of each Youth.

Follow-up services may end prior to the 12 month requirement, so long as Staff follows the follow-up protocol outlined below and documents outreach in the One Stop Operating System (OSOS) as services and case notes.

SERVICES: Follow-up services (or “Services”) are individualized to Youth customers. Services should provide continued assistance as needed after participation and assist Youth with transition to or retention in employment or further education.

Follow-up services may include but are not limited to:

- 1) Leadership development and supportive services:
 - a) Leadership development includes opportunities that encourage responsibility, employability and other positive social behaviors, such as:
 - Exposure to postsecondary educational opportunities;
 - Community and service learning projects;
 - Peer-centered activities, including peer mentoring and tutoring;
 - Organizational and team work training, including team leadership training;

- Training in decision making, including determining priorities; and
 - Citizenship training, including life skills such as parenting, work behavior training, and budgeting of resources.
- b) Supportive services include:
- Linkages to community services;
 - Assistance with transportation;
 - Assistance with child care and dependent care;
 - Assistance with housing;
 - Referrals to medical services; and
 - Assistance with uniforms or other appropriate work attire and work related tools, including items such as eye glasses and protective eye gear.
- 2) Academic support and advancement including tracking the progress of Youth in education, including regular contact with Youth participant's academic advisor, to address education related problems that arise; career counseling and remediation.
 - 3) Regular contact with a Youth participant's employer, including assistance in addressing work-related problems that arise;
 - 4) Assistance in securing better paying jobs, career pathway development, and further education or training;
 - 5) Work-related peer support groups;
 - 6) Adult mentoring; and/or
 - 7) Services necessary to ensure the success of Youth participants in employment and/or post-secondary education.

PROCEDURE:

- 1) Upon enrollment in the Year Round WIA/WIOA Youth Employment Program, Youth will complete a follow-up form that will provide a phone number, email address, and names of up to three additional contacts (e.g, employers, relatives, and/or education/training organization) who can be contacted for information regarding Youth (if the Youth is not reachable). See **ATTACHMENT A** for this document for follow-up contact information.
- 2) Prior to exiting the Year Round Program, the follow-up procedure will be reviewed with the Youth. Staff and Youth will discuss and decide upon appropriate follow-up services. **ATTACHMENT A** should be reviewed and updated as needed.
- 3) Follow-up services can start immediately after an Actual End Date has been entered for the last open service on the Youth's record in OSOS, but may begin as late as 90 days after the end of the last Youth Service. There is no need to wait for OSOS to generate the exit date (90 days from the last date of service) to provide follow-up services. Follow-up services

do not extend the enrollment or create a new enrollment, as long as they are entered as "Follow-up" in the "Program Service Type" field in OSOS.

4) Contact:

In providing follow up services, Staff must contact Youth or, if Youth cannot be reached, one or more of the contacts the Youth identified on **ATTACHMENT A** to discuss Youth's progress in employment or education; this contact must be made within 90 days after the end of the last Youth Service, then at least once a quarter for the twelve month follow up period, via phone, email, U.S. mail, in-person, or through social media.

Note: If the Youth contact Staff, this will count as follow-up and should be entered in OSOS as a follow-up service.

OSOS can be used to help Staff set reminders to contact Youth. Reminders can be scheduled using the "Next Contact Date" option on the Services tab in OSOS. In addition, Staff should create a case note using the "Comments" button when entering a follow-up service that includes a comment as to the next date that the Staff will attempt to contact the Youth.

- 5) If Staff contacts Youth and Youth reports no need for services during that contact, this should be fully documented as a follow-up service in OSOS and should also be captured in a case note in the OSOS "Comments" button. Follow-up services should continue to be offered following the schedule above to monitor the Youth's status and needs.

REFUSAL/LOSS OF CONTACT: Staff may end a Youth's follow-up services in less than twelve (12) months if Staff is unable to contact the Youth for two (2) consecutive attempts as outlined below or if Staff receives one rejection from the Youth. Contact should be attempted within 90 days after the end of the last Youth service. If Youth does not respond to first contact attempt after 30 days, a second attempt at contact should be made within 60 days after the first contact attempt.

Contact dates and information must be entered as case notes in the OSOS "Comments" button to show that the contact policy threshold was reached.

EXEMPTIONS/ EARLY TERMINATION:

a) **WIA Exempt:** Not all Youth exiters are required to be provided follow-up services. The following reasons are exclusions from performance measures that do not require follow-up of the Youth (See TEGl 17-05 for full definitions). The reason for the exclusion must be documented in OSOS comments/Case notes. A Youth may be exempt from or not need follow up if the Youth:

- Is institutionalized;
- Is deceased;
- Is undergoing health/medical or family medical care;
- Is a member of Reserve Armed Forces called to Active Duty;
- Has relocated or been transferred to a Mandated Program.

ATTACHMENT A

Follow- Up Contacts and General Release of Information

I, _____ give permission to the Ulster County Youth Employment Program to contact the following people to provide information during the 12 month follow-up period:

- 1) Name: _____
Relationship: _____
Address: _____
Phone(s): _____
Email: _____

- 2) Name: _____
Relationship: _____
Address: _____
Phone(s): _____
Email: _____

- 3) Name: _____
Relationship: _____
Address: _____
Phone(s): _____
Email: _____

I give permission to the above to provide information on my personal history and current/future status to include: medical, family, legal, employment, financial, and current address/phone.

Other information: _____

Applicant Signature

Date