

Frequently Asked Questions for *Young People*



State-wide presence	Nearly 5,000 youth and young adults ages 14-21 served across all 16 regions of Massachusetts
Employer focused	Learning opportunities for in-demand industries including IT, Manufacturing and Healthcare
Comprehensive career readiness training	Participants gain 15-25 hours of career readiness training through tiered learning models
Expansive Partnerships	2,792 partnerships with private sector businesses, non-profits, and community-based organizations
Volunteers Network	Opportunities to connect with working professionals for Career Chats

What is the process to apply and qualify for YouthWorks?

The YouthWorks program serves young people ages 14-21. ***However, in summer 2022, the age range will change to 14-25.*** To apply and qualify for YouthWorks, please contact the program administrator for your city or town for an application. If you live in a city or a town that is not included under your region, your local program administrator can verify if you are eligible for the program. *Please see the full administrator contact list on page 3 of this document.

If I don't qualify for YouthWorks, are there other employment options?

There may be additional employment programs in your area. Additionally, many areas have [MassHire Career Centers](#) with information and resources targeted to young people and young adults. The youth contact person at your local [Workforce Investment Board](#) can give you more information.

Also, Commonwealth Corporation offers the **Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund** and **Career Technical Initiative** designed to serve men and women across the Commonwealth who are ready to engage in programming but require targeted support to succeed in employment.

What's the deadline for applying for YouthWorks?

It's best to check with your local [Workforce Investment Board](#) or [MassHire Career Center](#) to find out about the deadline for applying in your city or town. Many areas use a lottery system to place participants in jobs throughout the year—so meeting the deadline might mean that you are entered in the lottery system.

When does YW start and end?

The YouthWorks Summer Program usually begins the week after the July 4th holiday and ends the last week in August. Applications are normally available between March and April.

The YouthWorks Year-Round Program runs from September to June and applications are available as early as September.

What are the hours and pay?

The hours and pay vary but all young people in work placements make at least the state's minimum. Young people who are ages 14-15 participate in project-based learning experience and receive a stipend that is comparable to the state's minimum wage.

What types of jobs are typically available?

There are positions available in both the public and private sector, representing a variety of industries. Some of these industries include customer service, banking/finance, hospitality, childcare, manufacturing, and IT.

All in-person YouthWorks programming follows the state's COVID-19 guidelines when they are in effect.

What is the YouthWorks program model?

YouthWorks offers young people diverse in-person, virtual and hybrid learning experiences. During work readiness training, participants learn essential skills that employers search for in successful candidates.

Program Model			
Young people ages 14-15	Project-Based Learning	E.g, collaborating with a team of your peers to beautify a local park	Program elements also include work readiness training, Career Chats, and case management support
Young people ages 16+	Subsidized Work Placements	E.g., working at a child-care facility or as an office assistant	Program elements also include work readiness training, Career Chats, and case management

Young people ages 17+	Sector-Aligned Project-Based Learning Intensives	E.g, completing a Certified Nursing Assistant (C.N.A) program or an entry level Bank Teller program	Program elements also include work readiness training, in-person and virtual career pathways training courses, Career Chats, and case management
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What is expected of me as part of the program?

As part of the program, you will participate in 25 hours of **Signal Success** work readiness skills training. Signal Success is a comprehensive curriculum designed and tested by education and workforce development partners to help young people develop essential skills for future success. Young people receive systematic instruction in core soft skills while engaging in meaningful future planning.

Additionally, you will take an active role in setting goals for yourself on the job and assessing your progress. Many programs use an assessment tool called the MA Work-Based Learning Plan (WBLP) to help structure jobs and outline responsibilities, provide a way to talk to your supervisor and program coordinator about how you are doing, and measure your progress. The assessment process will also be useful in helping you describe your job responsibilities and skills on your resume. For example, if your goals are to develop your project management and computer skills, using the WBLP can help you present your new skills on your resume and talk about these skills in your next job interview.

For more information on the YouthWorks program, please contact:

Tasia Cerezo, EdD

Director, Youth Employment, Curriculum and Training
Commonwealth Corporation

Direct: 617.717.6934

Email: tcerezo@commcorp.org

Or the primary contact for your local program.

Regions (Priority Cities)	YouthWorks Cities & Town	Primary Contact
Berkshire	Pittsfield	Kelly Groves-Skrocki Young people Counselor MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board Phone: 413-499-2220 x 145 Email: kgroves@berkshireworks.org
Boston	Boston	Larry Smith Deputy Director of Workforce and Policy Development City of Boston Phone: 617-918-5262 Email: larry.r.smith@boston.gov
Bristol	Fall River, Taunton	Nick Church Young people Systems Coordinator MassHire Bristol Workforce Board Phone: 508-675-1165 x 108 Email: nchurch@masshirebristol.org

Cape & Islands	Barnstable	Martha Burzycki Young people Career Consultant Job Training & Employment Program (JTEC) Phone: 508-862-6139 Email: mburzycki@masshire-capeandislands.com
Central	Worcester	Jeffrey Turgeon Executive Director MassHire Central Workforce Board Phone: 508-799-1509 Email: TurgeonJ@ci.worcester.ma.us
Franklin-Hampshire	Northampton, Ware	Anitra Ford Young people Programs and Special Projects Coordinator MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center Phone: 413-774-3183 x 306 Email: anitraford@masshirefhcareers.org
Greater Brockton	Brockton	David Vincent Director of Young people Services MassHire Greater Brockton Career Center Phone: 508-513-3400 Email: dvincent@masshiregbwb.org
Greater Lowell	Lowell	Heather Donovan Career Center Manager MassHire Greater Lowell Career Center Phone: 978-805-4747 Email: heather.Donovan@masshirelowellcc.com

Greater New Bedford	New Bedford	<p>Brian Silva Interim Young people Program Manager, Connecting Activities Senior Coordinator Quest Center for Innovation MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board Phone: 508-979-1504 x112 Email: brian@masshiregreaternewbedford.com</p>
Hampden	Chicopee, Holyoke, Springfield, West Springfield	<p>Christine Abramowitz Vice-President of Administration and Workforce Systems MassHire Hampden Workforce Board Phone: 413-787-1547 Email: christine@masshirehcbw.com</p>
Merrimack Valley	Lawrence, Haverhill	<p>Cristy Gomez Young people Workforce Program Manager MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board Phone: 978-722-7086 Email: cgomez@masshiremvwb.org</p>
Metro North	Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden Revere, Somerville	<p>Trey Walsh Associate Director MassHire Metro North Workforce Board Phone: 617-945-7804 Email: twalsh@masshiremetronorth.org</p>
Metro South/ West	Framingham, Waltham	<p>Meghan Burke Director of Young Adult Employment Initiative MassHire Metro South/ West Workforce Board Phone: 617-918-5265 Email: mburke@masshiremsw.com</p>

<p>North Central</p>	<p>Fitchburg, Leominster</p>	<p>Mary Chase Director of Finance and Quality North Central Workforce Board Phone: 978- 534- 1481 x 152 Email: mchase@masshirenorthcentralwb.com</p>
<p>North Shore</p>	<p>Lynn, Salem, Peabody</p>	<p>Katie Crowder Coordinator of Workforce Initiatives MassHire North Shore Workforce Board Phone: 978-741-3805 Email: katie@masshire-northshorewb.com</p>
<p>South Shore</p>	<p>Plymouth, Quincy, Weymouth</p>	<p>India Gerald Director of Young people Service MassHire South Shore Workforce Board Phone: 617-934-4854 Email: igerald@masshiresouthshorewb.com</p>