

Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois Contract Abstract

This contract has been entered into for the purpose of providing Transition Services to participants of Career Link's youth drop-out recovery programs. The contract began July 1, 2021 and will terminate on June 30, 2022. This contract is renewable for two additional years at the discretion of Career Link. The funding amount is \$149,816. Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois will assist students in dropout recovery programs to successfully complete the GED and transition to work, post-secondary or the military. Goodwill Industries expects to serve up to 75 students.

Goodwill Industries will provide the intensive education and employment skills program for WIOA youth served by Illinois Central College, Peoria Park District and Spoon River College GED providers. It is envisioned that the staff would be similar to a mentor. Although not exactly a mentor, that word will be used hereafter for ease of reference. A key component will be for the mentors to build a relationship with the student. Both the GED provider and Career Link will facilitate the establishment of this relationship. Mentors will provide support and guidance to the student. The mentor will be familiar with additional resources to help address these barriers. The mentor will be actively engaged during the GED preparation phase and for at least six months after the student receives their GED. Further participation will depend on the circumstances that the student finds himself or herself in. The Career Link Career Planner and the mentor will discuss the need for further involvement. Typically, if the student enrolls in post-secondary training there would be an expectation for at least one semester of continued contact.

Goodwill's staff will regularly communicate with students to build a relationship and provide them with support and guidance through their transition to work, post-secondary or the military after they have completed their GED. Providing consistent communication will be a key factor to aid students in their completion of the program and future success. The subcontractor's staff will also be involved in the process of the Individual Service Strategy (ISS) to assist the students in achieving their benchmarks and will assess the Individual Service Strategy for each student on a quarterly basis.

As staff work to build this positive relationship with youth, they will identify factors that motivate the student, potential barriers to their success, and work alongside the student to break down their long-term ambitions into short and mid-term goals. While youth are obtaining their GED, Transition Services staff will focus on providing group lessons and individual coaching to help them gain the knowledge, as well as building a relationship and rapport with them. As the youth completes their GED, monthly conversations between them and Transition Services staff will turn toward goals and planning for the upcoming transition to follow up.

Every youth who exits into follow up without a clear plan for furthering education or employment will be referred to Goodwill Employment Services for help and support with starting their career. This will allow students to receive assistance and incentives from a non-WIOA program so they are not abruptly cut off from those resources. Employment and Transition Services staff share case notes on dual-enrolled students so both programs can collaborate to support the individual.

A financial incentive system will be offered to encourage perseverance and participation in goal-directed activities. Incentives may be modified, with prior approval from Career Link, as the need arises to make them more effective and appropriate in promoting program successes.