

Black Hawk College Contract Abstract

This contract has been entered into for the purpose of providing a drop-out recovery program for youth. The contract began on 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 \$74,138. The enrollment goal is 10 students. To participate students must meet the eligibility criteria for out-of-school youth as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Black Hawk College (BHC) will provide the intensive education and employment skills program for Stark County youth. The program will serve students, ages 16-24, that have dropped out of high school, have a deficiency in literacy or numeracy, and are economically disadvantaged, will be provided an opportunity to participate in a GED Recovery Program.

BHC will provide all four required elements of the program – instruction for GED preparation, for literacy and numeracy gains, for employment related skills, and incentives to motivate students to achieve. The College will also partner with other groups and businesses to provide workforce experiences.

BHC will help at-risk youth remediate academic skills, earn a high school equivalency, and explore career options while also nurturing personal skills critical to success in the workforce. Participants may also earn industry-standard credentials through the many programs offered by the College at the Community Education Center and the new Welding and Skilled Trades Center. Collaboration with established programs under the Adult Education umbrella provides significant opportunity for outreach and recruitment efforts. Standardized testing, immediate access to quality educational options, flexible scheduling, technology, and seamless transition to post-secondary training all support Stark County youth in achieving superior outcomes. When suitable, students will be employed in either subsidized or unsubsidized positions at local businesses and organizations to help them experience work and explore career options.

All elements of this program will be built around helping students acquire skills, knowledge and character qualities which will help them find success in life and contribute to the community and their family. Study for the GED will involve adopting the characteristics of a self-regulated learner using available learning resources, controlling motivation and thinking, and using different cognitive strategies for better learning. The actual study of the GED will cover the four testing areas. Some course work will be contextualized using health care, welding and automotive content. Tutoring and study skills assistance will also be provided to meet individual needs and goals.

The Youth Advisor will assist students develop a personal work development plans to guide them. These guidance tools help participants sort out career possibilities, explore education and training options, and build their own portfolios.

An extensive financial incentive system will be offered to encourage perseverance and participation in healthy, goal-directed activities. Incentives will be modified as the need arises to make them more effective and appropriate in promoting program successes.

The program will also work with Career Link to provide paid work experiences at Stark County and other local employers. These work experiences will provide needed income to participants and their families as well as providing valuable opportunities to practice soft skills. Established relationships with local employers, the Chamber of Commerce and Economic development officials will be leveraged to facilitate suitable job placements.