	West Central Region Local Policy		
	Subject: Youth Work Experience	OWD Approval Date: 6/9/26	Board Approval Date: 5/27/26
	Reference: OWD Issuance 07-2024 and subsequent issuances	Revision: 8	Effective Date: 7/1/26

Work Experience is a planned, structured learning experience that takes place in a workplace for a limited period of time and provides opportunities for career exploration and skills development. Work experiences may be provided virtually due to the rural nature of the local area or during times of pandemic, if it is not possible to provide work experiences on a work site. Work Experience may be paid or unpaid, as appropriate. A work experience workplace may take place in the private for-profit sector, the nonprofit sector, or the public sector. Labor standards apply in any work experience environment where an employee/employer relationship exists (as defined by Fair Labor Standards Act). Work Experience is an activity involving a time limited work assignment designed to develop specific job keeping skills and/or specific job skills. Work assignments shall include an evaluation of the skills developed during the assignment. Work Experience is provided to youth based on need determined by a case manager’s assessment and provided for in the Individual Service Strategy (ISS) and documented in service notes in Mo Jobs.


WIOA requires that academic and occupational education be a component of a youth’s Work Experience. This may be provided sequentially or concurrently. The following are examples of the academic and occupational component:

1. A Retail Salespersons may require the following occupational skills to be learned: greet customers; recommend, select, and help locate merchandise; compute sales prices; stock shelves. The academic skills to be learned: learn marketing strategies, learn to count change, gain knowledge on the products.
2. A Stocker may require the following occupational skills to be learned: complete order receipts; obtain merchandise from bins or shelves; read orders to determine size, color, or quantity; place items on shelves. The academic skills to be learned: understanding first-in, first-out (FIFO); understanding current customer’s base; learning Microsoft office; learning how to lift items properly; understanding quality standards.

Case managers should always seek to place youth in an employment opportunity that is similar to their career interests or supports the career pathway documented on their ISS. It is important to note, however, there may be instances where this is not possible or it is a youth’s initial venture into the workforce; in those instances, justification for the placement needs to be documented in case notes. OWD Policy: Youth Work Experience describes the four types of work experience as: Pre-Apprenticeships, On the Job Training, Internships and Job Shadowing, and Work Experiences available throughout the year, including summer employment.

General Provisions and Requirements:

Staff should seek employers and worksites that are committed to help youth receive the experience and training that is required for employment beyond the Work Experience period. The employer(s) must be willing to work closely with the case manager and notify them if issues or problems occur. Employers need to have some flexibility in working with youth who have barriers to employment (transportation, childcare, personal adjustment problems, etc.) The case manager will help address these issues throughout the subsidized and/or unsubsidized placement and, in some cases, into long-term employment. Persons placed in a subsidized and/or unsubsidized Work Experience position must be given the opportunity to learn the skills necessary for successful employment in the field. A Work Experience placement is an intermediate employment step toward the long-term goal of permanent unsubsidized employment. The

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academic/occupational education component of work experience can take place on or off the worksite. Youth enrolled in high school, AEL classes, post-secondary education and occupational skills training concurrent with placement in work experience have met the academic and occupational education requirement.


Work Experience assignments must be for a limited period of time and may not exceed 400 hours at worksite; the exception to these rules is Youth On the Job Training. In determining an appropriate length of time for a work experience, consideration should be given to the skill requirement of the position, the academic and occupational skills level of the participant, prior work experience, and the participant’s EP/ISS. A work experience may be extended up to an additional 300 hours. Proper documentation of the need of the additional hours with an updated agreement and training plan are required. This documentation must be based on the participant’s need to learn additional skills at the same worksite. Different work experiences in new positions to explore other career pathway options are allowable and the total number of work experiences for a youth are not limited. These additional work experiences may be developed for up to 400 hours and may also be extended by up to 300 hours with proper documentation. In-school youth will only be able to work as allowed under the Fair Labor Standards Act and Missouri Child Labor Laws. All participants and employers must be notified of the Complaint and Grievance Procedure.

The Participant Handbook will be provided to each participant and reviewed with the case manager as an orientation to the Work Experience Program. Signature page must be completed and placed in the participant file.

Pre-Award Evaluation and Worksite Agreements will be completed by the appropriate staff prior to the placement of a participant at the worksite. All **original** Pre-Award Evaluation and Worksite Agreement forms will be maintained in a separate employer file. Copies of each agreement will be placed in the participant file.

1. Worksite Agreements between the program operator and the Work Experience employer will be used in this activity. A Worksite Agreement is required for each individual worksite.
2. Worksites will not use WIOA participants to replace regular unsubsidized employees.
3. The hourly wage will be determined by Workforce Development Board in partnership with the Youth Service Provider. The hourly wage will be not less than the state or local minimum wage.
4. Program Operator will be considered the employer of record and will provide worker’s compensation coverage to the participant.
5. WIOA participants will be paid only for actual hours worked. No pay will be given for lunch breaks, holidays or absences. Overtime is prohibited.

Worksite Agreement must be signed by the Employer/Authorized Representative and Program Operators Authorized Agency staff before it is valid. General Assurances will be reviewed with the Employer prior to signature of the document.

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Work Experience/Internship Training Plan:

A skills analysis must be completed for each participant placed in a work experience activity. Each skill to be developed must be listed on the Training Plan signed by the employer. Skills listed should be attainments that will enhance the clients work history and assist them in becoming more employable. The Work Experience Training Plan will be completed by the case manager in collaboration with the employer and the participant. Each participant will have an individualized Work Experience Training Plan that will have a detailed description of the job dues they are to perform and the work maturity skills to be learned. Youth Work Experience Training Plan Form developed by OWD should be used.

The total hours to complete the work experience will be based upon the Work Experience Pre – Assessment Form and the skills the participant possesses at the time of training plan completion. Training Plan must be completed and signed by both the participant and the employer prior to the start date of the Work Experience. The original will be placed in the participant file. Copies will be given to the participant and the employer.

Work experiences should be time limited. The WDB requires that work experiences should be no more than six months in duration.

Orientation Checklist for Employers/Supervisors:

Case managers will review all the items on the checklist with all worksite supervisors. Only worksite supervisors who sign the form will be allowed to sign the participant timesheets. All supervisors listed on the training plan must complete the Supervisor Orientation.

Orientation Checklist for Participant:

Case managers will review all the items on the checklist with the participant. The original will be placed in the participant file.

Participant Emergency Contact Information:

The information must be completed by the participant. The original will be placed in the participant file and a copy given to the employer at the start of the Work Experience.


I-9 Documentation:

Case managers must complete the I-9 before the start of the Work Experience assignment. The I-9 with copies of the supporting documentation will be placed in the participant file after E-Verify is complete. E-Verify must be completed within (3) working days of the start of Work Experience.

State and Federal W-4:

Participants must complete and sign both the MO W-4 and the Federal W-4.

Time and Attendance Records:

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The sub-recipient’s payroll system will be utilized by participant and employer to record and approve me. Sub recipient will provide employer and participant with instructions on how to access the system.

In the event the sub-recipient’s payroll system cannot be used, the case manager must ensure the worksite has an acceptable method of recording participant hours. The hours worked each week cannot exceed forty (40) hours. All time and attendance records must be completed in ink and does not allow for the use of “liquid paper,” “white out,” correction tape or other types of correction materials. To record changes, the entry must be struck out with a single line, and the supervisor and the participant must initial the change being entered. Changes discovered by case managers during their review will be noted and a telephone notification made to the supervisor and participant as to the change. As described in the assurances, the participant shall not be paid for lunch breaks, holidays, and absences. The youth must enter the day and month, actual date, the specific times, and the number of hours worked that date. Supervisor must review the time sheet for accuracy. The time sheet must be signed and dated by the participant, worksite supervisor and approved by case managers. Payroll checks for hours worked are only to be issued from the approved time sheet.

Performance Evaluation:

An evaluation of the skills to be attained must be completed. The first evaluation must be completed at the midpoint of the training plan hours. Subsequent evaluations must be done based on individual needs determined by both the employer and case manager. WIOA Youth Work Experience monitoring reports for both participant and employer must be completed on at least a monthly basis. Completed monitoring reports must be reviewed and signed by all parties. This information will be used in determining worksite appropriateness and participants’ job retention potential, skills, abilities, and achievements.

Monitoring:

Mid –point monitoring and end-point monitoring will be conducted. Case managers will review participant work conditions and behaviors and discuss any problems with the employer and the participant. WDB Programs/Compliance or other authorized staff will monitor a representative sample of all Work Experience assignments in conjunction with the Sub-State Monitoring Plan.