



WIOA In-School Youth Bidders Conference Recap

March 18, 2026

Quick recap

A Bidders Conference for the WIOA In-School Youth program outlined key details including the April 28th submission deadline, expected funding range of \$250,000-\$400,000, and requirement for 30% of funds to support paid work experience for students. The Board addressed questions about

- 1) work experience funding usage: Participants should be paid Connecticut Minimum wage for participation in work experience.
- 2) apprenticeship program requirements: There are no formal apprenticeship program requirements, however. Those programs that include pre-apprentice opportunities, transitioning to full apprentices would be considered the best practice.
- 3) geographic service areas: Eligible participants should be recruited from those areas that are geographically appropriate as regards participation. There is no requirement to serve participants from all 41 municipalities in the region.
- 4) industry sector priorities: The NRWIB focuses on healthcare, manufacturing, architecture, engineering construction, IT, and human services.
- 5) It was also clarified that proposers should build budgets for one year of activities with potential for renewal in years two and three, when follow-up services for students who exit the program then be funded

Summary

WIOA Youth Bidders Conference Update

The Agency opened the WIOA In-School Youth Bidders Conference and welcomed participants, including representatives from various agencies. It was confirmed that proposals are due April 28th and must be submitted electronically and budgets must be submitted using Excel budget sheets. Notifications about funding decisions will be made by May 20th.

WIOA Contract and Funding Deadline

For successful proposers, contracts will be developed and completed by July 1 for a July kickoff. It emphasized the importance of reviewing Appendix B, which outlines WIOA youth reporting requirements and data access to the Connecticut Hire system. It was noted that vendors would be



responsible for maintaining necessary documentation and case notes. It was also mentioned that the funding range for proposals is expected to be between \$250,000 and \$400,000, with 30% of the budget required for paid work experience.

Student Wage Payment Guidelines

It was explained that paid work experience funds should primarily be used to pay student wages at or above the state minimum wage, with a portion also allowed for staff time to develop and monitor worksites. It was clarified that job coaching or on-site support would not be an allowable cost unless the student is disabled and involved in Level Up, in which case BRS would coordinate a job coach through the appropriate agency.

Apprenticeship Programs and Service Areas

It was clarified that while apprenticeship programs are not mandatory for eligibility, they could be a beneficial pathway for students, and the scoring criteria are clearly outlined in the RFP. Regarding service areas, It was explained that vendors would not be expected to service all 41 municipalities but rather should focus on geographically appropriate areas based on their location and ability to reach eligible students enrolled in WIOA in-school youth programs.

Priority Industry Sectors in Northwest WIBS

It was confirmed that priority industry sectors for NRWIB area include healthcare, manufacturing, architecture, engineering, construction, IT, and human services. It was suggested that organizations could partner with other occupational skill providers to deliver training programs, such as a CNA program, through subcontracting arrangements.

Grant Year and Budget Clarification

It was clarified that the grant would be awarded for the first year with potential renewal for years two and three and explained how follow-up activities for exited students could be incorporated into year two services. It was again confirmed that the budget should be built for the first year only.