

PY2024 Youth Transition Services Subcontracts

Request for Proposal

Release Date: February 23, 2024

Proposals Due: March 29, 2024

The RFP issued by the United Workforce Development Board (Career Link) seeks proposals for a Transition Services Program, with applications due by March 29, 2024. Up to \$150,000 is available for a one-year contract, with potential for two additional renewals. Applicants must submit a PDF cover letter, a detailed Word proposal, and an Excel budget. The program aims to support out-of-school youth, primarily those completing GED programs, in transitioning successfully to employment, post-secondary education, or military service. The initiative emphasizes building strong, ongoing relationships with youth through mentoring, tailored support, and effective communication, both during GED preparation and after certification—up to six months or more post-GED. Key program components include individual service strategies (ISS), incentives tied to benchmarks, and targeted activities addressing barriers such as attendance or skill deficiencies. The proposal should outline staffing, geographic service areas, activity schedules, and operational strategies, including how to avoid duplication of existing services. Applicants must demonstrate their organizational capacity, experience with WIOA programs, and ability to deliver measurable outcomes such as GED attainment, skills gains, and employment or further education participation. The budget should clearly itemize costs like salaries, fringe benefits, incentives, and operational expenses, with an emphasis on cost-effectiveness. Incentive plans may include gift cards or similar rewards up to \$500 per youth, contingent on meeting benchmarks such as regular meetings, progress milestones, or post-secondary enrollment. The review process evaluates proposals based on organizational capability, program design, budget reasonableness, and compliance with equal opportunity laws; a minimum score of 60 points out of 85 is required for contract consideration. Successful proposals will be monitored annually, ensuring adherence to federal and state regulations, non-discrimination policies, and proper documentation of expenditures and performance outcomes. The RFP encourages comprehensive, well-structured responses to demonstrate readiness to implement a supportive, impactful transition program for youth within the designated eight-county region.

List of Entities Submitting Bids/Proposals

- Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois
- Western Avenue Community Center

Abstract of Bids/Proposals

Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois

This proposal outlines Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois's plan to deliver comprehensive Transition Services in collaboration with Career Link, aimed at supporting youth aged 16-24 in successfully transitioning from GED attainment to employment, post-secondary education, or military service. Building on a proven track record since 2018, Goodwill's program emphasizes personalized mentorship,

consistent communication, and holistic support tailored to individual needs. The program will be housed within Goodwill’s extensive network of locations across the Central Illinois region, including accessible virtual options, ensuring broad reach and flexibility. Staffing will consist of four dedicated full-time employees—including a Program Manager, Case Manager, and support specialist—who bring extensive experience in youth services, mentoring, and community engagement. The program’s core activities include regular in-person and virtual meetings, goal setting, life and job skills workshops, incentives tied to benchmarks, and strategic referrals for additional resources. Participants will receive incentives such as gift cards for milestones like GED completion, job readiness activities, and consistent engagement, with a maximum of \$500 per youth. Strategies for effective communication include utilizing mobile devices, virtual platforms like Microsoft TEAMS, and flexible meeting locations to foster strong relationships and ensure ongoing engagement. The proposal emphasizes coordination with Career Link staff to prevent service duplication and maintain clear, consistent messaging. Budget considerations cover salaries, incentives, technology, travel, and support services, ensuring efficient use of funds. Goodwill’s longstanding experience, high accreditation standards (CARF), and collaborative approach position it well to meet and exceed program benchmarks. Overall, this proposal demonstrates a robust, participant-centered approach designed to increase youth success rates in obtaining GEDs, gaining skills, and transitioning into sustainable careers, thereby supporting Career Link’s broader mission of empowering youth and strengthening the regional workforce.

Western Avenue Community Center

This proposal presents Western Avenue Community Center’s plan to deliver comprehensive Transition Services for youth aged 16-24, focusing on guiding them from GED completion to post-secondary education, employment, or military service within McLean County and surrounding areas. Building on over 95 years of community service, WACC aims to provide personalized, mentor-driven support through a collaborative approach involving staff, community volunteers, and industry professionals. The program will operate primarily at the community center, accommodating student needs and offering individual and group activities. The program emphasizes building strong relationships, effective communication via multiple channels, and individualized case management, ensuring students stay engaged and prepared for their next steps. The team will coordinate with local partners like Heartland Community College for additional resources. Budget considerations include staff wages, operational costs, instructional materials, student travel, and incentives, with a cap of \$150,000 per proposal. Incentives—such as gift cards for passing exams, attendance, and participation—will be awarded regularly to reinforce achievement, with a maximum of \$500 per student. By leveraging established community partnerships and a holistic support model, WACC aims to empower youth, foster their academic and career success, and contribute to building a resilient, inclusive community. This comprehensive approach underscores WACC’s commitment to providing equitable, accessible, and effective transition services tailored to meet the diverse needs of the youth and their families.

Selected Youth Providers

Selected Youth Providers	Total Awards	Duration of Contracts
Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois	\$134,448	Initial contract period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, with the option to extend two additional one-year periods.
Western Avenue Community Center	\$85,060	Initial contract period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, with the option to extend two additional one-year periods.