

Delaware County Workforce Development Board  
Youth Committee  
Thursday, May 29, 2025, 9:00 am

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### Agenda and Report

Youth Committee Minutes Feb 29, 2025

OSY Training Policy Update

2024-25 Q3 Program Performance

Business and Education Partnership

ARPA Summer Camp

TANF YDP Update

Connecting Delco Businesses to Higher Ed

2025 Youth Committee Meeting Dates:

Thursday, August 28, 9 am via Teams

Thursday, November 20, 9 am via Teams

## **Success Story**

### EDSI's Out-of-School Youth Program Success

Aydin Diaby is a 20-year-old high school graduate from Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. Aydin lives in a busy family. His mother is a home health aide, and his father works as an HVAC installer. He has a love for craft building, and making models of ships out of wood, metal, and paper. He knew after graduating from high school in 2023 that he wanted to learn a trade. Aydin enrolled at the Delaware County Community College and received a Certificate of Competency in Welding Technology.

While at college, Aydin learned about welding different types of metal and many angles. He wished to take his newly earned certificate and get an entry level welding job but found this hard to do. He heard back from a few positions and even completed an interview but did not receive any offers. Most employers cited Aydin's lack of experience as the reason why he wasn't brought onboard. It was tricky for him, reconciling the fact that he was both well-qualified for a job but hindered by the fact that he had no formal work experience. He decided to contact EDSI and enroll in the Out-of-School Youth program at the PA CareerLink in Chester.

Aydin received job coaching, resume-building, and guidance on how to search for careers and market himself as a candidate. He was able to build his interviewing skills, navigate social media in a professional setting, and get professional headshots. He was also able to connect with members of the business services and On-the-Job-Training teams about the many connections they had in the field of welding. After a few more applications, interviews, and practical exams, Aydin was finally able to get a good entry level welding job. He is working as a welder for Wesco Industrial Products LLC in North Wales, Pennsylvania. He reports five days a week to help construct hand trucks, lift equipment, and many other products. He is happy to have landed this job and is grateful for these services from EDSI.

## Youth Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 28, 2025, noon via Teams

Committee Attendance: Cathy Cardillo, Rick Durante, Bill Tyson, Steve Butz, Donna Tutak (staff), Allison Barksdale (staff), Jenn Kacimi (staff), Kate McGeever (staff)

### **2024-25 Q2 Program Performance**

Jenn Kacimi invited the committee to review the program performance report. She highlighted the WIOA OSY program at the DCIU. This is a start-up program that began recruiting participants in January. The program benefits from connections to all Delco public high schools. In January, 14 students expressed interest in the program. Cathy Cardillo expressed support for sharing success stories as they develop.

### **Business and Education Partnership**

Allison Barksdale highlighted the new “Beyond the Classroom” career exposure event. It will invite students from six schools to come learn about different career paths in Delco, plus leadership and summer employment.

### **ARPA Summer Camp**

Donna Tutak reported that several summer camps have reached out to participate in the program for summer 2025. Kate McGeever added that the County is considering shifting the funds to the Chamber’s Foundation to allow for fundraising for future sustainability.

### **TANF YDP Policy Update**

Kate reported that the proposed TANF YDP rule change has been withdrawn. The rule change would have limited eligibility to TANF households. DCWDB will be able to continue current eligibility process.

### **Delaware Co Chamber- Youth Leadership Academy**

Cathy Cardillo highlighted this event

### **DCIU CTE Month**

Steve Butz shared that the DCIU recently completed CTE month celebrations.

### **Connecting Delco Businesses to Higher Ed**

Cathy Cardillo highlighted this event as a successful approach to connecting Delco businesses to higher education institutions.



## Delaware County Workforce Development Board

### WIOA Title I Individual Training Account Policy

**July 2024 (REV)**

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#### Purpose:

To provide guidance to grantees and employees to determine an individual's eligibility for an Individual Training Account (ITA) in compliance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) guidance and the Delaware County Workforce Development Board's priorities.

#### Background:

Individual Training Accounts are designed to assist eligible individuals receive occupational skills training for work in high-priority occupations. Training must be provided by approved, high-quality training institutions which adequately prepare individuals for jobs in high priority occupations.

#### Reference:

Training and Employment Guidance Letter NO. 21-22  
ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDERS & PENNSYLVANIA'S ELIGIBLE PROVIDER LIST, PA Dept. of Labor and Industry, 6-24

#### Policy:

Individuals must meet eligibility requirements prior to receiving WIOA-funded services. After eligibility is determined, the individual must complete the employability and skills assessment process to ensure an informed consumer choice of training programs. The individual's choice of a training program is subject to review and approval by Delaware County Workforce Development Board (DCWDB).

#### Eligibility:

To determine general eligibility, an individual must provide proof of:

- Delaware County residency. Individuals from other areas will be referred to their home Workforce Development Area.
- Social Security Number
- Date of birth
- US Citizenship or eligibility to work in the United States
- Selective Service Registration (if applicable)

- High School Diploma or GED

Individuals who meet general eligibility requirements may further qualify for Out-of-School Youth, Adult, or Dislocated Worker funding:

- Adult funding eligibility may be determined for unemployed or part-time employed individuals with a family income at or below 70% Lower-Level Standard Income Level (LLSIL). Priority shall be given to applicants meeting the economic eligibility and one or more documented barrier to employment.
- Dislocated Worker funding eligibility may be determined for individuals who have been terminated or laid off or have received a notice of termination or layoff from employment and are eligible for or have exhausted unemployment compensation benefits.
- Out-of-School Youth funding eligibility may be determined for youth 18-24 with a family income at or below 70% Lower-Level Standard Income Level (LLSIL) or those living in a High-Poverty Area (HPA). Youth must also have a barrier to employment.

DCWDB priority of service policies will be followed when determining an individual's eligibility for funding if necessary.

#### Process to assess skills and interests:

Individual Training Accounts are specifically for those who are unable to attain or retain unsubsidized employment as they complete the following PA CareerLink® and WIOA services/activities:

- Orientation within six months of application date
- Career Assessment and Counseling Meetings
- Job Search Employability Workshops; determined by assessment specialist
- Initiate Individual Employment Plan
- CASAS Assessment (minimum eighth grade reading and math levels)
- WIOA Eligibility Determination
- Reach out to three providers and complete the Training Request form.
- Return Training Request form to Career Consultant within 30 days of receipt

#### ITA Request Review and Approval:

A PA CareerLink® Review Committee reviews all Individual Training Accounts applications for final approval. Consideration for funding is based on a point system. All plus (+) points and minus (-) points are calculated to arrive at the total points scored. A minimum of ten points is required for approval. The DCWDB has final discretion for approving ITA applicants.

Points may be scored on the following criteria:

- Employment-Related Activities
- Economic Need
- Suitability
- Assessment

After an individual submits an application for approval, they should not commit to enroll in training or commit to tuition payment prior to being approved for the training by the PA CareerLink® Review Committee.

If an individual is approved, contracts with training providers will be initiated by the DCWDB. This process may take three weeks or more, so participants should submit applications with all relevant information a minimum of one month before the desired start date. Participants who wish to change the start date of their training are required to complete an ITA modification form.

#### Eligible Training:

Course selection must be oriented to the obtainment of full-time, unsubsidized, permanent employment in a Delaware County High Priority Occupation (see attached Delaware County High Priority Occupation List). The selected course must appear on the Statewide List of Eligible Training Programs/Providers for the program year in which the training will start. The list can be viewed on the PA CareerLink® website [www.pacareerlink.pa.gov](http://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov).

#### Funding Amount:

The maximum amount for approved ITA will not exceed \$5,000.00 or the actual cost of tuition, whichever is less. Individuals who have successfully completed training may apply for additional training after five years.

#### Additional Student Aid:

Participants enrolling in programs which are eligible for FAFSA funds must first apply for Student Aid (FAFSA) and provide a receipt of the Student Aid Report (ISAR). Participants enrolling in programs which are eligible for funding from a Pell grant must first apply for a Pell grant. FAFSA, Pell, PHEAA, and other related grants, including funds provided by the individual's former employer, must be exhausted prior to any payment made by DCWDB. Applications for student aid can be obtained through the training provider, Delaware County PA CareerLink® Offices, and the Free Application for Student Aid website <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> to comply with the Student Aid application process will jeopardize the payment of DCWDB funds.

#### Reporting Requirements:

The ITA applicant's signature on the ITA and the DCWDB Customer Responsibilities Form commits the applicant to comply with reporting requirements throughout the period determined by federal regulations regarding WIOA performance. The individual must submit employment information to the PA CareerLink® Consultant within two weeks of obtaining employment.

The DCWDB has the primary responsibility for the development and oversight of the Individual Training Account policy. The policy may be revised by the DCWDB as necessitated by federal and/or state regulation, regional oversight, or local recommendation.

**WIOA Title I Out-of-School Youth Services**

| Contractor                                 | Employment | Work Experience | Credentials | Measurable Skill Gains | Enrollments |         |
|--|------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|---------|
|  |            |                 |             |                        | Current     | Planned |
| Community Action Agency of Delaware County | 0          | 5               | 17          | 17                     | 20          | 20      |
| Chester Education Foundation               | 13         | 18              | 2           | 18                     | 22          | 25      |
| EDSI, Inc.                                 | 0          | 7               | 0           | 7                      | 36          | 50      |
| Delaware County Intermediate Unit          | 0          | 0               | 0           | 0                      | 1           | 25      |

**TANF Youth Development Program**

| Contractor                        | Employment | Work Experience | Credentials | Enrollments |         |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
|                                   |            |                 |             | Current     | Planned |
| Be Proud Foundation               | 0          | 13              | 0           | 13          | 14      |
| Be Proud Foundation (LIP)         | 0          | 18              | 0           | 18          | 25      |
| Chester Education Foundation      | 5          | 60              | 0           | 60          | 40      |
| Upper Darby Police Department     | 3          | 21              | 0           | 21          | 20      |
| Delaware County Intermediate Unit | 0          | 12              | 0           | 12          | 15      |
| EDSI, Inc                         | 3          | 8               | 0           | 20          | 20      |

## Business Education Partnership (BEP) Grant

- During Q3 planning continued for the inaugural event we have organized to better engage high school students, **Beyond the Classroom: A Career Discovery Day**. This event will provide high school youth with career exposure, career pathways information, and some opportunities for summer and part-time work. Due to space limitations, 26 employers were invited and 8 schools with an anticipated attendance of 200+ students. The Chamber of Commerce had played a significant role in helping with this event, including getting the businesses to participate, helping with the student event guide, and securing refreshments. The event will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- During Q2, we hosted three employer events during PA CareerLink® After Hours, time set aside for youth.
  - **HomeWell Healthcare** (a healthcare franchise) – the owner spoke about healthcare careers and entrepreneurship – 17 youth attended
  - **UPS, Think Outside the Box** (2 events) – Edessa Snyder spoke about how UPS is embracing the careers of the future with emerging technology – 20 youth attended
- There were no professional development workshops for educators held in this quarter.
- Due to personnel changes at the high schools in Chester, we have not been able to schedule any worksite tours or job shadowing events for students.
- DCCC Summer Camp opened enrollment in February. Through the BEP grant 30-35 scholarships will be made available for middle school age children to attend occupational skills camp.

| Activities Recap                             | Progress toward Goals                     |
|--|---|
| Workshops and worksite tours (youth)         | 187 youth reached to date (Goal is 100)   |
| Building Bright Futures Workshop (educators) | 145 teachers reached to date (Goal is 50) |

**ARPA Summer Camp Program**

**Camps- 10 as of 5/12/25**

Boys & Girls Club of Chester

Chef Dad's Table at The Center for Learning

Community YMCA of Eastern Delaware County, Ridley

Community YMCA of Eastern Delaware County, Springfield

Community YMCA of Eastern Delaware County, Lansdowne

Delaware County Community College KidsCamp

John J Tyler Arboretum

Main Line Art Center

Media Arts Council

Upper Chichester Township Summer Camp

\*Caregivers enrolled in the Delco Summer Camp – 9

\*Campers enrolled in the Delco Summer Camp- 15

**TANF YDP**

Delaware's PY23 TANF contract (035-23-3361)

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Admin          | \$115,235.30        |
| <u>Program</u> | <u>\$ 52,000.00</u> |
| Total          | \$167,235.30        |

**BUSINESSES & HIGHER EDS ARE INVITED!**

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BUSINESS COMMUNITY  
& HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS  
OF DELAWARE COUNTY**



**LEARN HOW TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS & INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS WITHIN  
YOUR BUSINESS!**

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JUNE**

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THE TRADES**

**8:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

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