

Workforce Opportunities for Older Youth

AmeriCorps

Each year AmeriCorps volunteers meet critical service needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, and other areas through nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and faith-based organizations nationwide. Members tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, clean parks and streams, and recruit, train, and manage community volunteers for small community groups to nationally known organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Red Cross, and Boys and Girls Clubs of America. In return for their service, AmeriCorps members receive an AmeriCorps Education Award. AmeriCorps membership is open to U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents age 17 and older. Members serve full or part time over a 10- to 12-month period. Upon successful completion of their service, members receive an AmeriCorps Education Award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or graduate school or to pay back qualified student loans. During their service, members receive health coverage, training, and student loan deferment. About half the members also receive a modest annual living allowance. As an AmeriCorps member, you will gain experience that translates directly into job experience in your chosen field. You will learn teamwork, communication, responsibility, and other essential skills that will help you for the rest of your life. Some youth find their AmeriCorps year to provide them with more experience and skills than they would have gotten in a traditional, paying job.

Members who serve part time receive a partial AmeriCorps Education Award. The **College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007** created two new federal programs: a new Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and a new Income-Based Repayment plan (IBR) for the repayment of federal loans. The new Income-Based Repayment plan helps to make repaying education loans more affordable for low-income borrowers, such as an AmeriCorps member living on a stipend; AmeriCorps service is also recognized as equivalent to a public service job for the purposes of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. To learn more, go to this link: http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/overview/index.asp

Missouri Career Centers

Missouri Career Centers are located throughout the state and offer resume preparation, career assessment, online training and workshops as well as direct access to Workforce Investment Act Youth Programs. A map of the locations and other information is available at the site: <http://jobs.mo.gov/jobseeker/find-a-career-center>

Credential Completion and Employment Financial Assistance Program (CCE)

Short term program to help youth who are 19-25 who exited Foster Care earn a recognized credential or specialized training that leads to employment. For more information, go to: <https://dss.mo.gov/cd/older-youth-program/credential-completion-assistance.htm>

Health Industry Training Education

Helps qualified persons 18 and older train in one of 19 high-demand health industry career fields. If your young person lives in the Kansas City or St. Louis metro area, or in Central Missouri he or she may be eligible. Look up HITE information at <https://mydss.mo.gov/hpog-hite>.

Jobs for America's Graduates – Missouri (JAG-Missouri) – Provides extra guidance, help for classroom success, and work-based learning in 82 middle school, high school, and alternative school programs that results in increased graduation and employment rates. Parents and

guardians can ask your student's high school counselor, or find out if your school participates by visiting <https://jag-missouri.org>.

Job Corps

Has four locations in Missouri and helps students train for high demand technical jobs. More information is available by visiting <https://www.jobcorps.gov/>.

Jobs League

- Helps interested 14- to 24-year-olds learn job skills, identify career goals and training needs, and provides paid employment with local businesses.
- It can be the first connection to a job and potentially a first paycheck.
- For more information: <https://jobs.mo.gov/summerjobs>

SkillUP

- Food Stamp (SNAP) recipients over 16 years of age work with coaches to find career paths, create resumes, learn interviewing and interpersonal skills and, in many cases, participate in paid training.
- Can receive help with transportation, work and child care expenses.
- For more information: mo.gov/SkillUp

US Military

There are also opportunities for employment in the US military. Enlisted service members make up the majority of the Military and perform much of the hands-on work. Before serving in the Military, there are a few things a young adult can do to prepare. The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) Career Exploration Program can help young adults discover suitable jobs. To enlist, you must meet certain physical requirements and must be 18 years old, or 17 with parental consent. Youth must also have graduated from high school, although a High School Equivalency Test (HiSet) certificate is sometimes acceptable. The military offers training and benefits. Once committed to service, training begins in the form of boot camp (officially called Initial Entry Training). College students interested in entering the Service as officers may elect to enroll in their school's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program or other service- oriented commissioning programs. Military academies and colleges provide another route to a college degree and officer status. To explore more go to this link:

<http://www.todaysmilitary.com/>

Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) specializes in employment and training services that assist individuals with disabilities in becoming employed. A VR counselor will determine eligibility for services. To be eligible, a youth needs to have a physical or mental impairment that causes problems with working and need VR services to be successfully employed. Once eligible, the youth will work with a counselor who will help the youth develop a plan for rehabilitation. Vocational information and guidance is provided:

<http://dese.mo.gov/adult-learning-rehabilitation-services/vocational-rehabilitation>

Work Opportunity Tax Credit

Private, for profit businesses across the state that hire nine targeted (including youth in foster care) groups with barriers to employment are eligible for a federal tax credit. The Missouri Department of Economic Development, through Division of Workforce Development, administers the program in the state of Missouri. There is no limit on the number of qualifying new hires per business or total amount of tax credits per year. The forms as well as a fact

sheet and brochure may be obtained by visiting the Department of Labor's website at:
<http://www.doleta.gov/business/Incentives/opptax/>

Workforce Investment Boards (WIB)

Participation on your local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) or attendance at the local meetings is an opportunity for staff to become involved at the community level and to be aware of services that are available for the youth through the Workforce investment Act (WIA). Information on local Workforce Investment Boards is available at:
<https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/career-education/career-prep-certificate/workforce-investment-boards> and <https://jobs.mo.gov/community/mo-workforce-development-board>. Each WIB has a Youth Council which is an extension of their board whose primary purpose is to provide expertise in youth policy and to assist local WIBs with program design.

Youth Build: Low-income young people learn construction skills to help build affordable housing and other community assets such as community centers and schools:
<https://www.youthbuild.org/>

Additional information can be found at:

Tips for Caring Adult: <http://dss.mo.gov/cd/info/memos/2011/cd11-023att.pdf>

Department of Economic Development:
<https://ded.mo.gov/community/workforce-resources>

Missouri State Government: <http://www.mo.gov/work/job-seekers/>

US Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov/>

US Bureau of Labor Statistics–Employment Projections: <http://www.bls.gov/emp/home.htm>

Perkins Collaborative Resource Network: <http://cte.ed.gov/>

US Department of Labor: <http://www.dol.gov/>

Missouri Labor Laws: <https://labor.mo.gov/laws> and <https://labor.mo.gov/youth-employment>

Workman's Compensation: http://labor.mo.gov/dwc/injured_workers

Unemployment Benefits: <http://www.mo.gov/work/unemployment/>

Employment Resources for Youth with Disabilities: <https://disability.mo.gov/employment.htm>