

## About the District's Youth Services

The Office of Youth Programs (OYP) develops and administers workforce development programs for District youth ages 14-21. OYP provides occupational skills training, work experience, academic enrichment, and life skills training to facilitate the development of work habits and skills that are essential for success in the workplace. By balancing work-force development with educational services, young adults are encouraged and equipped to complete their secondary education or vocational training, to pursue higher education, or to enter the world of work.

### Our Programs

**The Year-Round In-School Program** helps to transition District youth, ages 14 – 18, from secondary school to post-secondary education and/or the workforce. Program participants receive an array of educational and workforce development services through contracted community-based providers. These services may consist of, but are not limited to, academic enrichment, subsidized work experience, college preparation assistance, work readiness, career exploration, and job shadowing. Youth must be economically disadvantaged and face one or more of the following barriers: deficient in basic literacy skills; homeless, runaway, or foster child; pregnant or parenting; an offender; or require assistance to complete an educational program or secure and hold a job.

**The Year-Round Out-of-School Program** prepares young adults, ages 16 – 21, who are no longer in school – either a high school dropout or graduate – seek guidance with employment and/or post-secondary education. To be eligible for this program, youth must be economically disadvantaged and face one or more of the following barriers: deficient in basic literacy skills; homeless, runaway, or foster child; pregnant or parenting; an offender; or require assistance to complete an educational program; youth must also be unemployed or underemployed. The District's Out-of-School Program serves youth through contracted training providers who deliver workforce development and educational services that help participants build basic literacy and numeracy skills and attain a secondary credential, work readiness training, employability skills, and employment placement and transition support, including post-secondary education or advanced training opportunities.

**The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** brings together community-based organizations, private sector employers, and federal and District government agencies to provide District youth, ages 14 – 21, with summer work experiences that cultivate and stimulate professional and personal aspirations. Program participants receive short-term exposure to in-demand careers with local business partners in the private and public sectors.


**The Mayor's Youth Leadership Institute (MYLI)** is a four-level, year-round, youth leadership training and development program for youth in the District of Columbia, ages 14 – 19. The MYLI training model emphasizes practical, hands-on experience and a holistic approach to developing the leaders of the 21st Century. In addition to work readiness skills training, each of the MYLI levels are developmentally sequenced to ensure increased growth at each stage of learning.

**The Reconnecting Disconnected Youth Initiative (RDY)** is a multi-partner effort led by DOES to significantly increase the capacity and quantity of alternative education and workforce development programs in the District of Columbia to provide disconnected youth with the services, opportunities, and supports they need to reconnect to education and/or the workforce.

For more information about our programs, please call 202-698-3492 or visit [www.does.dc.gov](http://www.does.dc.gov).

**The Department of Employment Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Provider.**  
 Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to persons with disabilities.




**Government of the District of Columbia**  
**Vincent C. Gray, Mayor**  
**Department of Employment Services**  
**Lisa M. Mallory, Director**