



YouthWorks FY26

Participant Eligibility

Summary of Eligibility Criteria

Participation in the YouthWorks program is limited to residents of the workforce region who meet **all** four eligibility requirements as defined below.

Eligibility Factor	Criteria Definition
Age	A participant must be at least 14 at the start of programming and not older than 25 at the start of programming.
Income	A participant must have a family income that does not exceed the annual equivalent of 200% of the Federal poverty guidelines.
Risk and Demographic Factors	A participant must meet at least one of the identified demographics and/or risk factors.
Geographic Residence	A participant must reside in the workforce region in which they are working.

Income Requirements

Definition

In the 2025-2026 program year, a participant must have a family income that does not exceed the annual equivalent of 200% of the Federal poverty guidelines. The Federal Poverty Guidelines are outlined in [Appendix 2](#).

Note: For the purposes of YouthWorks programming “income” is defined as gross income. “Family” is defined as two or more individuals related by blood, marriage, or decree of court, who are living in a single residence, and are included in one or more of the following categories:

- A married couple and dependent children,
- A parent or guardian and dependent children, or
- A married couple.

Risk or Demographic Factors

Definition and Documentation



An enrolled youth must meet at least one of the demographic and/or risk factors listed in the first column of the chart below.

Risk or Demographic Factor Definition	Sample Verification Documentation
Member of the LGBTQ+ community – An individual who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual or nonbinary.	• None needed
Person of Color- An individual who would select “Hispanic or Latino” as their ethnicity or any race other than “White” in response to U.S. Census demographic questions.	• None needed
From a single-income household – An individual who lives in a household where there is only one source of income, typically from a single individual.	• A signed letter from a parent verifying the child lives in a single income household
Experiencing housing insecurity-An individual who lacks stable, safe and affordable housing.	• Written statement from an individual providing temporary residence • Letter from shelter or EOHHS agency
Identifying as having a disability – An individual who identifies as having a disability, as defined by having a condition that makes it harder to do certain activities or interact within the world.	• School records • Medical records • Observable condition • Letter from social service agency
Involved with the justice system (e.g. DYS-committed; on juvenile probation, gang-involved or juvenile arrest)	• Court and police records • Letter of parole • Letter from probation officer or DYS caseworker • Referral from community-based organization with proven capacity for servicing justice-impacted youth



Actively in foster care or having aged out of foster care	• Court documents or letter from EOHHS agency
A school stop-out – An individual who withdrew from high school prior to graduation.	• School records such as grades or MCAS results • Attendance/stop-out letter from school • For out-of-school youth school records dated in the prior two years could be used as well as local assessment such as the TABE
A child of a single parent- An individual who lives with a parent who is unmarried, widowed, or divorced and not remarried.	• A signed letter from a parent verifying the child lives in a single parent household
Having limited fluency in English – An individual who is not fluent in English and identifies their lack of fluency as a barrier to participating in work and learning.	• School records • Teacher or Community-Based- Organization referral • Local assessment of English-language proficiency
Being a teen parent- An individual who became a parent before the age of 21.	• Birth certificate • School records • Referral or letter from social services agency