



The youth programs described in this pamphlet are funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and were selected for WIA funding by the Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board (WIB). These programs are conducted by area community-based organizations and schools to benefit the future of the youth they serve. Rock River Training Corporation (RRTC), a partner in The Workforce Connection, administers local area WIA youth programs.

*Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*

*These Workforce Connection youth services are funded by the Boone & Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the United States Department of Labor for the purpose of creating a competitive, skilled, and educated workforce to advance the economic vitality of our communities. The Workforce Investment Board prohibits discrimination against any person in recruitment, advertisements, training, placement or selection because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, political affiliation or belief.*

*Auxiliary aids & services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. These services are subject to the provisions of the "Jobs for Veteran's Act" Public Law 107-288, which provides priority of service to veterans and spouses of certain veterans. Contact the WIA Equal Opportunity Officer at (815)547-9616 or TTY (815)966-2436 or (815)547-0253.*



The Workforce Connection offers access to programs that provide opportunities for young people between the ages of 16 to 21 in Boone and Winnebago Counties to complete their education and train in areas that help build a foundation to enhance their future.

The goal of all programs for **in-school youth** (ages 16-21) is to help the youth be successful in school, enabling them to graduate and continue their education/training and/or gain unsubsidized employment. In addition to tutoring youth in school subjects and counseling/mentoring the youth, all in-school programs provide career awareness and work readiness activities.

Programs for youth who have dropped **out of school** (ages 17-21) emphasize the importance of youth returning to school or obtaining a GED as a basic step on their road to success. Programs provide basic skills, GED instruction, tutoring, counseling, mentoring, career exploration, work experience, and job placement assistance.

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Rockford IL 61101  
(815) 395-6685  
Fax: (815)966-2433  
TTY: (815) 966-2436

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Belvidere, IL 61008  
(815) 547-9616  
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TRAINING • CONNECTING • DEVELOPING ILLINOIS' WORKFORCE

# Youth Programs

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)  
2010-2011

[www.theworkforceconnection.org](http://www.theworkforceconnection.org)  
[www.illinoisworknet.com](http://www.illinoisworknet.com)

## **PROGRAMS FOR IN-SCHOOL YOUTH**

Boone County Special Education Cooperative

### ***Boone County Youth at Work***

1320 East Avenue  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
(815)544-9851

*The program provides Special Education youth from Belvidere and North Boone High Schools with work readiness skills training and work opportunities.*

Rock Valley College

### ***Refugee and Immigrant Services***

#### ***Project Youth Program***

Workforce Connection  
303 N. Main  
Rockford, IL 61101  
(815)921-2272

*The program targets refugee and immigrant youth who attend Guilford High School, where the Rockford School District's bi-lingual program is housed.*

Rockford Public Schools

### ***School to Work Program***

1900 Rockton Ave.  
Rockford, IL 61103  
(815)966-3200 Ext. 242

*The program works to place WIA eligible juniors and seniors who are receiving vocational Special Education in permanent, competitive employment by the time they graduate from high school or soon after they graduate. The program provides vocational instruction (another funding source), work readiness skills training, and intensive placement assistance, focusing on extensive job coaching.*

YMCA of Rock River Valley

### ***Learn to Earn***

200 Y Boulevard  
Rockford, IL 61107  
(815)489-1134

*The program serves at-risk youth aged 16 and older. The program provides extensive mentoring and counseling, job-readiness and life-skills instruction, job shadowing, internships (with job coaching by program staff), and tutoring.*

Rockford Youth Initiative

### ***Student nTerprise A to Z***

220 S. Madison  
Rockford, IL 61104  
(815)969-7408

*This program targets at-risk youth ages 16-18, helps them complete high school and teaches them about starting their own business. The program is designed to present the concepts of entrepreneurship while providing students with academic support and paid work experience*

## **PROGRAMS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH**

Regional Learning Center

### ***Career Skills***

410 8th St.  
Rockford, IL 61104  
(815) 316-8450

*The program provides a comprehensive educational and job readiness program for youth 17-18 who have dropped out of school, enabling them to complete high school or earn a GED.*

YMCA of Rock River Valley

### ***Link to Success***

200 Y Boulevard  
Rockford, IL 61107  
(815) 489-1133

*The program serves 17- 21 year old youth from Boone and Winnebago counties, emphasizing their obtaining a GED as the basic link to future training and successful employment.*

RVC Adult Education Center

### ***GED to Careers***

4151 Samuelson Road  
Rockford, IL 61109  
(815) 921-2008

*The program helps youth obtain their GED certification, enter advanced training and/or gain employment or improve their current earnings with a better job, and develop an appreciation for lifelong learning.*

Comprehensive Community Solutions

### ***YouthBuild Rockford***

917 S. Main Street  
Rockford, IL 61102  
(815) 963-6236

*The program is affiliated with the national YouthBuild program. Boone/Winnebago WIA monies will contribute toward the funding of approximately half of the youth in YouthBuild Rockford's program.*

### ***Eco-Advocates***

917 S. Main Street  
Rockford, IL 61102  
(815) 963-6236

*This program targets out-of-school youth ages 17-21 and focuses on green urbanism and urban agriculture in partnership with Angelic Organics Learning Center. The program combines academic instruction, vocational training, life skills, leadership development and supportive services.*

### ***For more information, contact specific programs***

#### **Youth wishing to enroll in the Youth Programs offered by The Workforce Connection must meet Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Eligibility Requirements.**

You or someone in your household must:

- Be receiving or have been approved to receive food stamps within the last six months or be receiving SSI, TANF or Township Assistance or be homeless, or
- Family household combined gross income for the past 26 weeks must fall at or below posted maximum limits.

**If you are in-school, you will receive tutoring to help you be successful in school, graduate, gain employment and/or go on to further training.**

**If you are out of school and have not completed high school, you will receive assistance to help you earn your GED, gain employment, and/or go on to further training.**