



# Transition

TENNESSEE

# Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) is a government agency that has a number of different divisions and programs that provide a vast array of services while combining to support jobs and workforce development in Tennessee.

## What services or resources does this agency provide?

The Workforce Services Division is responsible for delivering the department's employment and educational services to employers and job seekers in the local American Job Centers, partner agencies and online at [www.jobs4tn.gov](http://www.jobs4tn.gov). The Adult Education Division provides basic skills upgrades and works with individuals to help them earn a high school equivalency degree to meet their career goals. The Division of Workplace Regulations and Compliance protects the general public, owners and users, and their employees from the hazards inherent in the operation of boilers, elevators, and amusement devices. OSHA is committed to helping workers improve safety and health with outreach, consultation, and enforcement efforts.

TDLWD also offers some specific programs for veterans, seniors, and youth regarding employment efforts. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program is for youth ages 14-24 who need assistance in achieving academic and career goals.



## What areas of Tennessee do they serve?

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development serves all of Tennessee.

## Is there a cost and, if so, who pays?

There is no cost to access the services and programs offered by the department.

## For which students might this agency be appropriate?

This agency is appropriate for students who are interested in seeking employment or need help transitioning into post-secondary life. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development's website provides information about benefits, employee rights, and other employment-related information. Students who are in the transition process would find the WIOA Youth Program particularly helpful in achieving academic and career goals.



## **Who is eligible to receive their services/ supports and when?**

WIOA Youth added an additional eligibility barrier for individuals with disabilities. Contact the department for more specific eligibility information.

## **What is the referral process?**

### **What documents are needed?**

Referral to other programs is made based on the individual's assessment of needs and eligibility. Required documentation can vary.

## **What is the family's responsibility?**

It is the family's responsibility to ensure that their child's employer is upholding the labor laws and providing a safe work environment. The family should be familiar with basic employment laws, rights, and guidelines in the state of TN.

## **What is the student's responsibility?**

It is the student's responsibility to pursue services they might need to find employment in the future. The student should follow through on any services or programs they are using through the department.

## **What is the responsibility of an educator?**

The educator should make sure that the family knows about the various programs offered by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. They should also give parents information about the laws in place to protect children and students in the workplace.

## **Where can I learn more?**

Visit their website at:

<https://www.tn.gov/workforce>

## **How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?**

- The teacher can share information with the family and student about local job fairs that are hosted by TDLWD so that the student can explore training or work experience opportunities such as paid/unpaid internships, job shadowing, etc.).
- If the student is participating in work-based learning during high school, the teacher should be aware of and review the child labor laws as outlined by the state to ensure the student is placed in an appropriate environment.
- The parents should contact their local American Job Centers to learn more about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program and to see if their child would be eligible to participate in various WIOA programs.

## **What questions should I ask of TDLWD?**

- What are the eligibility requirements to enroll in the WIOA Youth Program?
- In Tennessee, what age can a child go to work?
- How do I report a suspected violation of child labor laws?
- Find an American Job Center: at: <https://www.tn.gov/workforce/jobs-and-education/job-search1/find-local-american-job-center.html>