



JVS Youth Services Program Description Kane County Employment and Education for Youth

Kane County Employment and Education for Youth (K.E.E.Y.) provides services at no cost to assist youth with disabilities, ages 16-21 years, to find meaningful employment, continue to college, earn a degree or certificate, and/or increase basic math and reading skills.

The **K.E.E.Y. Program** provides services to youth with disabilities, assisting them to overcome barriers that prohibit them from completing their high school diploma and/or obtaining employment. For eligibility purposes, youth must have a disability, reside in Northern Kane County, be a current high school senior or not in school, be of low income and be authorized to work in the United States. An intake interview is arranged to gather necessary information, to explain the program's policies and procedures, and to determine eligibility. Once the youth complete the intake process and TABE testing assessment, they are assessed for the appropriate level of service to determine suitability for the program. Once suitability is determined the file is sent to KCDEE for approval before services can begin.

JVS staff and youth develop a customized vocational and/or educational plan in order to accomplish the desired vocational/educational goal(s). This plan is updated based on the satisfaction of the youth, achievement of goal(s) and desires for future goals. All services are provided to the youth within their communities at libraries, schools, Illinois workNet Centers, and other community based organizations.

The youth will work with JVS' team to maximize the potential for success. Throughout the entire process, the youth are supported by an experienced vocational counselor who works closely with them in exploring available career options, determining appropriate career goals, and acquiring knowledge of job skills. A qualified employer service representative then works with the youth to pre-screen their qualifications, interests and requirements and conduct mock interviews. When appropriate, the youth are then matched to appropriate job opportunities. The employer service representative works as a liaison between the youth and employer to enhance the experience for both the youth and employer in order to increase job retention. The youth may also work individually with an extra-learning instructor to improve their math and/or reading skills. These services are also coordinated with all stakeholders involved with the youth achieving success. When receiving our services, the youth may receive special funds for transportation, job accommodations and other emergency situations.

To make a referral or for additional information, please contact:

Youth Employment Specialist/Coordinator
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JVS Mission:

Improving life through employment and productivity recognizing that personal development is a lifetime endeavor.