



YEAR-ROUND LEARN & EARN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

What is Year-Round Learn & Earn?

Year-Round Learn & Earn is an expansion of the traditional Summer Learn & Earn program. It provides paid work experiences, career readiness training, mentorship, and workforce development opportunities for young adults throughout the school year.

The program is designed to help participants build workplace skills, explore careers, earn income, and connect to future education and employment opportunities.

Why is Learn & Earn expanding?

Research and local experience show that many young people need ongoing support beyond summer employment experiences.

Year-Round Learn & Earn helps participants:

- Build stronger workplace habits
- Gain more meaningful work experience
- Explore career pathways
- Connect to education and training opportunities
- Transition into unsubsidized employment

The program supports long-term economic mobility for youth from low-income households.

How is Year-Round Learn & Earn different from Summer Learn & Earn?

Summer Learn & Earn operates during the summer for approximately six weeks.

Year-Round Learn & Earn:

- Operates during the academic year (September – March)
- Provides longer-term work experiences
- Includes more intensive career readiness activities
- Creates stronger connections to credential training and employment
- Offers employer hiring pathways for eligible participants

Participants can participate in both Summer and Year-Round Learn & Earn.

Who can participate?

The program serves youth and young adults aged 16-23 living in the City of Pittsburgh who participated in at least one year of Summer Learn & Earn this summer or in the past or are a current or past participant in the TANF Youth Development Program (YDP), and who are deemed eligible via the applicable application process.

Can a youth participate in Year-Round Learn & Earn if they did not participate in Summer Learn & Earn?

Yes, in limited circumstances. Participants must have either completed at least one year of Summer Learn & Earn in the past or be a current or past participant in the TANF Youth Development Program (YDP). Youth who do not meet either of these criteria are not currently eligible for Year-Round Learn & Earn.

What are the program dates?

Year-round Learn & Earn program will run from September 14, 2026 – March 31, 2027. Youth can begin any time after September 14, 2026, and must complete it by March 31, 2027.

This structure is designed to complement students' academic schedules while providing meaningful work-based learning opportunities throughout the year. The final schedule is determined collaboratively between the employer, participant, provider, based on school schedules, worksite needs, and program guidelines.

How do youth get involved in the program?

At the end of Summer Learn & Earn, eligible youth will receive a text message with a link to confirm their interest in participating in the Year-Round program.

Once interest is confirmed, participants will receive access to available worksite opportunities that align with their assigned Track. Youth will review the opportunities and select their top 5 choices.

After selections are submitted, participants will be matched with a worksite and assigned to the corresponding provider. The provider will then contact the participant with onboarding information, program expectations, and next steps.

Why can't I participate in Year-Round Learn & Earn if I don't live in the City of Pittsburgh?

Year-Round Learn & Earn is currently available only to youth who live within the City of Pittsburgh. If you live elsewhere in Allegheny County, there are still great employment and career development opportunities available to you through Partner4Work's WIOA Youth programs.

Youth ages 14–24 who meet eligibility requirements may be able to receive services such as paid work experiences, career exploration, job readiness training, education support, and individualized career coaching through our In-School Youth (ISY) and Out-of-School Youth (OSY) providers. If you are not eligible for Year-Round Learn & Earn, we encourage you to connect with a local youth provider to learn more about the opportunities available in your community.

PARTICIPANT TRACKS, HOURS, PAYMENT & SCHEDULES

What is the difference in the experience for the 16–17 and 18–23 age groups?

Year-Round Learn & Earn uses a two-track model to support participants based on their age, experience, and career readiness.

- Track One (ages 16–17): up to 12 hours per week
- Track Two (ages 18–23): up to 20 hours per week

How is a participant assigned to their Track?

Track assignments are made based on the youth's age as of September 10, 2026.

What is Track One?

Track One serves youth ages 16-17.

The focus is on:

- Career exploration
- Workplace readiness
- Professional skills development
- Exposure to different industries

Participants work:

- Up to 192 total hours (not exceed 12 hours per week) at \$12 per hour

What is Track Two?

Track Two is designed to provide participants with opportunities to directly apply their skills in a work setting.

Participants who have already earned an industry-recognized credential will be placed at worksites aligned with their credential area, allowing them to gain relevant work experience in their field of training.

Participants who have not yet earned an industry-recognized credential will be placed in employment opportunities that align with their existing skills, experience, and career interests, enabling them to build valuable workplace experience while continuing to develop their skills.

Examples of credentials include (not limited to):

- HS Diploma/GED/HiSET
- OSHA 10/30
- ServSafe Food Protection Manager
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- CompTIA A+
- AWS Certified Welder
- NCCER credentials
- Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS)
- CPR/First Aid (depending on how your program defines recognized credentials)

The focus is on:

- Applying existing skills
- Industry-specific work experiences
- Career advancement
- Employment placement

Participants work:

- Up to 320 total hours (not exceeding 20 hours per week) at \$15 per hour

Employers are encouraged to hire participants after the subsidized work experience ends.

What kinds of jobs will youth have?

Placements may be available in industries such as:

- Healthcare
- Information Technology
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Construction
- Hospitality
- Green Energy
- Business and Administration
- Community Services

Worksites will be matched based on participant interests, goals, and qualifications.

WORK EXPERIENCE & GROWTH

Will participants be guaranteed one of their top five job placement choices?

While no placement is guaranteed, we will do our best to match youth with a job opportunity that aligns with their career goals, skills, and interests.

Can participants work at the same worksite as they did during the Summer Learn & Earn?

Possibly. If the employer is continuing into the Year-Round Learn & Earn program, there may be the opportunity for youth to continue employment with them after the summer.

What career readiness activities are included?

Participants may receive:

- Resume development
- Interview preparation
- Workplace communication training
- Teamwork and problem-solving activities
- Professional etiquette training
- Time management instruction
- Digital literacy workshops
- Career exploration activities

Who supervises participants?

Participants are supervised by

- Employer worksite staff
- Community-based provider staff

Regular communication occurs to ensure participants are supported throughout the program.

Will participants have mentors?

Yes, participants receive guidance from:

- Worksite supervisors
- Program staff
- Career coaches
- Community-based provider staff

How can I balance working and going to school?

The program is intentionally designed around the school calendar.

Key features include:

- Limited work hours for younger participants
- Scheduling aligned with school commitments
- Built-in consideration of holidays and testing periods
- Provider support and regular check-ins

The program is designed to complement, not compete with, school responsibilities.

WAGES & TRANSPORTATION

Are participants paid?

Yes, participants earn wages throughout the program.

Track One: \$12/hour - up to \$2,304 over the course of the program

Track Two: \$15/hour - up to \$4,800 over the course of the program

How are participants paid?

Participants will have the option to receive their pay through direct deposit or an ADP Wisley Card.

Participants must accurately submit timesheets and follow payroll procedures.

Will transportation assistance be available?

Yes, all participants are eligible to receive bus passes during the program participation.

ONBOARDING AND NEXT STEPS

What happens after the program ends?

Program outcomes vary by participant, but possible next steps include:

- Employment with a host employer
- Enrollment in occupational training
- Industry credential programs
- Postsecondary education
- Apprenticeships
- Additional Partner4Work workforce services
- Enrollment in Summer Learn & Earn

Will employers hire participants after the program?

For Track Two, employers are encouraged to provide hiring opportunities based on:

- Participant performance
- Business needs
- Available openings

Who should I contact for more information?

Contact Partner4Work at summer@partner4work.org for program updates.