

# ASSESSMENT AND SERVICE STRATEGY

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Funds allocated to each local workforce area are to be used to carry out programs that:

1. Provide an **objective assessment** of each participant for the purpose of identifying appropriate services and career pathways. The objective assessment includes:
  - a. Basic skills level,
  - b. Occupational skills,
  - c. Prior work experience,
  - d. Employability,
  - e. Interests and aptitudes (including interests and aptitudes for non-traditional jobs),
  - f. Supportive service needs, and
  - g. Developmental needs.

A new assessment of a participant is not required if the provider carrying out such a program determines it is appropriate to use a recent assessment of the participant conducted pursuant to another education or training program.

It is the responsibility of each youth program provider to ensure that an appropriate assessment is completed for each youth entering the WIOA youth program. Documentation must be maintained in the participant's file showing pertinent information on the assessment used, date completed, scoring, and other facts related to the assessment given.

***Assessment prior to enrolling a youth in the program is a major key to a successful outcome.***

2. Develop **service strategies** for each participant that are directly linked to performance indicators and shall identify:
  - a. Career Pathways that include education and employment goals (including, in appropriate circumstances, non-traditional employment);
  - b. Appropriate achievement objectives; and
  - c. Appropriate services for the participant, taking into account the assessment conducted.

A new service strategy of a participant is not required if the provider carrying out such a program determines it is appropriate to use a recent service strategy of the participant conducted pursuant to another education or training program.

It is the responsibility of each youth program provider to ensure that an appropriate service strategy is completed for each youth entering the WIOA youth program. Documentation must be maintained in the participant's file showing information on the completion of the service strategy, including the involvement of the participant and a description of those program elements that are planned for that participant.

It is the responsibility of each youth program provider to ensure that an appropriate assessment is completed for each youth entering the WIOA youth program. Documentation must be maintained in the participant's file showing pertinent information on the assessment used, date completed, scoring, and other facts related to the assessment given.

The service strategy should be constantly revised to reflect the current status of the youth, and updated at least monthly to indicate any accomplishments or changes and the overall provision of services.

3. And should provide services that:
  - a. Lead to the attainment of a secondary school diploma or GED, or a recognized post-secondary credential
  - b. Prepare youth for post-secondary educational opportunities;
  - c. Strong linkages between academic and occupational education;
  - d. Prepare youth for unsubsidized employment opportunities, in appropriate cases;
  - e. Effective connections to employers, including small employers, in-demand industry sectors and occupations of the local and regional markets.

In all cases, Gateway Programs must use a combination of the program elements (described in the next section) to accomplish the five requirements listed above. Completing an assessment and developing a service strategy should arrive at the best combination of services for each youth. This combination of services should then eventually result in the desired educational/occupational outcome for the youth, achieving the individual goals that have been set and also contributing to the overall performance of the program.

# MISSISSIPPI SMART START MODEL

The Mississippi Smart Start Model is an integrated compilation of programs and services intended to develop basic, technical, and employability skills; provide continuous education and training; work supports that lead to high-demand jobs in targeted sectors.

WIOA places emphasis on the development of career pathways for youth. A connection to a career pathway must be included as part of the youth’s individual service strategy and/or MS Smart Start Success Plan.

The MS Smart Start Model:

