

WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS

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BOCES (Boards of Cooperative Educational Services)

Offers a wide range of career programs for adults, Erie 1 BOCES' three state-of-the-art career and technical centers also offer more than 25 programs to high school students. Also has a GED Program.

[See Appendix H8 Erie 1 BOCES.](#)

CUNY/SUNY Certificate Programs

Short-term training towards certificates in such areas of plumbing, welding, carpentry, HVAC, architectural technology, legal office supports, medical billing and coding, EMS, early child care assistant teaching, web design. College-related financial aid is typically not available for these trainings, though programs are low-cost and scholarships are sometimes available.

Buffalo Urban League

[YOLO Program](#) (for those 16-24) offers job readiness supports towards pathways in Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care, and Hospitality (*also has GED program*).

[See Appendix H13: Buffalo Urban League.](#)

Northland Workforce Training Center

[See Appendix H12 Northland Workforce Training Center.](#)

The Service Collaborative

[The Service Collaborative \(TSC\)](#) offers a **GED Prep Program** with job training. Starting in Fall 2023, TSC will also be providing more job support services via its Hub initiative.

[See Appendix H11 The Service Collaborative.](#)

(WORKFORCE PROGRAMS CONTINUED)

ACCES VR

Students with IEPs and certain disabilities could enroll in ACCES-VR, which provides vocational rehabilitation services and should have opportunities to work in jobs integrated within their communities. [Click here to learn more.](#) [See Appendix H4 ACCES VR.](#)

SUNY Erie Independence Bound/Youth Engagement Services

Academic, social, personal, and career readiness programs towards success after high school, specifically for **youth in foster care**. Includes job readiness training (basic supports like mock interviews, support with search) and paid internship opportunities as well as college access supports programs. Participants must be work-ready, ages 16-23, and enrolled in an educational program if high school aged (HS or GED). Paid internships last 6-8 weeks. [Learn more.](#)

University of Buffalo EOC

Offers GED prep plus vocational training and supports young adults with college access supports. [Click here to learn more.](#)

UpSkill (Buffalo's Public Schools Adult Education Division)

[See Appendix H10 UpSkill.](#)

Center for Employment Opportunities

CEO serves people who have recently returned home from incarceration. Participants attend a brief, paid orientation followed by transitional paid work opportunities (typically for 2-4 months) on crews providing supplemental indoor/outdoor maintenance and neighborhood beautification. Participants can attend workshops and receive one-on-one support covering crucial digital skills, financial literacy, workplace and communication best practices, and supporting finding full-time employment. Once participants find full-time positions, CEO continues working with them for a year to ensure they have the support they need to grow in their careers.

[Learn more about CEO here.](#)

Buffalo Employment and Training Center (BETC)

"One Stop" career centers located throughout Erie county to support preparation for employment, upgrading or acquiring marketable skills, navigation through the job search process, use of the tools necessary to be successful, and placement assistance. One Stops are open to all but have a specific focus on young adults aged 18-24 and Re-Entry/ Returning Citizens. [Click here for locations and contact information](#) and [click here for information on upcoming job fairs and opportunities](#). [Learn more about BETC.](#)

Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT)

Annually partners with top medical leaders to develop a no cost training curriculum with internship opportunities for young adults and adults continuing their education.

[Learn more about BCAT.](#)

Catholic Charities of Greater Buffalo

Catholic Charities' [Tomorrow's Youth Today](#) assists out-of-school or unemployed youth ages 16 to 24 with high school equivalency preparation and scheduling, employment search assistance, tutoring, and college/training placement services (*also has GED program*).

CC also runs [East Delavan Academy](#), a free, short-term vocational training program providing classroom, hands-on, and soft skills training for students ages 18 and older. Current trainings include Construction & Trades and Telecommunication certifications. [See Appendix H14: Catholic Charities](#)

WEDI's Microloan programs for entrepreneurs

[WEDI's Microloans](#) program is tailored to meet the needs of entrepreneurs seeking small amounts of capital (\$500-\$20,000) who lack access to traditional financial institutions. WEDI is the only lender in Buffalo offering capital to our target population, who might otherwise consider borrowing from predatory lenders. WEDI provides extensive pre-loan assistance and financial education/coaching to entrepreneurs.

E for All for entrepreneurs

Business Accelerator a free, one-year program offered twice a year in EforAll communities. It provides immersive business training, mentorship and access to an extended professional network.

[Learn more about EforAll.](#)

RESOURCES FOR THOSE SEEKING TRAINING/INTERNSHIPS WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL:

Say YES

Connect with [Say YES](#) representatives.

Erie County Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Apply to Summer Youth Internships through SYEP [here](#).

Northland Training Center

Apply to [Northland Training Center's Summer Youth Academy](#) which provides paid summer training towards OSHA certification and supports college application process. [Learn more](#) or watch this [video](#).

The Foundry

Explore options at [The Foundry](#), which offers exposure to STEAM fields and makerspace programs and offers opportunities for students working towards CDOS (Career Development and Occupational Studies) Credential. *See additional Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs section below.*

CAREER & TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS:

Buffalo Public Schools Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department

[Buffalo Public Schools Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Department](#) offers 25+ programs, at least one in every high school. CTE programs integrate rigorous academic, technical skills, workplace attitudes, and behaviors, providing interactive work-based learning experiences and internship opportunities for students. Learn more about [Internship opportunities](#) and [jobs](#) available to CTE students.

Email rpharris@buffaloschools.org or call (716) 816-3700 for more information.

Erie 1 BOCES

[Erie 1 BOCES](#) also offers CTE programming to 11th and 12th graders. Find more information on alternative pathways to graduation [here](#), including [CDOS options](#) which give high school credit towards work/service experiences (*also has GED program*).

[See Appendix H8 Erie 1 BOCES for more information.](#)

POST-SECONDARY DUAL ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[Erie 1 BOCES offers Advanced Studies courses for high school students to enroll in college course work](#)

and receive college credit at a reduced cost or no cost while still in high school. Options include: Buffalo State College - Fashion Design Technology; Erie Community College - Early Childhood Education, Sports Science Careers, Web Technologies and Game Programming; Genesee Community College - Fashion Design and Merchandising; Niagara County Community College - Welding.

[See Appendix H8 Erie 1 BOCES for more information.](#)

GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITIES vs JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS:

Gap / Service Year Programs

- Traditional gap/service year programs offer opportunities to volunteer or work in settings like schools, parks, after-school programs, and nonprofits. The main benefits are work experience, skill-building in leadership, teamwork and problem solving, and the opportunity to travel.
- Requirements and benefits vary by program; some charge fees while others pay participants (such as *very modest* stipends). Some offer credit towards college, aid that can be used for college or workforce training, and/or loan deferment.

Examples include: Public Allies, AmeriCorps, CityYear, FoodCorps, WWOOF but youth could also consider workforce training in the year following high school (see "job training programs")

Job Training Programs

- Free or low-cost programs that increase job readiness and teach skills (both foundational skills like resume writing, job hunting, and mock interviewing) and sector-based trainings in fields like construction or technology
- Some programs offer stipends during training and/or internships
- Programs typically have flexible schedules, and some support participants with childcare and transportation
- Many employ best practices in youth development
- Some also help participants gain work experience through placement into paid internships
- Many have strong completion and job placement outcomes
- Requirements vary; some trainings require a high school diploma or equivalent and most require that the participant be unemployed, under-employed, and/or low-income