

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT PROGRAM (WIA)

ERI is approved as a Federal youth contractor for Planning Districts 16 & 17 serving the following jurisdictions: City of Fredericksburg, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Caroline, and King George Counties, respectively.

Services under the WIA program are designed to improve the long-term employability of youth; to include enhancing their educational and occupational skills, character development, leadership skills, as well as independent living skills with the goal of developing successful young adults who live and work in our communities.

Youth are encouraged and assisted by Transition staff to seek out community resources. ERI works in partnership and collaborates with many state and local agencies to address barriers our youth may have to employment and education opportunities and that may impair them from making a successful transition from school to work, to internships or apprenticeships, the military, post-secondary and/or vocational technology training.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Workshops are designed to assist young adults with getting an edge in the competitive job market. Consultations with youth can be on an individual or group basis and are conducted in such a manner as to encourage youth to begin the self –assessment process by asking important questions of themselves in order to achieve their goals and aspirations. Career Assessments are administered and reviewed with youth and questions, which ultimately have a huge impact on the direction of their lives, are asked. For instance....

- What do you know about looking for work?
- Why work? What's in it for you?
- What do you know about yourself?
- What do you want to do in five to ten years?
- How do you decide on a career?
- Take a look at yourself. How is your appearance?
- How do you get and keep a job?

Young adults are taught job search tools and skills and to develop a plan of action to include career planning:

- Help in writing a professional resume
- Develop a job search/career portfolio
- Learn what an employment application is really used for and how to correctly complete one
- Learn why you would send a cover letter and a thank you letter
- Learn how to win in an interview and how to answer those difficult questions

Services under this program are **FREE** if all eligibility requirements are met.