

## BRIDGES TO PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

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The Bridges to Pathways Initiative is a partnership between the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) and the City of Chicago Department of Family Support and Services aimed at supporting youth in the time of transition between release and returning to an academic pathway.

Bridges uses a comprehensive academic approach that includes Florida Virtual High School (credit recovery), project based learning, and GED preparation to ensure youth remain engaged while in a structured environment.

Students also receive work readiness skills and social emotional learning within a service learning context to re-engage them into the community.

Bridges staff work with youth to motivate a change in their lives, engage in their community, and advance in their career and education pathway.

## PROGRAM LOCATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

**IDJJ youth can apply through their Illinois Youth Center (Chicago or St. Charles) or with their aftercare specialist.**

**SGA Youth & Family Services** is located in the Roseland neighborhood and serves youth from south-side communities in Chicago.

**Central States SER** is located in the Little Village community and serves youth from the west-side communities in Chicago.

### REQUIREMENTS:

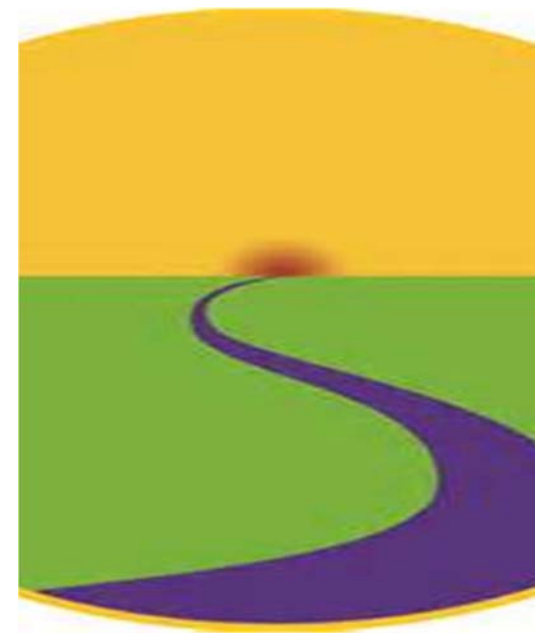
- IDJJ Male, 16-20, residing in the city of Chicago
- A valid Social Security Card or ITIN
- A valid State Identification
- Must be willing to participate in all program aspects and adhere to the attendance policy

(If youth do not have required documentation, please let Bridges staff know for assistance)

Transcript review is also required in the screening process.

Illinois Department of  
Juvenile Justice

## BRIDGES TO PATHWAYS INITIATIVE





# Bridges to Pathways Initiative: Building Education, Workforce Skills and Decision Making

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## GOALS:

- Support youth pursuing their high school diploma or GED
- Assist youth transitioning into a vocational program or post-secondary opportunity
- Provide youth with career exploration, skill development and workforce experience to assist with employment placement
- Develop social and emotional skills of youth-decision making techniques, coping skills
- Connect youth with caring adult mentors to address barriers with employment and school.

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

- Daily academic enrichment activities (On-line diploma recover, GED preparation, and project-based learning)
- Employability Skills Training
- Social and emotional skill development
- Financial Literacy
- Worksite Placement

## SUPPORTS OFFERED:

- One-on-one mentoring and academic assistance
- Daily meals
- Stipends based on attendance and performance for 8 weeks
- Paid work placement (\$8.25/per hour) for 8 weeks
- Transportation assistance

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

### INCLUDE:

- Childcare assistance
- Clothing closet/affordable professional clothing
- Parenting education and classes
- Substance abuse and mental health resources
- Healthcare services/resources

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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### SGA Youth & Family Services

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### Central States SER

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