**YOUTH PROGRAMS**

This section contains information about programs and services for unemployed youth. Check with the service provider for pre-requisites (some are for individuals up to age 24 and others up to age 30) and whether a training allowance is provided (as is the case for those eligible to receive funding from the federal government).

**Alberta Job Corps (AJC)**
3805 – 29 St. NE, Calgary, AB T1Y 6B5

*Bridging Youth to Success (BYTS)*
Contact: Lynn Minuk, Program Coordinator
Ph: 403-297-7685
Fax: 403-297-7709
Email: lynn.minuk@gov.ab.ca
Ongoing Intake Dates
Call Donna Corbett
Ph: 403-297-7300 for intake assessment and interview appointment time

Paid employment is provided for at-risk 16- & 17-year old youth to learn new skills that can be applied to the workforce. Youth are empowered to be successful in their future by gaining necessary “living” and employability skills in order to succeed in life through further education or by accessing employment beyond Alberta Job Corps.

Highlights include:
- career and education planning
- “living skills” workshops
- job search and resume assistance
- job shadowing
- budgeting workshops
- job placement

Participant duration is determined on an individual basis and not to exceed one year in length. Youth must be out of the traditional school system for four weeks or longer. Youth who are currently attending school on a part-time or online basis will also be considered for this program AND will be provided paid employment while completing their education.

Youth will have exposure to multiple occupations as well as the trades. Interested youth may be assisted in preparing for, and challenging, the Alberta Apprenticeship trades exam.

**Calgary Board of Education**
1221 – 8 St. SW, Calgary, AB
[http://encorecbe.ca/](http://encorecbe.ca/)

*Encore Program*
Ph: 403-817-7820
Email: Encorecbe@cbe.ab.ca
Drop-In 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

This program works closely with schools, programs and community agencies to help youth who have left school before graduation to explore possibilities and options for returning to school. It offers a number of resources to help youth and their families who may need to overcome obstacles.

**Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS)**
5th Flr., 1111 – 11 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0G5
Ph. 403-262-2006
Fax: 403-262-2033
[www.ccisab.ca](http://www.ccisab.ca)

*Immigrant Youth Outreach Project*
Calgary Achievement Centre for Youth (CACY)
#100A, 315 - 10 Ave. SE
Calgary, AB
Ph: 403-268-8131
Email: iyp3@ccis-calgary.ab.ca
Website: [http://cacy.org](http://cacy.org)

Located at the Calgary Achievement Centre of Youth (CACY), this program provides education, employment and life skills support to immigrant and refugee youth ages 15-24. Education support includes math summer program, drop-in homework assistance, Saturday self-study tutoring, in-school and out-of-school support, laptop and graphing calculator lending program and various music and art projects. Employment support is delivered on an individual and group basis and includes résumé writing, interview preparation, job search support and career planning. Life skills support and solution focused counselling are offered on a drop-in basis as needed and includes goal-setting, planning and execution, problem solving, and various support and referral services.
Group Based Employability Skills (GBES) is a 5-week life and essential skills workshop designed to ensure that participants gain the necessary skills, tools, information and support to adapt to Canadian society, integrate into the community and the Canadian workplace and succeed on the job. Topics include:
- Effective Communication
- Problem Solving
- Decision Making Skills
- Money Management
- Health and Wellness
- Employability and Social Skills

Employability Skills through Work Experience (ESWE) is a 12-week intervention that includes a two-week workshop designed to provide the necessary tools to find and sustain full-time permanent employment in Canada and a 10-week work experience placement. Workshop topics include:
- Interview Skills
- Resume and Cover Letter Writing
- Job-Search Strategies
- Rules of Canadian Culture and Workplace
- Building Diverse Teams
- Communicating Your Skills, Knowledge and Requirements

Work Experience (WE) is a 12-week work experience placement designed to provide support to participants that have strong interview, resume and cover letter writing skills yet require assistance with their job search.

Youth are provided with a three-week paid work experience in the construction industry, with the potential for full-time employment. The work experience allows youth the opportunity to evaluate and determine the suitability of a construction career path. All interested candidates must partake in a pre-screening interview process and, if successful, are required to complete a Construction Safety Training Systems course. This program is open to individuals aged 16 and up who are no longer in school and are unemployed or marginally employed.
**Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre Society**  
1 Dermot Baldwin Way SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0P8  
www.thedi.ca/woodworks

**WoodWorks Program**  
Ph: 403-699-8282  
Fax: 403-234-0677  
Email: EST@thedi.ca  
Ongoing intakes.

This 16-week paid support program allows individuals between the ages of 16-30 years to gain professional experience in woodworking. Participants complete 640 shop hours which can go toward a first year apprenticeship and can be put toward the Blue Book Certification. To be eligible for this program, participants must first complete the 3-week Employment Services Training program which includes 16 industry certifications, basic computer and life skills. Emphasis is placed on cabinet-making skills including:

- Cabinet and furniture design, construction and installation  
- Safety practices, equipment, machine use and assembly  
- Application of finishes and abrasives  
- Molding and Millwork  
- Shop drawing, math for construction and print interpretation

Applications are available online or at the Information Desk on the first floor of the Centre and can be submitted by fax, mail or returned to the Information Desk.

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**Calgary Immigrant Educational Society (CI ES)**  
1723 – 40 St. SE, Calgary, AB T2A 7Y3  
www.immigrant-education.ca

**Free Internet & Employment Services for Youth** (Funded by TELUS Community Board)  
Contact: Racine Diallo, Computer Programs Manager  
Ph: 403-235-3666  
Fax: 403-272-7455  
Email: employment@immigrant-education.ca  
Ongoing service.  
No cost to participants.

The following services are offered for youth between 16 and 28 years:

- Information about the labour market
- Personal assistance with resume writing, job search and interview skills
- Assistance with job applications
- Networking opportunities
- Life skills development
- Internet access for on-line job search and academic project

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**Calgary Immigrant Women’s Association (CIWA)**  
#200, 138-4 Ave. SE, Calgary, AB T2G 4Z6  
Ph: 403-263-4414  
Fax: 403-264-2914  
www.ciwa-online.com

**Youth Program**  
Ph: 403-263-4414  
Email: youth@ciwaonline.com

This program addresses the needs and concerns of culturally diverse young girls and women between the ages of 10-19. Individual support and counselling are available as well as the following:

- **Girls Culture Club** is located in several high schools throughout the city and run during lunch break or after school. It is a fun and safe place for girls to explore diversity, its challenges and positive qualities, while dealing with issues faced by teenage girls balancing their cultures and the expectations of Canadian society. Activities, fieldtrips, and guest speakers are coordinated throughout the year.
• **Youth Standing Committee** provides leadership opportunities and training to girls who would like to develop their organizational and leadership skills. Different community projects and chosen and coordinated by the committee or young girls throughout the year.

• **Youth Cultural Summer Camp** is a summer camp for girls ages 10-17 years who participate in exciting indoor and outdoor activities and attend several field trips. Camp activities focus on enhancing self-esteem, promoting emotional and physical health, as well as goal setting and potential fulfillment. Contact the Program Coordinator for assistance with fees.

Calgary Immigrant Women’s Association (CIWA) – Links to Success – Skills Enhancement and Internships for Young Immigrant Mothers (ages 15-30 years) - see Immigrant Training and Employment Programs and Services

Calgary John Howard Society (CJHS)
917 – 9 Ave. SE, Calgary, AB
www.cjhs.ca

**Child and Youth Empowerment Strategy**
Contact: Ed Kubeczek
Ph: 403-716-7300
Fax: 403-265-2458
Email: ed.kubeczek@cjhs.ca
Intake Dates: Ongoing

Provides up to 10 sessions of individual counselling for youth 12-18 years of age who are involved or at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system, including:

• Assessment of protective and risk factors
• Development of coping and change strategies

**RAFT (Restorative Action for Transformation)**
Contact: Deborah Nowakowski
Ph: 403-543-7825
Fax: 403-265-2458
Email: deborah.nowakowski@cjhs.ca
Intake Dates: Ongoing

Services are provided for youth 12-18 years of age who are involved or at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system, with the focus on accountability, empathy, healing and closure for those involved in and affected by youth crime. Services available include:

• Victim Offender Dialogue and Calgary Community Conferencing (facilitated conversations between youth, victim and supporters)
• Crime Impact Session (individual session when a victim cannot be involved)
• Opportunity to repair harm caused by offending behaviour

**Youth Advocacy and Support**
Contact: Mark Cruz
Ph: 403-543-7826
Fax: 403-265-2458
Email: mark.cruz@cjhs.ca
Intake Dates: Ongoing

One-to-one support in the community is provided for youth 12-18 years of age who are involved or at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system, including:

• Crisis and conflict resolution skills
• Goal-setting
• Referrals and advocacy for additional resources
CanLearn Society
#100, 1117 MacLeod Tr. SE, Calgary, AB T2G 2M8
www.canlearnsociety.ca

**Services for Youth at Risk**
Contact: Dr. Anne Price
Ph: 403-686-9300 ext 102

Services include:
- Assessment for learning or attention difficulties
- Follow-up consultation
- Strategy tutoring
- Self-advocacy coaching
- Assistive technology training
- Transition planning (to education or to work)
- Connection to other resources, services and agencies

Centre for Newcomers
#1010, 999 – 36 St. NE, Calgary, AB T2A 7X6
www.centrefornewcomers.ca

**Real Me Program**
Contact: Mohamed El-Rafih, Project Coordinator
Ph: 403-569-3333
Fax: 403-648-2218
Email: m.elrafih@centrefornewcomers.ca
Intake Dates: Email or call

This program serves first- and second-generation immigrant youth between 12 and 24 years who are involved, or at risk of becoming involved, in gangs. It provides services to high-need youth through a community based wrap-around approach. This is a youth-led wrap-around initiative tailored to the youth’s unique identity.

Immigrant Services Calgary
#1200, 910 – 7 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T2P 3N8
www.immigrantservicescalgary.ca

**Youth Volunteer Program (YVP)**
Contact: Patricia Saona
Ph: 403-538-8333
Email: patricias@immigrantservicescalgary.ca

This program provides opportunities for immigrant youth between the ages of 14 and 20 years to get involved in the community through volunteerism. It is designed to help immigrant youth discover the difference they can make in Canadian society through civic engagement. Participants gain experience in the Canadian workplace, participate in development opportunities, learn about the diverse culture in Canada, meet new friends and have fun through meaningful volunteer placements as well as a variety of social, recreational and team building activities.

Job Resource Centre – Banff and Canmore
Canmore: #109, 710 – 10 St., Canmore, AB T1W 0G7
Banff: 314 Marten St., Box 2039, Banff, AB T1L 1B8
www.jobresourcecentre.com

**Services to Youth**
Contact: Jane Kuzik
Banff: Ph: 403-760-3311
Canmore: Ph: 403-678-6601
Continuous Intake

This initiative will help youth (aged 16-24) of Canmore, Banff and area connect with the appropriate resources to enable them to develop an effective career, employment and learning plans. This may include the development of a career path, an individual learning plan, or an individual work plan resulting in a comprehensive career development strategy. The Client may be in school, either secondary or post-secondary, working, unemployed, or under-employed.
Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta

**Company Program – A Student Venture – After School**
Contact: Hanna Watson  
Ph: 403-781-2579  
Fax: 403-261-6988  
Email: hwatson@jasouthalberta.org  
Intake: Year round for Oct to Apr program delivery

This entrepreneurship program gives youth in grades 9-12 the opportunity to learn business, entrepreneurial, workplace readiness and leadership skills. Students will start up and run a business for 18 weeks with help and guidance from a team of volunteers generously provided by corporations and other businesses.

Meetings take place once a week for three hours from October through April with breaks over exam times and winter holidays. This program is offered in many towns and cities throughout southern Alberta, based on student demand.

Literacy For Life Foundation

#3, 1204 – 10 St. SE, High River, AB T1V 2B9  
www.litforlife.com

Literacy for Life Foundation provides service to community members of the MD of Foothills #31.

**Essential Skills Courses**
Ph: 403-652-5090  
Email: info@litforlife.com

Essential Skills Training is offered to groups and business at affordable costs. Contact for more information on costs and process for development of program.

Making Changes Association

6516 – 1A St SW, Calgary, AB T2H 0G6  
www.makingchangesassociation.ca

**My Best Friend’s Closet**
Contact: Sonia Okamoto  
Ph: 403-262-5776 ext 1  
Email: info@makingchangesassociation.ca

This service provides 90-minute individual consultations to teenage girls from low-income homes (ages 12-18) and provides them with a broad selection of fashionable and functional clothing to meet their back to school and recreational needs. Fitting in is a key objective for most teens, and having a selection of stylish clothing assists with both their motivation to attend school and their sense of confidence in connecting with their peers. Referrals may be emailed.

McBride Career Group Inc.

#400, 602 – 12 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T2R 1J3  
www.mcbridecareergroup.com

**Services to Youth – Okotoks and High River**

**Okotoks Career and Employment Centre**
Bay 3, 87 Elizabeth St.  
Okotoks, AB T1S 2A2  
Ph: 403-995-4377  
Fax: 403-995-3616  
Email: okotoks@mcbridecareergroup.com

These services will assist young Albertans aged 16-24 years, who are unemployed or underemployed, have left school early, or have not continued on to post-secondary education. It will also include youth still in school who want help with preparing for a career. Services are provided for youth to encourage and support youth in making more informed career, employment and training choices.
High River Career and Employment Centre
#6, 28 – 12 Ave. SE
High River, AB T1V 1T2
Ph: 403-601-2660
Fax: 403-601-2627
Email: highriver@mcbridecareergroup.com
Contact: Amber Chapman
Continuous Intake

Youth Links
Airdrie, Calgary, Wheatland County – Strathmore area,
High River and Okotoks:
Contact: Enoc Velazquez
Ph: 403-296-8664
Email: evelazquez@mcbridecareergroup.com
Intake Dates: Pending

This new program works with individuals aged 15-30 years old to gain work experience through a paid full-time work experience placement program. While in placement, one-on-one job coaching is offered to help develop the skills needed to succeed in the workplace. The paid work experience placements are 12 weeks in length, with the goal to remain employed after the work experience placement.

Eligibility:
• Residing in Calgary, Airdrie, High River, Okotoks and Wheatland County (Strathmore and Area)
• Cannot be attending school or going back to school in the near future
• Ready, willing and able to enter the workforce full-time
• Have not collected EI in the past three years
• Have not collected medical EI in the last five years

Momentum
#16, 2936 Radcliff Dr. SE, Calgary, AB T2A 6M8
www.momentum.org

Youth Fair Gains Program
Contact: Fatima Esmail, Financial Literacy Facilitator
Ph: 403-204-2665
Fax: 403-235-4646
Email: fatimae@momentum.org
Website: www.momentumforyouth.org
Ongoing Intakes

This is a matched savings program for low-income youth between 16 and 21 years old. Over the course of the 12-month financial literacy program, participants will save between $15 and $50 of their own money every month, with Momentum matching their contribution 3:1. With a potential total savings of $2,400, participants can use the money to purchase an asset, defined as either education for themselves, education for a child, starting or expanding a business or tools for work.

Motive-Action Training Foundation – Pre-Apprenticeship Trades for Youth – see Occupational Skills Training
Prospect Human Services Society - Airdrie and Cochrane Employment Services

**Airdrie:** #102, 115 Centre Ave. West, Airdrie, AB T4B 0P8  
**Cochrane:** Ste. 203, 105 - 1 St. West, PO Box 85, Cochrane, AB T4C 1A5  
[www.prospectnow.ca](http://www.prospectnow.ca)

**Services to Youth**  
**Airdrie:** Ph: 403-948-9711  
**Cochrane:** Ph: 403-709-0010

Continuous Intake

This is an employment/counselling service for youth aged 16-24 in the Airdrie and Cochrane area. Eligible youth will work collaboratively with a Counselor to develop a plan to help them connect with a suitable career path, an individual learning plan, a job search and career plan, or an employment plan. The Counselor will be able to use the resources of Rockyview Employment Centre, as well as referrals to other appropriate community agencies.

A youth is defined as an Albertan between the ages of 16 and 24 who is in school, either secondary or post-secondary, working, unemployed, under employed or any combination of the above.

RIEL Institute for Education & Learning

#103, 2710 - 3 Ave. NE, Calgary, AB T2A 2L5  
[www.rielinstitute.com](http://www.rielinstitute.com)

**Aboriginal Youth Connections**  
**Ph:** 403-248-0824  
**Fax:** 403-248-0886  
**Email:** [program@rielinstitute.com](mailto:program@rielinstitute.com)

Intake Dates ongoing

This six-month program provides barriered Aboriginal Youth with the skills and tools necessary to enter the labor market. The program includes three months classroom instruction in essential skills, employment skills, life enhancement, career exploration, portfolio development, essential soft skills, first aid, conflict resolution, WHIMIS, financial literacy and more. Classroom instruction is followed by a three-month supported work experience. Services are offered to Clients of Aboriginal descent, who are 18-30 years old.

Qualified applicants will receive a minimum wage stipend, bus pass and further support dependent upon individual need.

Funding for this program provided by ESDC and the Government of Canada Urban Aboriginal Strategy.

Rupertsland Institute

#5, 2611 - 37 Ave. NE, Calgary, AB T1Y 5V7  
[www.metisemployment.ca](http://www.metisemployment.ca)

**Métis Employment Services**  
**Ph:** 403-250-8902  
**Toll-free:** 1-877-250-4295

These Youth Employment Programs support and provide employment opportunities and work experience for Métis between the ages of 15 and 30 years. In partnership with employers, the programs help youth to find career success, link to tools, resources and workplace learning opportunities, build and facilitate effective career-building partnerships and develop successful role models and a skilled Métis workforce.
Spectrum Advantage
Ability Hub, 3rd Flr., 3820 – 24 St. NW, Calgary, AB T3B 2X9
www.thespectrumadvantage.com

This program provides four weeks of job-readiness preparation along with a three-month subsidized job placement in the digital economy industry to youth with disabilities aged 15 to 30 years who are living on the Spectrum.

Job-readiness skills include a focus on professional and personal development, as well as soft skills training such as:

- Effective Communication
- Accepting Feedback
- Acting as a Team Player
- Flexibility
- Problem-Solving Skills

Job Coaches manage the entire recruitment process at no cost to employers. They develop specific plans with employers to ensure the demands of positions are being met and employees are able to perform job duties accurately and effectively without assistance. Ongoing coaching supports are provided to both program participants and employers for the entire three months of job placements.

Sponsored by Service Canada and the Sinneave Family Foundation.

YMCA Calgary
www.ymcacalgary.org

YMAP (YMCA Achievement Program)
Contact: Robbyn Hesch, Youth Engagement Manager
Ph: 403-537-1718
Email: robbyn.hesch@calgary.ymca.ca
Intakes: Sep–Mar

Culturally-diverse youth are engaged by providing opportunities to develop work and life skills with support from mentors and peers. The program is for high school students aged 15-20 years who are new to Canada and/or from an immigrant background. Sessions are once a week for two hours from the end of Oct until the beginning of Jun. Summer programs are available to students who participated in this program during the previous school year. There is no cost to participants, snacks are provided at each session and students will receive a free YMCA gym membership.

YMCA High School Math Tutoring
Contact: Robbyn Hesch, Youth Engagement Manager
Ph: 403-537-1718
Email: robbyn.hesch@calgary.ymca.ca
Intakes: Sep and Feb

All In for Youth is a United Way initiative taking collaboration to a new level in order to help more youth complete school and ensure they are able to transition successfully onto further education of the workforce. This tutoring is offered at no cost to students who are struggling in math but are motivated to succeed and complete high school. This is a registered program; students must apply and be accepted into the tutoring program to attend.

Youth Employment Centre (YEC)
2nd Flr., 315 - 10 Ave. SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0W2
www.nextsteps.org

Contact: Arlas Gillies, Coordinator
Ph: 403-268-2490
Continuous Intake

Year-round career planning and job search services are offered at no cost to youth between 15-24 years of age. Assistance from the experts is provided on how to write and update résumés, how to ace job interviews, explore career and education options and access training. Connect with a career counsellor for job search and career planning, learn how to network and look for a variety of jobs on the online job board.