



Fundamental Components of the Jobs for Illinois Graduates Program

1. **Classroom Instruction.** A trained "Career Specialist" provides individual and group instruction to 35-45 students carefully selected for the program by an in-school advisory committee.
2. **Employability Skills.** The National Curriculum equips participants with 37 employability competencies that will prepare students for the workplace.
3. **Adult Mentoring.** Specialists provide individual attention to students to overcome barriers that prevent them from taking advantage of their high school education, completing requirements for a high school diploma and/or securing employment or pursuing a postsecondary education leading to a career after high school or GED completion.
4. **Advisement and Support.** Specialists provide advice and support as students make significant career and life decisions in the earlier grades (9th, 10th and 11th). Based on the individual needs of students, specialists connect participants to professional counseling services to address more serious barriers, such as mental health problems, substance abuse, etc.
5. **Summer Employment Training.** Job placement services are provided during the summer months and partnerships are developed with summer youth employment programs to support year-long learning.
6. **Student-Led Leadership Development.** A highly motivating student-led organization, the National Career Association, builds on the competency-based curriculum and provides opportunities for students to develop, practice and refine their leadership and teaming skills. Participants are provided the opportunity to participate in regional and state Career Development Conferences offering general sessions, career workshops and competitive events.
7. **Job and Postsecondary Education Placement Services.** Specialists are actively involved in intensive, one-on-one employer marketing and job development activities to identify entry-level job opportunities for students after graduation or GED completion. Likewise, specialists assist graduates in the exploration of postsecondary education opportunities and show them how to navigate the financial aid process to pursue these opportunities.

8. **Linkages to School and Community-Based Services.** JILG programs serve as a school-based "one-stop center" for targeted youth to deliver academic and social services using school and community resources.
9. **12-Month Follow-up Services.** JILG provides no less than twelve months of follow-up services and support on the job or in a pursuit of a postsecondary education after graduation or completion of a GED.
10. **Accountability System.** Computerized tracking of participants served, services delivered and performance outcomes (graduation rate, positive outcomes, rates, aggregate employment rate, full-time jobs rate, full-time placement rate, further education rate, wages, and return to school rate) provides JILG with a vehicle for holding programs accountable for achieving JILG Model outcomes. Jobs for America's Graduates, JILG's parent organization accredits state and local affiliates based upon their ability to fully implement the program model. Site reviews are conducted by trained staff and an Accreditation Report is provided to stakeholders.
11. **Professional Development.** Continuous improvement through the ongoing professional development of managers, supervisors and specialists is an ongoing service provided to state and local affiliates.
12. **Ownership provides strict accountability.** Specialists are held personally accountable for the success of young people targeted for a JILG Model Program. The Electronic National Data Management System (E-NDMS) provides JILG with a comprehensive tracking system to report the students served, the services delivered, and the outcomes achieved.
13. **Activity-based classroom instruction.** The JILG Curriculum consists of 81 activity-based and competency based modules providing more than 810 hours of classroom instruction. Each module provides a math and reading assignment to improve basic skills. A pre-and post-test assessment provides a method for documenting competency attainment.
14. **Motivation is the key to achieving success.** A variety of techniques are used to create a learning environment that is motivating to young people served by a JILG Model Program. The most unique technique is the use of a student-led organization. Chapter activities provide a laboratory for participants to develop, practice and refine their personal, leadership and teaming skills that are critical to success in the workplace and in pursuit of a postsecondary education.
15. **Cost-effective program.** The JILG Board insists upon the operation of a cost-effective program. The average cost per participant is \$1,500 for the in-school phase of the program. Full-time employed graduates or completers who are full-time employed repay the cost of their participation within 14 months after leaving school.