Does Job Corps work?: summary of the National Job Corps Study


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Abstract: Job Corps is a major part of US federal government initiatives to provide education and job training for disadvantaged youths aged 16-24 years. The National Job Corps Study is being conducted under contract with the US Department of Labor (DOL) to measure the effects of Job Corps participation on students’ post-program earnings and related outcomes. This report is one of a series of reports presenting findings from the study. The study examined Job Corps implementation, measured the program’s impacts on participants’ employment and related outcomes, and assessed whether the value of the...

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Summary of the National Job Corps Study
The program’s goal is to help youths become more responsible, employable, and productive citizens. Since its inception in 1964, Job Corps has been a central part of our country’s efforts to improve the economic self-sufficiency of disadvantaged youths. Participants are between 16 and 24 years old; most come to the program without a high school diploma. The program’s goal is to help youths become more responsible, employable, and productive citizens. It currently serves over 60,000 new participants each year.

Job Corps has several distinctive characteristics: A large residential component; about 88 percent of the students live at the centers while enrolled. The Job Corps model has promise; program participation increases educational attainment, reduces criminal activity, and increases earnings for several postprogram years. Based on tax data, however, the earnings gains were not sustained except for the oldest participants. Nonetheless, Job Corps is the only federal training program that has been shown to increase earnings for this population. More like this from Mathematica.

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Job Corps Mission
Job Corps is a program administered by the United States Department of Labor that offers free-of-charge education and vocational training to young men and women ages 16 to 24. It provides others from experiencing Job Corps’ full benefits. Does not require any face-to-face court or institutional supervision or court-imposed fines while enrolled in Job Corps. Does not use drugs illegally. 5

How many Job Corps Centers are there? Job Corps currently trains more than 60,000 students at 125 centers nationwide. Each student in the Job Corps goes through four stages of the program: 13

1. Outreach and Admissions (OA): This is the stage at which students visit admissions counselors and gather information, as well as prepare for and leave for their Job Corps Centers.
2. Orientation and Training (OT): This is the stage at which students receive basic training in life skills and job skills.
3. On-the-Job Training (OJT): This is the stage at which students receive job-specific training and experience.
4. Follow-up and Employment (FE): This is the stage at which students are helped to find employment and complete their training.

Job Corps is a free education and job training program of the U.S. Department of Labor. It is a helping hand for youth who need it. It can help you earn your GED, find a career that interests you, get the training you need, have a safe place to live and your basic needs met while completing the program. With 74 different careers to choose from, Job Corps helps you earn enough to become self-sufficient. To qualify, you must meet certain Job Corps requirements. If it looks like a lot, don’t worry. You only need one in each category to qualify. Once you apply, a counselor will help you get t