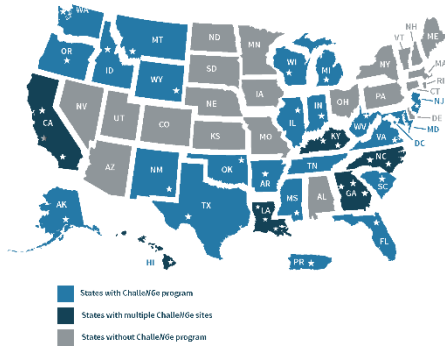




ChalleNGe Program Locations



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Nevada National Guard Youth Challenge

Overview and Fiscal Note

Problem Nevada’s High School Dropouts

The Governor’s office, Nevada Legislature, Nevada Department of Education and the statewide education community have worked tirelessly for many years to improve Nevada’s graduation rate. So far, they have raised it from 63 percent 2011-12 to 81 percent 2017-18.¹

Yet there remains work to be done to address the needs to of Nevada’s high school dropouts. In 1993, Congress asked the National Guard for a solution to address America’s high school dropout problem. In response, the National Guard developed its Youth Challenge program.

Solution - National Guard Youth Challenge

Youth Challenge is a voluntary 17 month program five-month residential. Its mission is to educate, train, and mentor 16 – 18 year old high school dropouts and at risk youth so they may become productive, employed, and law-abiding citizens.

Youth Challenge is funded through a federal 75 percent state 25 percent cost share.

There are currently 39 Youth Challenge programs in 28 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico. Passage of this bill will establish and fund a statewide program in Carlin, NV where a suitable National Guard facility is available.

The program will be run in partnership with the education community; an Elko County School District high school will be embedded in the program. Graduates can earn high school credits, a high school

diploma, or a GED.

Program Information

- Phase One of the program consists of a five-month residential program focusing on eight core components: academic excellence, life coping skills, employment skills, health and hygiene, responsible citizenship, service to the community, leadership/followership, and physical fitness. At the end of the residential phase, participants work with staff to arrange placement, such as employment, education, or military service.
- Phase Two of the program consists of a full year of post-residential mentoring and monitoring of all graduates by case managers as they utilize newly learned life coping skills, academic excellence, vocational skills, community service awareness, and employment preparedness.

Results

- Since 1993, Youth Challenge programs have graduated over 165,000 cadets.
- The program has been recognized as one of the nation's most effective for targeting youth who are at the greatest risk for delinquency, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and criminal activities.²
- Per a RAND Corporation analysis⁵, every dollar expended on Challenge yields \$2.66 in benefits. This return is substantially higher than other rigorously evaluated social programs that target disadvantaged youth. Youth Challenge is unmatched in its effectiveness in helping youth prepare for the future.
- Program graduates are:
 - 4.6 times as likely as non-graduate control group to earn a high school diploma or GED
 - 1/3 more likely to be working full-time
 - Half as likely to be in jail or prison²
- A multi-year study by MDRC³ found the program participants achieve impressive results in educational attainment and employability. Program members were almost twice as likely to report that they had earned some college credit and annual earnings increased by 20 percent.
- Research shows that the cost to society of a high school dropout is roughly \$250,000 and 67 percent in lost tax revenue and 33 percent in government costs associated with health care, crime, and welfare. When students graduate from high school we all gain.⁶

Fiscal Note and Timeline

The first class begins January 2021, after which DSA funds can be included in calculated state contribution. Once the students arrive, a minimum of \$850,000 per year of state funding is required to trigger the 3:1 federal match. This is achieved through the \$500,000 per year in the governor's budget plus the DSA for 100 FTE students.

Annual program budget: \$500,000 NVNG budget + \$800,000 DSA for participants + \$3.9M federal = \$5.2M total.

Applicant Demographic

- 16-18 year olds (male and female)
- High school dropouts or at-risk students who require intervention in order to succeed academically
- Individuals committed to changing their lives
- Academically capable of graduating high school or attainment of GED
- Students from all socio-economic backgrounds
- Applicants from anywhere in Nevada who are citizens or legal residents
- Individualized Education Program (IEP) students, non-traditional learners
- Will accept those with tendencies for running away, self-harm and violence - normally will not accept severe cases or those that have all three traits.

What a Youth Challenge Program is Not

- Not a treatment facility (not resourced to provide individual counseling needs of troubled youth)
- Cannot accept applicants that have a felony charge or are on probation
- Not resourced to accept all cognitively impaired (CI) or emotionally impaired (EI) applicants

Job Creation

The program will create 45 jobs with a payroll of ~\$3.3M of which 75 percent is federal funds.

Notes

¹ Governing.com and NevadaReportCard.com

² National Guard Youth Challenge Program NG-J1-Y / Youth Programs Briefing October 2018.

³ MDRC, 2011. Staying on Course: Three-Year Results of the National Guard Youth Challenge Evaluation

⁴ YC cost/youth \$26K (\$6.5K State + \$19.5K Fed). Average stay in NV juv. justice facility is 7.5 months @ \$237/day = \$53K.

⁵ RAND Corporation, 2012. A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program

⁶ Levin, Henry. "The Economic Payoff of Educational Justice." *Educational Researcher*, Jan./Feb. 2009.

Contact or for more information;

National: ngyf.org

Nevada: nv youth challenge.com Coalition for Nevada National Guard Youth Challenge

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