



U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration

Youth Opportunity (YO) Grants

Youth Opportunity (YO) Grants are awarded to organizations in impoverished areas to establish broad partnerships and Youth Opportunity Community Centers through which young people between the ages of 14 and 21 can gain access to a wide range of employment, training, educational, and supportive services. Projects are locally designed but all are intended to prepare and place youth in long-term private-sector jobs. They also aim to keep young people in school, provide work experience in community-service projects, and increase their enrollment in college.

Youth Opportunity Grants emphasize high-quality services geared to the whole individual. They are linked to local school systems and other Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs such as Job Corps, School-to-Work, and formula-funded youth programs. These services draw on effective principles from existing youth programs such as adult mentors and long-term follow-up. The goal is to teach youth to take responsibility for their own lives and to mainstream them into private-sector jobs.

Under WIA, the Department of Labor awarded its first 36 Youth Opportunity Grants in the Spring of 2000 to help youth living in empowerment zones, enterprise areas, and other impoverished urban and rural areas acquire the necessary skills to grow into successful, productive adults. By concentrating funds in relatively small geographic areas, this five-year initiative seeks to target high-poverty areas in order to expand job opportunities and generate positive peer pressure to help turn around communities. Decreasing youth unemployment can contribute to reduced crime, gang activity, drug abuse, and welfare dependency. Even before these grants were awarded, 11 pilot sites around the country had received Department of Labor funding. For further information about YO Grants, visit the Youth Opportunity Movement web site at: <http://www.yomovement.org>.

You can access America's Workforce Network at <http://www.doleta.gov>, or by calling the Toll-Free Help Line at 1-877-US2-JOBS. (For TTY, call 1-877-TTY-JOBS.)



U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration

December 2000

Fact Sheets

The following is a list of Department of Labor-supported activities and services that are part of America's Workforce Network which may be of particular interest to workers, employers, and workforce development professionals. A fact sheet with specific information is available for each of the following areas:

- Accessing Services via Phone or Internet
- Adult Employment and Training Services
- America's Labor Market Information System
- America's Career Kit (Online Resources)
- America's Workforce Network
- Applying for ETA Grants
- Assistance for Trade-Impacted Workers
- Basic Information for Employers
- Basic Information for Workers and Job-Seekers
- Disability Employment and Training Services
- Dislocated Worker Program (Services for Laid-Off Workers)
- Foreign Labor Certification
- High-Tech Skills Training
- Job Corps
- Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Employment and Training Services
- Native American Employment and Training Services
- Older Workers Employment and Training Services
- One-Stop Employment and Training Services
- One-Stop Partners
- Registered Apprenticeship
- School-to-Work
- Tax Credit Programs
- Unemployment Insurance
- Welfare-to-Work
- Youth Opportunity (YO) Grants
- Youth Opportunity (YO) Movement

Available online at: <http://www.usworkforce.org/factsheets> or by calling (202) 693-3900. This Web address also provides links to other Federal partners under the Workforce Investment Act and other initiatives that provide additional services to enhance individual and community well-being.