

SHARED YOUTH VISION PILOT PROJECTS

STATE: OHIO

PROJECT TITLE: TANF/WIA/DYS Project

TARGET POPULATION: Youth involved in the juvenile justice system, ages 15-21

GEOGRAPHIC AREA: Cuyahoga (Cleveland), Franklin (Columbus), Hamilton (Cincinnati), Stark (Canton)

FUNDING: \$116,000

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Most juvenile offenders in Ohio return to the metro counties of Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Montgomery, Stark, and Summit. Youth offenders are leaving institutions at an older age with multiple barriers to employment, including lack of work history and a potential criminal record. Although the Bureau of Parole provides case management, there is still an on-going need for more case management and a network to the community. The pilot project, a collaborative effort between state Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs, will address these needs at the local level. Each county/area has de-obligated a portion of WIA youth funds and will receive equal TANF funds to develop programs for youth offenders. The local areas have been allowed flexibility in program design; however, three components are mandatory within the structure of the contracts. Phase I includes pre-release activities as assessment and evaluation. Phase II includes but is not limited to employment and education activities, youth incentive programs, youth parenting education, and transportation for youth on parole. Phase III includes intensive case management, follow-up with community and faith based agencies, family mentoring, and other activities. The University of Cincinnati will complete an evaluation on the project that will examine the program's effect on educational attainment, delinquent behavior, and employment, and the program's cost-effectiveness.

LIST OF PARTNER AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Juvenile Corrections, Local Job and Family Services and WIA Agencies, Cuyahoga Justice Center, Alvis House, Inc., Lighthouse Youth Services, Inc., Stark County Family Court, University of Cincinnati

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