



OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
MEMORANDUM

TO: YOUTH COUNCIL OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SAN FRANCISCO (WISF) BOARD
FROM: GLENN EAGLESON, DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND PLANNING, OEWD
MARIA SU, DIRECTOR OF DCYF
SUBJECT: YOUTH WORKFORCE FUNDING STRATEGIES 2010-2013
DATE: 11/25/2009

REQUESTED ACTION:

The Office of Economic & Workforce Development (OEWD) and the Department of Children, Youth & Their Families (DCYF) request that the Youth Council approve the framework of DCYF's and OEWD's youth workforce funding described in this memo and grant DCYF and OEWD authority to identify, approve, and establish contracts with vendors, contractors and/or grantees to perform these activities.

DISCUSSION:

Over the past year, OEWD and DCYF have worked together to develop a cohesive strategy for youth workforce services for young people ages 13-24 years. With guidance from the Youth Council, as well as input from community partners, key stakeholders and internal and external partners, the departments have identified the following overarching goals:

- Enhance the educational component of workforce services for youth and emphasize the role of educational attainment in future career pathways;
- Improve inter-agency partnerships to facilitate the process of connecting target populations with appropriate youth workforce services, particularly with educational institutions;
- Involve employers and workplace partners to align youth workforce services to demand and emerging industry sectors;
- Ensure that youth have the knowledge, skills and opportunities to make progress toward reaching education and career goals;
- Provide a continuum of experiences to support youth career preparation;
- Achieve integration of citywide summer youth employment programs to ensure priority populations are served;
- Fund comprehensive programming that addresses the educational, career, and transition to post-secondary needs of youth, as well as provide needed wraparound supports; and
- Improve the capacity and impact of providers by utilizing quality standards and evidence-based program models.

This RFP represents the collective strategies of both departments to address these priorities.

This RFP will utilize funds from the following allocations:

- a. DCYF General Funds
- b. Children's Funds
- c. Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Formula Allocations

Through this RFP, OEWD and DCYF will maximize the impact of each of the individual funding sources by coordinating a stronger system of services that are more cohesively aligned along a common workforce development framework.

The specific services to be solicited are through this RFP¹ include:

1. **Youth Workforce Development for General Population:** Grantees for these services will provide school- and community-based programming designed to create a continuum of opportunities linked with real career ladders and designed to promote educational attainment, develop life skills and provide career related skills for youth under 18 years of age. Furthermore, grantees will work with educational institutions to provide education focused workforce experiences
2. **Youth Workforce Development for High-Risk Population:** Grantees for these services will work with the systems of care for high risk youth (including Juvenile Probation Department, violence prevention & intervention service providers, and educational institutions) to provide workforce development and wrap-around services. High risk youth is defined as those who are 14-24 years old, and are involved with either the juvenile justice system or is under-housed and in addition, identified as at least one of the following: youth in the child welfare system, youth with a diagnosed disability or youth attending county/community schools;
3. **Outreach and Job Development:** Grantees will work with DCYF-funded youth workforce providers to provide outreach and link underserved and/or disconnected populations to youth workforce development services; develop internships and work opportunities for youth in the public and private sectors. In addition, grantees will assist in building the capacity of and developing quality workbased learning opportunities for youth;
4. **GED+ Programming.** Grantees will partner with a formal educational institution to provide enriched educational and workforce programming leading to a G.E.D. or high school diploma;
5. **Occupational Skills Training.** Grantees will provide job readiness and occupational skills training leading to successful transition to either a postsecondary pathway, City-funded Sector Academy or industry-recognized training program;
6. **Summer Youth Employment;** Grantees will either operate or coordinate an enriched summer youth employment program targeting young people disconnected from education and the labor force leading to positive connection to postsecondary education or advanced occupational training.

¹ Separate RFP's will be let for dissemination of CDBG funding and funding for capacity-building initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the strategic priorities and recommendations of the Youth Council, as well as those identified in the Children’s Services Allocation Plan and OEWD’s strategic planning, DCYF and OEWD urge the following action from the WISF:

1. Youth Council authorization to approve the framework of the RFP to fund activities identified in this memo and grant OEWD and DCYF authority to identify, approve, and establish contracts with vendors, contractors and/or grantees to perform these activities through spending of the identified funding.
2. A commitment from the Youth Council to call upon the various stakeholders as mentioned in this memo to participate and support the workforce services strategies and priorities in this RFP and to work together to develop effective responses to system needs and funding opportunities as coordinated through OEWD and DCYF.