

TRANSMITTAL #1

MEMORANDUM

May 8, 2012

TO: Workforce Development Council
FROM: WIA Youth Program Design Subcommittee
SUBJECT: WIA Youth Program Design

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve Recommendation to Continue Current WIA Youth Program Design

BACKGROUND:

WIA regulations require that the Workforce Development council review program design and procurement options for WIA Youth Program services on a regular basis. In 2009, a subcommittee completed a review and procurement process for PY2009 through PY2011. Since the awarded contracts expire June 30, 2012, at its last meeting, the Workforce Development Council established a new subcommittee to again review the WIA Youth program design and procurement options.

The Youth Program Design Subcommittee has completed its review of WIA regulations and guidelines, program performance and expenditure data, and the current WIA Youth program design structure.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Council's WIA Youth Program Design Subcommittee recommends continuation of the current Youth Program Design, which carries forward the following recommendations from the previous WIA Youth Subcommittee, originally presented to the Council September 10, 2008, in Transmittal #7:

1. ***WHO WILL BE SERVED?***

The WIA Act establishes specific eligibility criteria for the youth program. Only those youth meeting specific low income criteria with specific barriers to education and employment may be served. The council may further delineate a barrier category. The Act also establishes a minimum expenditure threshold of 30 percent on out-of-school youth. For several years, U.S. Department of Labor has directed states to increase WIA's focus on out-of-school youth to develop their entrance into the workforce pipeline. Congressional attempts at reauthorization of WIA have also included a focus on out-of-school youth. Based on input from partner organizations and guidance from U.S. Department of Labor, WIA's youth activities should focus on building occupational skills and preparing for entrance into the workforce pipeline.

RECOMMENDATION

- a. Set aside 30 percent of youth funds for programs serving *in-school youth* enrolled in alternative high schools or secondary programs offering technical training; require a 100 percent match of Carl Perkins and/or local technical education funds. Remaining funds (70 percent) will focus on *out-of-school youth* and
- b. Priority for services in all youth programs will be given to individuals from juvenile justice, those aging out of foster care, pregnant and parenting youth and individuals with disabilities.

In-school youth is defined as those 14-21 years of age enrolled in high school, alternative school, home schooling or other program recognized by the local school district at the time of registration in the WIA youth program.

2. **WHAT SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED?**

The WIA Act and regulations require that 10 specific elements be made available for youth and also require that WIA funds are not used to acquire those elements commonly available in the area to low income youth.

RECOMMENDATION

Elements found to be commonly available across Idaho to low income youth ~ tutoring, alternative school, guidance and counseling ~ will be *coordinated* with other providers in the communities, rather than purchased with WIA funds.

3. **HOW WILL SERVICES BE PROVIDED?**

To maximize delivery of participant services with dwindling dollars, the Workforce Development Council has asked for a 50/50 split between staff and participant expenditures in adult and dislocated worker programs. The committee's recommendations incorporate that the same split for the youth program. Guidance from our federal partner directs states to enhance integration of service delivery, eliminate unnecessary overhead costs and simplify administration in order to preserve resources for participant training.

Federal regulations and USDOL guidance advocate enhanced integration of youth services through the One Stop system. The WIA Act and regulations clarify that awarding a grant on a competitive basis does not apply to the design framework component where these services are provided by the grant recipient/fiscal agent. The design framework includes intake, assessment, development of an individual's service plan and overall case management. In Idaho, the grant recipient/fiscal agent is the Idaho Department of Labor.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Require delivery of all out-of-school WIA youth program services through all One Stop Centers;
- b. Require each WIA youth provider to meet or exceed a 50/50 staff/participant expenditure rate;

- c. Assign delivery of the youth framework component to the state's grant recipient/fiscal agent, the Idaho Department of Labor. All intake, assessment, completion of individual service strategies and case management will be provided within the One Stop offices by One Stop operator staff, and
- d. Continue to apply waivers approved by the United States Department of Labor to further integrate service delivery in the One Stop Centers, which allows the Workforce Development Council latitude in selection of some or all services for delivery with or without procurement

In-School Program Recommendations

- a. Competitively procure the 30 percent set aside on a regional basis for delivery of the design framework and the seven WIA youth program elements for in-school youth who are enrolled in alternative high schools or secondary programs offering technical training;
- b. Require 100 percent match of local school district Carl Perkins and/or technical education funds;
- c. Require projects to develop occupational skills in demand by high growth industries and to feed into specific high growth industry pipelines;
- d. Allow respondents to compete for delivery of the entire design framework and allowable program elements, or any portion thereof; allow respondents to compete for each area's full 30 percent set aside, or any portion thereof.; and
- e. Allow the 100 percent match to be met with in-kind and/or cash which directly support the activities of the in-school project.

FURTHER ACTION:

Since the current awarded contracts expire June 30, 2012, the Subcommittee has prepared the necessary WIA Youth In-school RFP document and, upon Council approval of these recommendations, will release the RFP and complete the subsequent proposal review and award process for the new program year effective July 1, 2012.

Current Subcommittee members: Dr. Jerry Beck, Ms. Jan Nielsen, Mr. Brad Murray, and Ms. Linda Clark. Mr. Garry Lough participated in the review and development of these recommendations and the RFP document prior to resigning the Council to accept other employment.

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