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## **Community-Based Services for Youthful Offenders Returning from Juvenile Placement To Philadelphia**

**Youth Council:** Philadelphia Youth Council working through the Philadelphia Youth Network

**Element:** Community Services and Support

**Function:** Convene Local Leadership to Take Action—Leverage Youth-Serving Resources; Coordinate Youth Services

### **The Challenge**

Philadelphia's three federally-funded Youth Opportunity Centers, known locally as E<sup>3</sup> (Empowerment through Education and Employment), were confronting the five-year sunset of funding through the U.S. Department of Labor. At the same time, the City's Department of Human Services (DHS) was seeking community-based training programs for court-involved youth who were returning from stays in juvenile placement facilities and was considering establishing its own facilities to address this need.

### **The Strategy**

DHS and the Youth Council, through its administrative partner the Philadelphia Youth Network, created a partnership that provided DHS funding to sustain the three E<sup>3</sup> Centers, and established a new strand of education, life skills and work experience programming to meet the needs of returning young offenders, as part of DHS' overall system of integrated aftercare. In this way, the Centers were able to continue their services to out-of-school youth and DHS was able to build on existing resources and facilities to create new capacity for young people in its charge.

### **The Outcomes**

Early data shows that recidivism rates have been reduced for youth who were the most at-risk for re-offending.

### **Next Steps**

Based on early successes, DHS is considering major investments that would at least double the number of E3 Centers and their specialized programming for youthful offenders and out-of-school youth.

### **Links**

[www.workreadyphila.com](http://www.workreadyphila.com)

[www.pyninc.org](http://www.pyninc.org)

[www.osyphila.org](http://www.osyphila.org)

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