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## Mini One-Stop Centers in Schools

**Youth Council:** Kings County Youth Council

**Element:** Comprehensive Approach, Academic Excellence, Career Preparation

**Function:** Coordinating Youth Services, Convening Local Leadership to Take Action

**Subject:** Youth One-Stops, Coordinating Youth Services, Educational Options

**The Challenge:** When the Kings County Youth Council began its work, the members wanted to coordinate their services with other programs.

**The Practice and Evidence:** In addition to their county One-Stop, the Kings County Youth Council has supported the five mini-One-Stops centers, called Work Offices, located in area high schools. Each has one to two Career Advisors who are funded in part by WIA. Programs and services, such as independent living, Workability, Department of Rehabilitation, ROP, Tech Prep, School-to-Career, work experience, and service learning, are coordinated through the Work Offices. Additional programs such as those addressing domestic violence and mental health issues can be accessed through links made at these centers.

The Work Offices have been so successful with attracting targeted youth looking for work and services that the career centers have needed to expand to accommodate them. Through the Work Offices, the Youth Council has built a great foundation to support the goal of a comprehensive system for all youth. Many times the offices are so busy that it becomes necessary for the Career Advisors to hide to get their paperwork done.

**The Details:** The Mini One-Stops were originally created by the Kings Regional Occupational Program (ROP) office to house Career Advisors who handle ROP relations, WorkAbility, and Department of Rehabilitation TPP for individual high schools. When Kings County Office of Education received the WIA Youth grant, it was a natural step to serve youth at the One-Stops. Having all of the programs' youth outreach housed in one place also consolidates outside agencies' contacts for the high schools, eliminating interruptions to school day.

The offices are provided by the individual schools with the equipment split between the school and WIA. The current attendance and information system is available in all of the Work Offices, providing the Career Advisors with access to student grades, schedules, and contact information. The Career Advisors attend high school staff meetings as an integral part of their team.

Services are blended. Becky Hudson, staff to the Youth Council, says, "Our Career Advisers that are housed at the high schools do it all. They are counselors, job developers, eligibility intakers, recruiters. They also transport their participants to and from life skills workshops and if need be

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to job interviews etc. We truly are a Mini One-Stop at each Kings County High School. Our Career Advisors are awesome!”

The items that follow show the results of the Council’s efforts to establish mini One-Stop Centers in schools. The Council anticipates ongoing improvements, resulting in additional outcomes:

- The Council now requires that all youth served are connected to programs that support their career goal.
- Each Work Office provides a Job Club program, which is a requirement before obtaining a subsidized work experience.
- The Work Offices arrange 150 work-experience hours per young person during the school year and 120-192 hours during the summer program.
- Career Advisors work with students to collect legal documentation such as birth certificates, picture IDs, and social security cards to pave the way for eligibility into WIA or work.
- For youth who legally cannot receive services, such as illegal aliens, the Work Offices make connections for them to organizations that can help.

**Breakthrough Moment:** The Youth Council knew the mini-centers were working when they heard stories of young people receiving the help they needed. One young man who wanted to work with his hands but didn’t want to go to college was hired as a plumber’s helper following his successful work-experience with a plumbing firm. WIA funding paid for the clothing and tools required for the job. Work Offices also helped six students who moved from home to home but who had not declared themselves homeless to obtain more stable living situations. They were able to help one young woman to get an apartment.

## Where to Go for More Information

Kings County Youth Council

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## Tools

Available by contacting the Kings County Youth Council:  
Programs Descriptions Brochure