

Connecting for Success



Fresno County
Workforce
Investment Board



Fresno County Workforce Investment Youth Program

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Overview

◆ Discussion Points:

- WIA Youth Program Overview
- Who are the Youth we serve?
- What are the issues we face?
- Are there opportunities to better serve our Youth?
- Where from here?

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Overview WIA Youth Program “All Youth One System”





Youth Program

- ◆ Receive \$9,000,000 annually to serve Fresno Youth between the ages of 14-21.
- ◆ Intent of program – assist youth in staying in or returning to school.
- ◆ Program offers many benefits for our youth:
 - Assessment, Tutoring, Mentoring, Incentives, Leadership, Supportive Services and Career Guidance.



Change of Focus

- ◆ Historically the WIA program focused on Job training and Work Experiences for our youth.
- ◆ We're also required to comply with a minimum skills attainment requirement – 1 level reading or math improvement.
- ◆ Our Youth Council directed us to move from mere program skills attainment compliance to “academic excellence” for all WIA Youth.



New Vision – Academic Excellence

- ◆ Intent is to assist our Youth in attaining 10th grade Reading and Math attainment prior to program exit.
- ◆ Assist Youth in evaluating Career Options not just summer jobs.
- ◆ Move our staff from Case Managers to Academic and Career Coaches.



Who We Serve

- ◆ We have eligibility requirements that include:
 - Low Income (below federal poverty level)
 - Basic Skills Deficient – less than 8.9 reading or math – many of our Youth need 1 on 1 tutoring vs. classroom.
 - Other Barriers – Dysfunctional family, homeless, pregnant or parenting, incarcerated, barriers to employment, etc.....
 - We serve approximately 2,000 Fresno Youth – most in the public High School system.



The Issue We Face

- ◆ Largest Barrier – Access to the youth in school.
- ◆ At this time our staff works with Youth during lunch period, after school and/or on Saturdays.



What we want our Program to offer

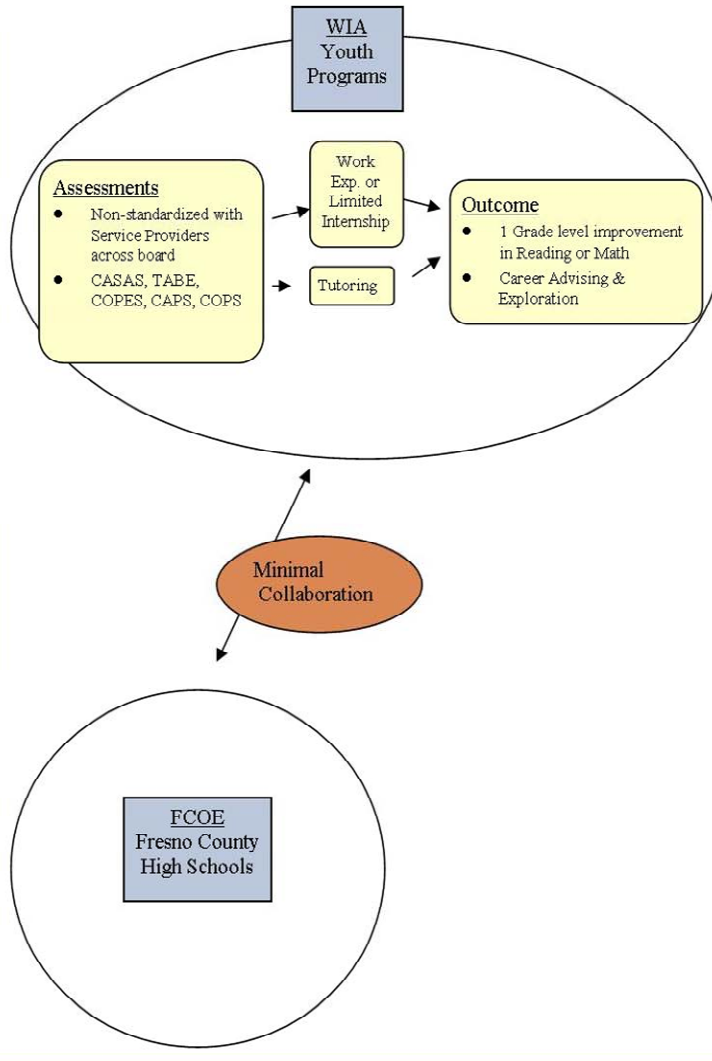
- ◆ Assist Schools with serving the Youth:
 - Career Guidance
 - Financial Aid
 - Scholarships
 - Tutoring and Mentoring
 - Counseling



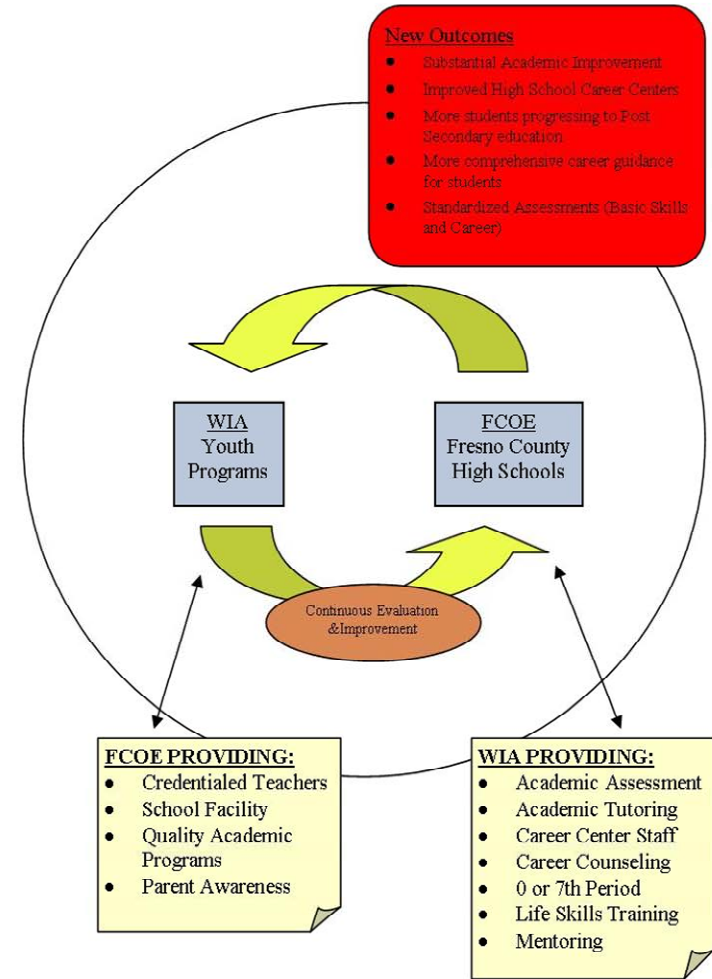
Why the new vision?

- ◆ The law provides these funds to Fresno County to assist in improving future opportunities for our Youth.
- ◆ WIA and DOE goals seem consistent
- ◆ Fewer resources both at DOE and WIA – leverage both and provide more?
- ◆ We want to assist DOE – career counseling, tutoring, etc.....

Historical Look of FCWIB & F.C. Office of Ed.



Future Look of FCWIB & F.C. Office of Ed.





What we would like to see

- ◆ Short-term:
 - Space on campus to access our Youth, campus badges
 - Use of Career centers, computer labs, other areas to tutor our youth.

- ◆ Long-term:
 - Pre-period, 7th period, more time for us to tutor on campus
 - Sharing of info (ROI), assessments, issues, attendance, progress.
 - Teacher and Career Counselor communication and collaboration



How to Begin

- ◆ Pilot at High school(s) to develop program and more of the process?
- ◆ Ideally would be at one in the city of Fresno, one in Clovis and one rural in those high schools that have larger #'s of WIA student participants.



Where from here?

- Feasibility?
- Ideas?
- Next Steps?