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Request for Proposals

On December 5, 2005 the National Youth Council Institute conducted an Infosearch seeking information about local areas that have developed Request for Proposals (RFPs) that respond to the shifting nature of workforce and transitional youth funding under the Workforce Investment Act or other funding streams. In response to many inquiries from practitioners and others, we collected information on RFPs that address and/or promote any of the following:

- Collaboration across organizations and systems
 - o Among a network of CBO's
 - o Among schools and CBO's, including Community Colleges
 - o Among City or County Departments, schools, and CBO's
 - o Other collaborations
- Serving special populations, especially foster youth
- Addressing DOL Common Measures:
 - o Focus Alternative Education
 - o Meeting the Demands of Business
 - o Focus on Neediest Youth
 - o Focus on Improved Performance
- Youth One –Stops

A brief summary of the seven RFPs we received are listed below; included are links to the complete RFP.

San Diego: RFP for WIA Youth Programs

In November 2006, the San Diego Workforce Partnership requested responses that would build upon the development and/or enhancement of collaborative relationships within a community, across programs and between systems, while meeting the unique needs of youth age 14-21 and following the guidelines of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Respondents were asked to demonstrate a sound approach to providing best practice workforce programming, and to support collaborative efforts of stakeholders, for example, secondary schools, charter schools, community based organizations, parents and youth themselves. To view the entire RFP please visit www.newwaystowork.org/yci/sandiegorfip.pdf.

In May 2006, the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and the Consortium Policy Board awarded mini-grants to six community-based planning partnerships. The purpose was to direct community investment strategies across systems, foster inter-agency agreements and relationships, and encourage the formation and the continued growth of collaboratives that focus on the development of coordinated educational and workforce strategies for youth specifically, but not limited to 14-21 year old youth. To learn more about the community planning grants visit: www.sandiegomatwork.com.



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Florida: Children's Services Council RFP for Independent Living Programs

The Children's Services Council of Broward County, Florida was approved as an independent taxing district by the voters in Broward in September 2000. In May 2004, the Children's Services Council requested applications from community-based organizations for proposals that would provide year-round independent living programming as an adjunct to any residential living placements for adjudicated dependent youth and youth in protective supervision. Programs were encouraged to apply that would promote the development of academic, life, and employability skills to help youth transition successfully out of foster care and into adulthood; and address the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of youth by strengthening protective factors and reducing relevant risk factors through best practice interventions and linkages with appropriate resources. The intent was to expand the availability of year-round programs. In order to maximize funding dollars, interested applicants were strongly encouraged to form clearly defined, meaningful inter-agency agreements with other Providers. To view the entire RFP please visit:

www.newwaystowork.org/yqi/floridarfp.pdf.

Orange County: RFP for WIA Youth Program Services

In January 2006, Orange County issued this RFP for funds that follow the WIA guidelines. Responses were sought from programs that clearly identified support agencies and demonstrated the support of appropriate partners to leverage monetary and non-monetary resources to meet the needs of the target population, youth age 14-21. Programs that established operating agreements with One Stop and Business Service Centers, and maintained on-going relationships with school districts and youth-serving entities in its geographical service area were encouraged to apply. Programs that demonstrated a system-wide increased coordination with social service agencies, the juvenile justice system, domestic violence providers and faith and community based organizations and the ability to leverage resources to reach the hardest to serve youth such as foster/emancipating youth, ex-offenders and homeless youth. Services had to be offered outside of regular business hours, weekdays 8a.m. to 5p.m. To view the entire RFP please visit: www.newwaystowork.org/yqi/orangecountyrfp.pdf.

Vermont: RFP for Career Start Project

After engaging in a highly competitive grant process, Vermont was chosen by the federal Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) as one out of eight states nationally to receive a State Alignment Grant for Improving Transition Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities through the use of Intermediaries. In July 2004, Vermont's project, Career Start, requested proposals for model approaches that create a community-wide system of inclusion, support and engagement for school age youth with disabilities as they transition into their adult roles in the community.

Eligible applicants were Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with at least one high school or a local WIB. It was expected that the lead organization collaborate with other community partners



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and apply on behalf of a community team. The community team for this grant application had to include: a local LEA, WIB, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Department of Employment and Training offices. Team participation was highly encouraged by youth with disabilities and their families, employers and employer organizations, community mental health and substance abuse agencies, faith based organizations, local non-profit youth and family service organizations, higher education, and other relevant community partners. To view the entire RFP please visit: www.newwaystowork.org/yqi/vermontrfp.pdf.

Tulare County: RFP for WIA Youth Programs

In January 2006, the Tulare County Workforce Investment Board (TCWIB) requested proposals from organizations interested in operating WIA Youth Programs. Programs had to be customer-focused, making accountability for performance and customer satisfaction a top priority, while expanding linkages and collaborative efforts that foster a comprehensive system of services to meet the workforce development needs of eligible youth in Tulare County. The TCWIB and the Youth Council envisioned an integrated youth development system that would be responsive to the needs of all youth in their community and go beyond WIA programs and funding. An essential component in realizing this comprehensive youth development system would be ensuring that WIA youth programs work collaboratively with other non-WIA youth organizations to maximize effectiveness and minimize duplication. To view the entire RFP please visit: www.newwaystowork.org/yqi/tularecountyrfp.pdf.

Sonoma County: RFP for WIA Youth Programs

In March 2006, Sonoma County requested proposals for programs designed under the WIA guidelines that would provide services to out-of-school and in-school youth of Sonoma County between the ages of 14-21. The purpose of this RFP was to procure one or more service providers to deliver Youth Education & Employment Services (YEES) for each of the six Sonoma County geographic regions. Geographic regions included North County, Sonoma Valley, greater Santa Rosa area, Cotati-Rohnert Park, greater Petaluma area, and West County. While programs proposed had to be consistent with WIA requirements, service providers were expected to provide services to both out-of-school and in-school youth and to develop programs that would meet the new performance measures issued by the federal government, Common Measures, which would emphasize services to older and out-of-school youth. To view the entire RFP please visit: www.newwaystowork.org/yqi/sonomacountyrfp.pdf.

Portland: RFP from the Bureau of Housing and Community Development

The Bureau of Housing and Community Development (BHCD) announced in December 2004 and February 2005 a limited solicitation to select providers interested in building the incomes and assets of low-income youth and/or adults residing in the City of Portland. The Initiative was based on national and local research that demonstrated that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to assisting low-income people into higher-wage jobs or their own microenterprise. Prior to this request, applicants who were invited to apply through this limited solicitation had submitted implementation or planning concept papers that were reviewed by a staff committee. The staff



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committee selected a number of concept paper applicants to submit full implementation or planning proposals based upon the ideas outlined in the concept papers. Applicants were encouraged to identify community partners that would help participants overcome barriers to their success. To view the entire RFP please visit:

www.newwaystowork.org/yqi/portlandrfp2005.pdf or
www.newwaystowork.org/yqi/portlandrfp2004.pdf.