

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 06-56

Policy Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Associate Directors
DCS Field Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Susan V. Lawler, Director
Division of Career Services

Jonathan Raymond
Commonwealth Corporation

Date: August 24, 2006

Subject: **P21 Regional Implementation Grant Funding and Application**

Purpose: To provide notification to Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners of the availability of new funding for P21 Regional Implementation Grants.

Background: More than two years ago, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts began a process to examine ways to improve service delivery for at-risk youth by convening regional and local partners from key stakeholder agencies and organizations. This process is called *Pathways to Success by 21 (P21)*. Both regional and state partners agreed: youth serving agencies needed to design strategies to support youth across transitions and build the capacity of existing services to better meet the needs of youth. To that end, the Department of Workforce Development awarded planning grants to the regional workforce areas to support the development of regional Strategic Action Plans. The goal of each strategic plan was to bring together representatives of the relevant youth serving agencies in the region to define three to five strategies to increase the region's capacity to meet the needs of at-risk youth.

Each Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB) and its Youth Council facilitated an in-depth process with multiple stakeholders that resulted in a local Regional Strategic Action Plan that articulates how they will work together to serve their most at-risk youth. The information from the local plans was used by P21's state-level Steering Committee to inform the Commonwealth's Strategic Action Plan and to develop a set of organizing principles for future activity.

The next step in the P21 process is to distribute additional resources to the 16 regional P21 Teams to support the *implementation* of the strategies identified through the Regional Strategic Action Plans. The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Department of Education (DOE) brought together Workforce Investment Act funding and United States Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) resources through a state Incentive Award to Massachusetts to support Regional Implementation Grants. The amounts and specifications are describe in part below and further defined in the attached application.

Action

Required: The state partners of P21 invite one application from each of the 16 geographic workforce areas in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All applications should be submitted to Commonwealth Corporation, the grant administrator.

Each regional P21 partnership may apply for up to \$20,000 in funding to implement P21 strategies (referred to in the application as *Resource A* under section "Use of Funds") and/or up to \$40,000 to creatively expand existing services for out-of-school youth (referred to in the application as *Resource B* under section "Use of Funds"). If applying for both sources, we encourage an integrated approach.

Resources must be spent by **March 31, 2008**. Application must be submitted to:

Commonwealth Corporation
529 Main Street, Suite 110
Boston, MA 02129
Attn: Samuel Martin

Applications should be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., October 13, 2006.

The application package is attached to this communication and can be downloaded from Commonwealth Corporation's website at the following link. http://www.commcorp.org/p21/app_overview.html .

An electronic submittal of the Regional Application may be sent to smartin@commcorp.org , ***however an original signature is required before the resulting contract modification will be processed.***

Inquiries: All inquiries should be directed to Samuel Martin at smartin@commcorp.org .