



A COMMON MISSION. A WEALTH OF POSSIBILITIES.

To: Interested Applicants

From: Nikki Bynoe, DYS Program Manager, Commonwealth Corporation

Re: **Bridging the Opportunity Gap: Department of Youth Services (DYS) Job Readiness and Employability Program**

Date: October 15, 2007

Commonwealth Corporation (CommCorp), in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, invites proposals from youth-serving organizations, including the sixteen Local Workforce Investment Boards in Massachusetts, One-Stop Career Centers, community-based and/or non-profit organizations (including but not limited to DYS Community Re-entry Center vendors) to undertake activities that create opportunities for effective career readiness that provide “bridges” to employment for youth in the custody of the Department of Youth Services.

This Request for Proposals has been designed to accomplish three primary goals:

- Funds are being offered to provide direct services that meet the career readiness, pre-employment and employment needs of youth in the custody of DYS;
- Grants will result in the delivery of services to youth in DYS custody (and who are currently reporting to a DYS Community Re-entry Center) that are asset-based and involve personnel that have demonstrated success working effectively with DYS clients;
- Grant activities will develop or strengthen collaborations and partnerships between existing agencies and organizations that have expertise with youth job readiness and youth training and/or employment and have a proven track record of working successfully with youth in DYS custody.

Applications (the original proposal and four copies) are due to Commonwealth Corporation’s Boston office (attn: Nikki Bynoe, DYS Program Manager, Commonwealth Corporation, 529 Main Street, Boston, MA 02129) at 5 p.m. on Friday, November 9, 2007. Email and fax copies will not be accepted. If you have any questions regarding the proposal, please contact Nikki Bynoe at 617-727-8158, ext. 1345.