

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 09-28

Policy Information

To: Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Regional Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Michael Taylor, Director
Department of Workforce Development

Nancy Synder, President/CEO
Commonwealth Corporation

Date: April 30, 2009

Subject: **Massachusetts WIA Youth Target Populations**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and local workforce investment partners of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development's strong preference to serve youth being served within other Massachusetts state agencies, particularly agencies of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS).

Training & Guidance Letter 28-05 articulated the Employment and Training Administration's strategic vision for the delivery of services to the neediest youth under WIA. ETA encourages states and local areas to focus services on the youth most in need including out-of-school, at risk for dropping out, court involved or at risk for court involvement, in and aging out of foster care, homeless and runaway youth, youth with disabilities, migrant youth and Indian and Native American youth.

To that end, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Department of Workforce Development, Commonwealth Corporation and 16 Local Workforce Investment Boards in Massachusetts have convened and planned over the past several years to build relationships with other youth serving

agencies in Massachusetts, particularly agencies in the EOHHS through an initiative titled “Pathways to Success by 21 (P21)”.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides an opportunity to foster closer alignment with Massachusetts youth serving agencies and demonstrate the importance of the partnership with these agencies, among whom include the Departments of Youth Service, Children and Families, Transitional Assistance, Mental Health, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and Massachusetts Juvenile Courts. When the appropriate connections are made, these agencies will assist Massachusetts WIA youth providers to recruit eligible participants to the summer and regular WIA program, streamline paper work for state involved youth, and serve a larger number of the state’s neediest youth. These actions support and build on the existing philosophy of P21 and the federal youth vision.

To assist this effort, the Commonwealth Corporation is providing tools to EOHHS agencies to assist their local office personnel to make connection to the workforce system for the purpose of making referrals and enrolling youth into local programs. These tools include an eligibility guide, a list of cities and towns in each region and a list of youth program contact persons in the local areas.

Local program operators and youth council staff can anticipate telephone calls from EOHHS agency personnel with referrals of youth. Local youth program managers should work cooperatively with the other youth serving agencies and with individual youth to facilitate applicant enrollments, when appropriate, to Title I WIA youth services. The EOWLD is particularly interested in enrolling these youth into work experiences under the ARRA summer jobs program in the local area. Massachusetts wants to underscore the importance of serving this population and working with other agencies that provide care for them.

Action

Required: Please inform all Career Center staff, youth program sub-recipients and their staff including persons working the front desk, including greeters, of the ARRA Summer Jobs program and the Commonwealth’s expectations around the interagency partnership. Local programs needing to establish connections to EOHHS agencies should inquire as directed below.

Inquiries: Please direct all inquiries to Samuel Martin (617)-727-8158 or Smartin@Commcorp.org.