To: Interested Applicants

From: Janet Daisley, Senior Program Manager, Commonwealth Corporation

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

Date: November 22, 2006

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 services 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 focus the delivery of services to youth in DYS custody (and who are currently reporting to a DYS Community Re-entry Center), using youth asset-based strategies and personnel that have demonstrated success working effectively with this population;
- Grant activities will focus attention on developing or strengthening 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: Monique Miles, Program Manager, Commonwealth Corporation, 529 Main Street, Boston, MA 02129) at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20th. Email and fax copies will not be accepted. If you have any questions regarding the proposal, please contact Janet Daisley, Senior Program Manager, Commonwealth Corporation at 413-582-9054, ext. 107.

529 Main Street, Suite 110, Boston, MA 02129 ♦ 617-727-8158 ♦ TDD/TTY 800-439-2370 ♦ www.commcorp.org

COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

Mitt Romney-Governor ♦ Kerry Healey-Lt. Governor ♦ Jane C. Edmonds-Director, Dept. of Workforce Development ♦ Linda Rohrer, Acting President