

# **Oklahoma's Youth System Development**

## **Expansion of Youth Services Under The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

*Session 1  
April 2009*

### **Session Purposes:**

1. Provide forum for **decision makers to share (and continue to build) knowledge and understanding of the intent and requirements** of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA/Recovery Act).
2. Discuss **options and outline state and/or local direction** for The Recovery Act funds, including the expansion of summer employment opportunities.
3. Make **positioning decisions which will guide the implementation** of The Recovery Act services at the state and local levels.
4. Provide support for **creation of local strategic implementation plan** for Youth Stimulus funds.

## **Strategic Vision for Recovery Act**

- Preserve and create jobs
- Promote the nation's economic recovery
- Assist those most impacted by the recession

## **Guiding Principles: Stimulus Funds**

- Spend Quickly and Efficiently!
- Transform Workforce System, Innovation!
- Invest Wisely!
- Increase Service Levels!
- Use Data to Guide Decisions!
- Accountability and Transparency!

## **Impact/Changes: Youth Stimulus Funds**

- Double the Money?!
- Expanded "Summer Employment"
- Summer Only Performance: Work Readiness
- Increase Age Limit From 21 to 24

## ***Formulating Your Local Implementation Plan***

***At Least 19 Questions to Answer When Develop Your Stimulus Strategy!***

1. What is the impact of the Recovery Act money on your local area?
2. How and when will you invest the Recovery Act money?
3. What are your strategies for connecting WIA Formula and Recovery Act funds?
4. What will be the mix of summer employment opportunities, work-experience throughout the year, and/or other year-round services?
5. How will you include “green” in your strategy?
6. Who will you operate your summer employment program?
7. What is your definition of “Work Readiness” for the summer employment only portions of your program?
8. What are your decisions for connecting occupational and academic learning for summer employment activities?
9. Who specifically will you serve in your expanded summer employment and work experience programs?

10. What is the most appropriate program design for each of your target groups?
11. How/where/when will you recruit your targeted youth?
12. For the “summer months only” participants, what are your objective assessment and ISS plans?
13. What worksites will you target and how will you ensure “quality” at the worksite?
14. What will be the “wages” and/or “stipends” for employment opportunities?
15. What are the benefits of requesting allowable youth waiver?
16. How will you monitor and track participants, expenditures and outcomes of Recovery Act funds?
17. What state and local policies need to be rethought or created to ensure success?
18. How will your efforts within the Stimulus strategy have lasting impact on your youth system?
19. What additional guidance and technical assistance do you want/need to ensure success of your system?

# **Youth Recruitment and Worksite Development Strategies**

## **Oklahoma's Youth System Development**

*Session 2  
May 2009*

### *Session Missions...*

- Review **requirements and intent** of The Recovery Act and **share your local strategies** for summer employment programs.
- Apply the **classic 5 P's of marketing** to enhance your youth outreach and recruitment efforts.
- Explore strategies for making Work Experience **real work, not make work**.
- Outline the **what's and how to's** for enhancing Work Experience so it will lead to unsubsidized employment.
- Begin creating **benefit-oriented marketing messages** that tap into the motivation of your young people and worksites.

## **Oklahoma's Youth System Development**

### **Now that Summer's (Almost) Over, What's Next for Your Youth Programs?**

*Session 3  
September 2009*

#### **Session Purposes:**

- **Capture** your Summer Youth Program **learning** and **apply** it to your year-round program.
- Formulate strategies for **sharing your successes** and **advocating for increased support** for youth services.
- Continue to **build capacity** for serving older, out-of-school youth even more successfully.

## ***Continuing to Transform the Youth System: Incorporating Learning From Summer***

***Many Lessons to Process, A Room Full of Expertise to Tap Into,  
A Critical Opportunity to Continue to Enhance Your Services***

### **Starting the Dialogue:**

1. What was the overall success of your Summer Program?
2. What were your summer successes?
3. What were the summer pitfalls?

### **Summer Employment Program:**

4. How many did you serve? How much did you spend? What were the outcomes?
5. What are optimal solutions for state level improvements?
6. What are optimal solutions for local area improvements?
7. What is your communications strategy to ensure that your community knows there was a return on their investment from the ARRA funding for summer programs?
8. What should you do to build support for future appropriations?

9. Are you planning a Summer 2010 and how will you do even if there is not any additional funding?

**Transitioning Promising Practices to Year-Round Services:**

10. Overall, what did you learn from summer that you should incorporate into your year-round strategies?
11. What did you find successful in your recruitment efforts?
12. What program design elements/services were effective and/or successful?
13. How did private sector work experience placement go?
14. How will you maintain and strengthen your new employer relationships and leverage them for your WIA formula program?
15. How will you incorporate more work experience with more youth year-round?
16. Which Summer Youth participants did you decide to transition to your on-going program and how are you making this seamless?
17. What are the next steps for the older, out of school youth that you served in Summer Employment?
18. What are your plans for the 22-24 year olds?

For more information on building quality youth programs in your community, contact Kip Stottlemeyer at [Kip@GregNewtonAssociates.com](mailto:Kip@GregNewtonAssociates.com)