

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 10-55

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 Regional Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Michael Taylor, Director
Department of Workforce Development

Nancy Snyder, President
Commonwealth Corporation

Date: June 7, 2010

Subject: **Youth Program Information and Guidance Reports Update**

Purpose: To transmit to Local Workforce Investment Boards, Youth Councils, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners notice of recent publications relevant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) Summer Youth Employment Program 2009 and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title I Youth Program. This update replaces MassWorkforce Issuance No. 10-33 (4/16/10), providing additional Youth Program Guidance based on the recent publication by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 27-09:

1. “Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program Guidance for Program Year (PY) 2010” [Training and Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 27-09 (5/13/2010)]

The Recovery Act, signed into law on February 17, 2009 marked the first time since the implementation of WIA that ETA has encouraged state and local workforce areas to operate expanded summer employment opportunities for youth. In TEGL No. 14-08, ETA urged states and local workforce investment areas to use Recovery Act funds to create and expand summer employment and

work experience opportunities for eligible WIA youth. Through the Recovery Act, over 325,000 youth participated in summer employment opportunities. The implementation of this large-scale effort resulted in a number of lessons learned that are relevant for the regular WIA Youth program.

PY 2010 offers an excellent opportunity for states and local areas to build on the success of the summer employment opportunities and work experiences implemented under the Recovery Act. ETA encourages state and local area to develop strategies for incorporating the lessons learned from the Recovery Act into their youth program design.

To access the full text of TEGL No. 27-09 click on the following link:

<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL27-09.pdf>

NOTE: A booklet summarizing the guidance provided in TEGL No.27-09 is included as Attachment A:

2. “Reinvesting in America’s Youth: Lessons from the 2009 Recovery Act Summer Youth Employment Initiative” [Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (2/26/2010)].

As part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), states received \$1.2 billion in funding for the workforce investment system to provide employment and training services targeted to disadvantaged youth, a group particularly hard hit by the recent recession.

A new report from Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. examines the implementation of the 2009 summer youth employment initiative funded by the Recovery Act. It describes the national context for implementation, provides an in-depth description of the experiences of 20 selected local areas, including some worksites in Massachusetts (Hampden County) and presents lessons that may inform future summer youth employment efforts.

To access the full text of the Mathematica report click on the following link:

http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/labor/youth_employment_program.pdf

3. “Contracting Strategies That Facilitate Serving The Youth Most In Need” [Training and Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 13-09 (2/16/2010)]

In a February 2008 report reviewing 39 local youth programs, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that contracts between local workforce investment boards (LWIBs) and youth service providers often require providers to meet performance goals within time frames that are too short to reasonably achieve successful outcomes with youth most in need. The report data indicates that hardest-to-serve youth, such as dropouts and out-of-school youth, require additional time and assistance to attain positive outcomes as measured by the WIA Youth common and statutory measures.

However, GAO's findings revealed that local workforce boards often procure one-year contracts that may in effect, inadvertently discourage local program providers from working with lower skilled youth who may be unlikely to achieve positive outcomes during the term of the contract. The GAO recommended that ETA work with states and WIBs to provide youth program operators with information and guidance needed to develop and implement contracts that facilitate local programs to serve the neediest youth while still achieving performance goals.

To access the full text of TEGL No. 13-09 click on the following link:

<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL13-09.pdf>

Action

Required: The three attached documents should be shared with LWIB staff; the local Youth Council; and appropriate One-Stop Career Center and program vendor staff. Each LWIB should closely review the guidance provided in TEGL No.13-09 in anticipation of developing local responses for its FY 2011 Annual Plan.

Commonwealth Corporation is in the process of developing additional training and guidance for FY 2011 to complement the recommendations cited in the federal guidance. Any comments and suggestions with regard to either the additional guidance and training or the Youth Section of the Annual Plan instructions should be e-mailed as soon as possible to Samuel Martin (see contact information, below).

Inquiries: All inquiries regarding the content of this issuance should be addressed to Samuel Martin: Smartin@commcorp.org or 617-717-6918.