

Youth Education and Employment Strategies Initiative

Goal: The goal of the Youth Education and Employment Strategies Initiative is to fund local and regional workforce development initiatives that provide Ohio's low-income, urban youth with meaningful paid work experience. To accomplish this goal, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will develop and release a request for proposal (RFP) through which ODJFS will solicit unique and innovative youth programs that will result in successful participation in a program, which will ultimately lead to a self-sufficient wage and occupation.

Total Funds: The initiative will be funded with **\$4 million** from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in Fiscal Year 2010.

Grant Awards: A competitive request for proposals will be released statewide. Awards will range from \$50,000 to \$500,000 over a 12 month grant.

Target Population: The target population for this initiative is low-income youth in core urban areas of the state, ages 16 to 24. Each local workforce investment area will recruit eligible participants for awarded programs.

Eligible Applicants: Workforce Investment Boards, Neighborhood or Community Non-profits, Community Action Agencies, or Local Governments

Eligible Activities: Proposals must address youth barriers to employment and educational advancement as part of their programming. The programs shall include a direct paid work experience component. Priority will be given to applicants that demonstrate their ability to provide high-quality services to low-income youth participants.

RFP Release Date: Early June, 2009