

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ODJFS Announces \$6.7 million in Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
Urban Youth Works Employment Grants**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will use \$6.7 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to provide employment and training opportunities to Ohio's urban youth through Urban Youth Works grants to 16 organizations.

“These funds will provide assistance to a vulnerable sector of our society and give these youth an opportunity to take a new, positive direction in their lives,” said ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin. “I am grateful to the Obama administration and our members of Congress who advocated for the stimulus bill and these resources. The impact of these programs could be felt for years to come.”

The programs funded will target urban youth who are disengaged from the educational system, youthful offenders, youth in or aging out of the foster care system, youth with disabilities, migrant youth, homeless and/or runaway youth and children of incarcerated parents. This group has been targeted because of its history of high unemployment. Youth ages 16-24 living at or below 200 percent of the poverty level are eligible to participate.

Each of the programs funded will remove barriers to youth employment by offering services such as career counseling, skill assessment, job readiness preparation, education, training and job search assistance. More than 1,500 youth are expected to benefit from these services.

Grant award, ranging from \$168,000 to \$500,000 are being made to the following organizations: Alvis House (Columbus); Berea Children's Home (Berea); Cleveland Christian Home (Cleveland); the Easter Seals Resource Center (Cincinnati); Flying High, Inc. (Youngstown); Harbor, Inc. (Toledo); Linking Employment Abilities and Potential (Cleveland); Ohio Restaurant Association Education Foundation (Columbus); Project Rebuild Community Vocational High School (Canton); The Employment Source (Canton); Workforce Investment Board of Lucas County (Toledo); Urban League of Greater Cincinnati (Cincinnati); the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (Columbus); Towards Employment, Inc. (Cleveland); Unified Health Solutions (Dayton); and Zeigler Habilitation Homes, Inc. (Toledo).

Funding will be distributed to these organizations in October to launch services to youth through December 31, 2010.