

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 12/13/06

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Labor, Strategic Plan, FYs 2006-2011

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information only.

DISCUSSION: The U.S. Department of Labor has released its Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2006-2011. While DOL has issued opinions and papers concerning youth workforce issues, the Strategic Plan has now formalized those issues.

The Department has developed several strategies to ensure services go to the neediest youth, with particular emphasis on out-of-school youth.

- **DOL will coordinate better utilization of resources across Federal programs and within communities.**
- **Will increase the focus on program performance outcomes (achieving gains in literacy and math skills)**
- **Will identify and determine how best to replicate employer-based models.**

On September 22, 2006, the Youth Builds Transfer Act transferred the Youth Build Program from HUD to DOL.

- **A successful approach to workforce investment that provides opportunities for at-risk youth.**
- **Gain high school credentials and skill training.**
- **Serves at-risk youth ages 16-24.**
- **Constructing or rehabilitating affordable housing for low-income or homeless families in their own neighborhoods.**

DOL is developing Working Women in Transition project.

- **A multi-regional demonstration project that serves women who are making a significant transition in their work lives.**
- **Builds on the best practices of previous demonstration projects by combining high-touch, or community-based services, and high-tech, or Web-based services.**

DOL Goals specific to WIA youth.

Performance Goal 1C. Increase placements and educational attainments of youth served through the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program.

- **Reflects DOL’s strategic vision – out-of-school youth and those most at risk of dropping out are an important part of the new workforce “supply pipeline” needed by businesses to fill vacancies in the knowledge economy.**
- **Efforts are now focused on four major areas: alternative education, demand-driven strategies that equip youth with the skills businesses need, serving the neediest youth, and overall improved program performance.**

Common Measures

- **PY 2005 – first year for States to report on the employment and retention common measures.**
- **PY 2006 – Programs will report on a new earnings measure.**

Measure 1: Percent of youth who entered employment or enroll in post secondary education and/or advanced training/occupational skills training or the military.

- **DOL Goal PY 2005 – 58%**
- **DOL Goal PY 2011 – 64%**
- **Merced County attained PY 2005 86.1%**

Measure 2: Percent of students who attained a GED, high school diploma, or certificate.

- **DOL Goal PY 2005 – 36%**
- **DOL Goal PY 2011 – 44%**
- **Merced Count attained PY 2005 – 89.5%**

Measure 3: Percent of basic-skills deficient students who achieve literacy or numeracy gains on one or more Adult Basic Education levels.

- **DOL Goal PY 2006 – baseline to be developed.**

Lastly, DOL performed an overall assessment of several of its workforce investment programs. The highest rating received was Moderately Effective. The Workforce Investment Act programs were rated in 2003 through 2005. Ratings are presented on the following page:

WIA – Adult Employment & Training Activities – Adequate

WIA – Dislocated Worker Assistance – Adequate

WIA – Native American Programs – Adequate

WIA – Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers – Ineffective

WIA – Youth Activities - Ineffective

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A