

Region:7- Coos and Curry Counties

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Region Representative: South Coast Works- Regional Workforce Investment Board for Region 7

The Emerging Worker Committee, formerly the TOC/OWA Youth Council, is conducting a survey of WIA 1B Youth Services throughout the Consortium. We would like to compile data related to the ten required program elements listed in WIA section 129(c)(2) and receive feedback regarding best practices, partnerships, funding levels, service levels, and barriers to delivering services.

The Emerging Worker Committee has several new members who sincerely wish to be outspoken advocates for our local area. We hope the data we gather will help us develop a better understanding of issues all of you face on a day to day basis and hopefully provide valuable information for possible legislative action and/or better awareness of the valuable services being delivered to at-risk youth.

Thank you all for your cooperation and time with this endeavor.

- 1) Tutoring, study skills training, and instruction leading to secondary school completion, including dropout prevention strategies. Please describe who in your region is providing these services. Are there strategies that have worked particularly well?

Youth requiring tutoring, study skills training and instruction leading to secondary school including dropout prevention will first be linked to existing programs with the assistance of SCBEC case managers. Examples include: Myrtle Point High teachers are available from the end of the school day until 4:00pm available for assistance. Myrtle Point High School uses National Honor Society Students in a peer mentoring program to work with students requiring basic skills enhancement. North Bend High school has a credit recovery program available two days each week from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. NBHS has a paid tutor on staff. A paid Tutor must be a credentialed teacher. It is difficult to find paid tutor's due to inconsistent hours. Marshfield High School had a math tutor, but when that person retired the position was not filled. Study halls are available for tutoring in all schools. At Marshfield, youth with disabilities have access to paid staff tutors. The Adult Learning Skills Program at the Community College, for a fee of \$25.00, allows high school students access to basic skills upgrade. If SCBEC staff is unable to use existing resources a limited amount of WIA funds may be used to pay a tutor.

- 2) Alternative secondary school offerings. Who is providing these services? In your opinion, are there enough alternative school offerings in your area? Approximately how many of the WIA clients on your caseload are attached to alternative education programs?

Alternative Youth Activities, CEII, Destinations, and the Teen Parent Program , ABE/GED programs throughout the Southwestern Oregon Community College, and the Charter School Resource Links provide alternative education. In my opinion extreme rural areas are neglected in the alternative education offerings. I believe there are adequate alternative school offerings. I feel that the network and support for students requiring alternative education could be stronger. We have approximately 7 students attending alternative schools at the current time.

- 3) Summer employment opportunities directly linked to academic and occupational learning. Please list the type of summer activities WIA eligible youth are participating in. Who are you partnering with to deliver these services? Have funding levels affected the number of youth you can serve? (Please provide a brief history of participation levels if possible)

Registered WIA youth participate in summer employment opportunities that match their academic and educational goals. Youth experience leadership and team building through project adventure. Work Experience participants summarize skills & tools learned in daily journaling. Funding levels have significantly impacted the number of youth and the hours available for training. In past JTPA programs, youth work experience numbers in Coos And Curry Counties have exceeded 400 youth and have provided 32-40 hour per week jobs throughout the summer. In recent years due to reduced funding, SCBEC has provided summer work opportunities for approximately 60 youth in Coos and Curry Counties. The average work experience is 6 weeks, 20 hours per week. SCBEC does partner with OYCC, South Slough Sanctuary, US Forest Service, State Parks, and the BLM to provide an addition 10-18 jobs for youth yearly. SCBEC does direct placement in the private sector to provide employment opportunities.

- 4) Paid and unpaid work experiences, including internships and job shadowing, as provided in 664.460 and 664.470. Are these services being provided in your region; if so; who is providing them and how are they funded if applicable? Does WIA eligible youth have access to school-to-work programs in your region? If possible, please indicate what percentage of the regions current caseload has received this service. What barriers if any, do you encounter when trying to deliver this service?

Yes. Area schools provide paid and nonpaid work experiences, internships, and job shadowing. If a student does a Work Experience through the school, some of these are paid by the private sector, others are to provide elective credit for the youth. SCBEC provides paid work experiences. SCBEC has partnered extensively with school-to-work programs including Youth Transition Programs run through Vocational Rehabilitation. Some private non profits (SCILS in Brookings Harbor) have received grants to provide short term paid work experience for summer jobs. SCBEC partners with the community college and the Job Opportunity Basic Skills Program (JOBS), and the Fatherhood

Initiative to develop internships, mentorships, and work experience opportunities. I think the biggest barrier is getting the employers to train many of our unskilled youth. I would say approximately 75% of our youth have access to either in-school work experience and/or WIA work experience.

5) Occupational skill training. (Same questions as above)

Occupational skill training may be learned on the job through On-the-Job training, work experience and internships, or through post secondary education (local community college), Job Corps, proprietary school (CNA programs provided by Hearthside, Bay Crest etc), Hair We Are, De La Von school of massage, etc. Occupational Skill selections are based on the aptitude and interest of the participant and must demonstrate a high demand, high wage, and high growth potential based on current Labor Market information.

6) Leadership development opportunities, which include community service and peer centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social behaviors. Please describe best practices and partnerships which may have helped develop positive leadership opportunities in your region.

Youth registered in SCBEC programs participate in Project Adventure. Leadership opportunities may be customized to the individual, for example: register to vote, referred to community resources to strengthen families, for example parenting classes, visit community organizations or participate in community projects.

7) Supportive services, which may include the services listed in 664.440. Are you able to provide supportive services at the necessary level to help WIA eligible youth break down barriers to employment? What are some of the barriers the youth you serve experience? Are there other partners who can assist with such barriers?

For the most part yes. Barriers include interview or work clothing, transportation assistance for job search or going to training and/or work. Housing, car insurance, and car repairs may be barriers. Supportive services are a partnership. Youth are counseled to find solutions themselves before services are used. This is to assist them in solving future problems on their own and becoming self reliant.

8) Adult mentoring for duration of at least twelve (12) months that may occur both during and after program participation. Please describe how this service is delivered in your region.

Primarily our WIA youth staff provide the primary mentoring for youth engaged in WIA services. There are mentoring programs in Coos and Curry Counties. These programs are understaffed and underfunded. SCBEC contacts service providers to link a mentee with a potential mentor.

- 9) Follow-up services, as provided in 664.450. Please describe your follow-up services for WIA eligible youth. Do staffing levels affect the type of services you are able to deliver? Are you able to help youth financially with follow-up services?

Follow up services are available to every exited youth for a minimum of one year after the date of exit. There is adequate staff to meet the needs of exited youth. Youth at exit are informed about available services including occupational support and career guidance. Youth may contact staff at any time. Staff contact the youth at a minimum of once each quarter after exit. Career consultants may provide job search assistance, school guidance for post secondary youth, and limited support services. Most financial assistance requests are minimal as typically the majority of issues are dealt with before exit.

- 10) Comprehensive guidance and counseling, including drug and alcohol abuse counseling, as well as referrals to counseling, as appropriate to the needs of the individual youth. Please describe how this service is delivered. What partnerships are involved? Approximately how many of the youth you serve have issues with drug and alcohol problems? Approximately how many of the youth you serve are attached to the juvenile justice system?

Career Consultants have strong relationships with service delivery agents in Coos and Curry Counties. ADAPT is the primary provider of alcohol/drug treatment services in Coos County. In Curry County the Mental Health department is the primary provider of Drug and Alcohol counseling. ADAPT provides counseling as a contractor through the JOBS program in Curry. SCBEC has a limited amount of funds to purchase short term counseling if existing resources are unavailable. I would say approximately 15% are diagnosed with drug and alcohol issues. I believe the youth that go undiagnosed is much higher. I would have to say about 20% are or have been attached to the juvenile justice system.

Any additional comments you would like the Emerging Workforce Committee to be aware of, advocate for, etc. etc. etc. (now is a good time to let your voice be heard)!