

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



ACTION ITEM: #1.4

SUBMITTAL DATE: APRIL 11, 2012

SUBJECT: Youth at the Crossroads Foster Youth Pathways to Adulthood Forum

RECOMMENDATION: That the Workforce Investment Board Executive Committee approves The City of Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board and Youth Council, the County of Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board, the City of Los Angeles Community Development Department, the San Diego Workforce Partnership, and New Ways to Work request for \$1,500 to support the Youth at the Crossroads Foster Youth Pathways to Adulthood Forum.

BACKGROUND: Annually in California, more than 4,000 youth age transition out of foster care. The experience of transition to the adult world can be overwhelming. These young people often lack the basic skills, experience, and resources essential to be successful as young adults. Pre-employment training, career preparation, post-secondary education and experience in the workplace are central to making a successful transition to adulthood for current and former foster youth. In many cases they are left to navigate the range of potential support, educational, career related services and opportunities available to them on their own as they prepare for independence.

Workforce areas throughout California have increased the focus of their Workforce Investment Act funded youth programs to serve youth in the foster care system. However, many report challenges in understanding the child welfare system and in effectively identifying, recruiting, and serving these youth. This event is designed to be a state-wide forum of workforce, education, child welfare professionals, policy-makers and youth. The purpose of the convening will be to:

- Share and examine program models and innovative practices that are working;
- Identify resources and strategies to support the employment preparation and continued education of current and former foster youth;
- Develop a set of policy recommendations for the workforce, education, and child welfare systems that draw from successful practice;
- Raise the stakes for the inclusion of sound youth employment and career development practices in the systems designed to support successful transitions for older youth in care.

Further, California is in the first year of implementing the Fostering Connections to Success and Early Adoptions Act of 2009, allowing foster youth to choose to stay in foster care until the age of 21. This creates the need for new strategies, new policies, and examples of quality employment, education, and training practices in the child welfare, workforce development and education systems if these young people are to successfully transition to adulthood.

<p>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</p> <p>Date: April 11, 2012</p> <p>Approval: Yes/No</p>	<p>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONCURRENCE</p> <p>Required: Yes/No</p>
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The Forum will be held on May 21-22, 2012, at the Sheraton Gateway in Los Angeles, CA. The estimated number of attendees for this two day gathering is approximately two hundred individuals. Riverside County Workforce Investment Board Staff will be participating as Panelist to share our local areas practical examples of successful program strategies for serving transitioning foster youth. These young adults leaving foster care can achieve economic success in today's multifaceted world through creating a bridge to opportunities, support, connections, and preparation for life in the 21st Century.

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