

Kittitas

South Central
Workforce
Development Council
2009-2011
Operations Plan
Addendum

ROUGH DRAFT

Klickitat

Skamania

Yakima



MISSION STATEMENT

Establish, maintain, and improve a customer driven workforce system to increase skills, employment, job retention, and earnings resulting in a quality workforce, enhanced productivity, and profitability of Workforce Area businesses.

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Introduction

On February 17, 2009 President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law. Given the dramatic changes in our state's economic conditions and the infusion of new Recovery Act funding, the South Central Workforce Council (SCWDC) would like to present the following modification to our WIA/Wagner-Peyser local operations plan. The purpose of this modification is to describe revised operations to meet the challenges of the economic downturn and the proposed use of the additional funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. WIA state policy number 3625, Revision 1, dated July 2, 2004, provides instructions for local operations plan modifications for WIA Title I-B and Wagner-Peyser. This addendum is in compliance with state and federal regulations.

1. The Timely and Concurrent Expenditure of Recovery Act and Regular Formula Funds and the Increase in Individuals Receiving Services

Integration of Recovery Act, WIA, Title I, and Wagner Peyser Act Resources

With over \$4 billion of ARRA funds targeted to workforce programs nationally, the South Central Workforce Council is now planning for implementation of stimulus dollars.

Youth Program

With local procurement already in progress and an anticipated doubling of youth funds, the South Central Workforce Council amended the Youth Procurement Process to address program plans for a summer youth program to be carried out by September 30, 2009. The amended Request for Proposal asked each bidder to provide a description of how funds would be channeled to youth that included:

- Percent of funds going directly to support service, wages, need related payments, tuition, etc.
- Percent of funds that would be obligated to the related services such as salaries for teachers, site supervisors mentors.
- Percent of funds that would be case management staffing and overhead.
- Estimated cost per youth served.
- Planned timeframes for each special project and proposed group activities.
- Contacts and relationships already made to support youth summer work experience activities.
- And the proposed number of youth that would be served in the summer component alone.

At the WDA level, council staff has also made contact with local programs that will help leverage resources to increase numbers served and to reach special populations. This includes other federal programs such as Gear-up, Casey Family, and 100 jobs for youth. To ensure quality sites are developed for youth, bidder and

the council staff have contacted state agencies and local city and county governments apprising them of the summer youth programs and the need for work experience sites. These institutions as well as private companies have been responsive and expressed a willingness to work with local programs to develop summer work experiences.

Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs

SCWDC is experiencing a 50% increase in the demand for WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker services due to the economic recession and double digit unemployment. In order to address this rapid demand, WIA adults and dislocated workers will be co-enrolled in both the Recovery Act and formula programs, resulting in increased customer choices for retraining and support services. This will allow funds from both streams to be utilized in an efficient and effective manner. To meet increased demand, South Central plans to use ARRA funds to increase the number of low income adults with low skills and dislocated workers by 50% from the previous program year.

For I-B Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs, the Council has currently modified 25% of the ARRA funds to begin enrollment of eligible participants. The remaining 75% of the funds will be contracted with the contractors procured from the current Request for Proposal process.

Further, the council asked each provider to increase enrollments by leveraging overhead with formula dollars and allocated stimulus training funds to support increased participants. The council anticipates that cost per served for both adult and dislocated workers will stay relatively close to PY08 expenditures which should produce a substantial increase of individuals served. At the same time, some adjustments may also send total participant numbers downward as special training programs are developed with local community and technical colleges. This is because current rates for special programs average as high as \$8,000 per student.

All local providers and bidders have been apprised by council staff per the requirement to expend both ARRA and PY09 funds in the PY09 year and at acceptable levels. To ensure this happens SCWDC will require expenditure and enrollment plans in every agreement and will monitor these activities monthly. Should variances occur beyond a 10% margin, the Council will intervene quickly with the provider to develop a corrective action plan? If variances continue at an unacceptable level for a second month, funds will be withdrawn from the provider and redistributed to providers who have shown success with timely expenditures.

South Central's one stop system (WorkSource) continues to be the basic service delivery system for dislocated workers where individuals will leverage other resources and benefits from Wagner-Peyser, DVR, Trade Act, Worker Retraining, Veterans Services, Pell and UI. Dislocated Worker services are provided in five

WorkSource locations, and WIA adult services are provided in six locations throughout the region.

Funds provided through the Recovery Act, WIA Title I, and specifically the Wagner Peyser Act will be available to all one-stop center customers who receive WIA core services. Through both the front end and continuous engagement statewide initiatives, harder-to-serve customers will be the primary recipients of these funds to ensure they receive the needed services to obtain employment or place them in a training pathway. Wagner Peyser funds have been allocated to WorkSource locations for hiring additional WorkSource staff who provide WIA core services and refer customers to intensive and training services which are available through one-stop center partners.

Anticipated increase in the number of workers expected to receive services

The SCWDC formula funds were cut by more than 30% in program year 2009, with a decrease in funds of over 1.1 million dollars. Even so, we will use ARRA funds to substantially exceed the number of workers we were able to serve in program year 2008, to the extent that funding allows.

Anticipated Increase in the Number of Residents Served			
Program	Workers Served PY08	Workers Served PY09	Additional Workers Served ARRA funds
Low Income Adults with Low Skills	223	300	118
Dislocated Worker	505	746	241
Youth	275	780	505

2. Increased Access to Education and Training Opportunities for Adults and Dislocated Workers

Training strategies to address long-term unemployment

In the context of a low-growth economy, SCWDC WIA Adult program will work to connect workforce training with local economic development to retain and promote economic growth. SCWDC has responded vigorously, and will continue to promote and support WIA Adult participants in gaining the education and skills needed to meet labor market demands. In order to address current rapid customer demand, adults and dislocated workers will be co-enrolled in both the Recovery Act and formula programs resulting in increased customer choices for retraining and support services. This will allow funds from both streams to be utilized in an efficient and effective manner.

SCWDC has embarked on a movement to address Industry driven workforce training, and other services through the direct participation with Business/Industry skill panels. SCWDC has identified key industry sectors, including health, manufacturing, construction, Ag/Food processing and renewable energy which are critical to the region's economy and have high workforce needs. We are currently exploring training opportunities that develop in the area of "Green Technology" and Renewable Energy as described below in *targeting training to regional economies*. As this new industry continues to expand, we will research existing training programs in classroom settings as well as other training options available through employers via On-the-Job training and/or customized training to provide a well-trained workforce that meets this need. As a result of these efforts, training, which is a common service strategy for the long-term unemployed and dislocated workers, will be targeted for occupations within these sectors so that individuals can acquire high skills, high wage jobs in growing sectors.

SCWDC will utilize non-WIA leveraged funding and other resources as part of our ongoing efforts to enhance and increase service delivery, prevent duplication of services, and provide cost-effective service delivery. Existing relationships with non-WIA service providers and WorkSource partners help to optimize federal funding in a way that makes a positive impact on our local economy. Through cost-sharing, co-enrollments, and partner collaboration SCWDC will continue to maximize WIA Adult funding according to anticipated service increases described above.

Given the current state of our local economy, the need for WIA services has never been greater. Priority of services will be given to TANF recipients, veterans, and those individuals who have been unsuccessful in obtaining employment due to low education levels, minimal work history, and circumstantial barriers compounded by a life of poverty.

Individual Training Accounts

SCWDC and our WorkSource partners determine funding for Individual Training Accounts (ITA) on a case-by-case basis. Funds are determined by the needs identified in each participant's Service Plan contingent on availability of resources, and as such there are no ITA funding caps. ARRA funds will allow us to extend these resources to an increased number of co-enrolled participants.

3. Eligible training Providers' and Their Capacity to Meet the Current and Projected Needs for Additional Training Enrollments

Recognizing that training institutions in the South Central region are at capacity, efforts are underway to broker group training contracts with community colleges, private technical schools, and other training providers for targeted sectors such as

healthcare and renewable energy (windpower) who are experiencing a shortage of skilled workers. The South Central Workforce Council has met directly with Yakima Valley Community College and has developed preliminary plans for direct referral and enrollment into regular course offerings, development of additional regular program offerings in the afternoons and evenings and development of new training programs for green jobs by using existing curricula from other community colleges within the state. SWDC has had discussions with Perry Technical Institute regarding the development of training programs in the alternative energy field, and the SCWDC will continue to engage both public and private training providers to expand or develop new course offerings that will provide skills necessary for high demand and future occupations.

4. Access to Reemployment Services for UI Claimants

WorkSource centers have implemented a redesigned orientation to assist those receiving unemployment insurance benefits. Customers will be given an opportunity to participate in our continuous engagement initiative, where they will have a session with a counselor. In the session, the counselor will provide the customer an initial assessment which will determine the customer's employability potential. If the customer needs additional training, a referral to a one-stop center partner will be issued. Ready to work customers will be referred to appropriate and desired job openings immediately.

In our efforts to extend services to the broadest number of workers possible, we have initiated a consortium of 20 agencies in the South Central area receiving ARRA funds in order to identify the maximum number of jobs available to our workers. We will track the positions made available by ARRA funds via these ARRA partner agencies and coordinate with our WorkSource system to match our local UI claimants with jobs created by the ARRA.

5. Universal Access to Core Services for Adults and Dislocated Workers

Core services for adults and dislocated workers, including UI claimants and target populations

WorkSource continues to be the basic service delivery system for adults and dislocated workers where individuals will benefit from receiving core services from both Wagner-Peyser and WIA programs. All customers are given an opportunity to participate in the WorkSource continuous engagement initiative, where they have access to a session with a counselor. In the session, the counselor provides the customer an initial assessment which determines the customer's priority for employment and training services and employability potential. Veterans, eligible

spouses, and low-income persons receiving public assistance are informed of their right to priority for employment and training services.

Front-end services ensure that all customers receiving UI benefits or dislocated workers will have access to universal services. Through front-end services and continuous engagement, each customer, including Veterans and eligible spouses, is profiled when s/he signs in to WorkSource for services. Customers receiving UI benefits or who have not received a full registration are directed to our continuous engagement process so that the appropriate services, which lead to employment, are provided.

Veterans programs provide specialized employment and training services through Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists. These specialists coordinate the efforts of local agencies to put veterans to work. Services include counseling, testing, job search assistance, and referral and placement services.

Through WorkSource, the WIA adult programs have established a close working relationship with the WorkFirst programs and have been able to reach TANF individuals that would benefit the most from WIA I-B Adult services.

Proposed changes to the delivery of front-end services

Welcoming jobseeker customers and directing them to appropriate services begins with front-end services that are consistent, quality-driven and contribute to a quality experience. In order to improve our current systems, The South Central WorkSource Partnership plans to equip WorkSource Centers with Reception Room Informational Monitors in 2009. These displays will be programmed with information loops that can provide current and updated information about employment opportunities, training and other related events. Once completed, customers entering WorkSource Centers will be provided with current information about WorkSource activities for that day or in the near future, information about 'hot jobs' currently available in the local area and across the region, and information about WorkSource workshops and other events in the community that relate to employment and training needs.

6. Enhancement of Local Integrated Service Delivery Strategies in Front-end, Skills/Employment, and Business Services

Resources from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be directed predominantly at employment and training services for unemployed and underemployed workers. Service enhancements from the local Framework Initiative will support employment and training efforts by fostering customer choice, the timely delivery of service and by providing programs and services that are relevant to customers albeit workers or employers.

Front-end Service

As a result of the framework grant it is anticipated that ARRA customers will receive added benefit by improved customer flow. The South Central WorkSource system will strive to achieve basic service standards. Where appropriate, customers will be individually greeted, provided with an orientation to the use of the center, and registered into SKIES. Staff at each WorkSource site will be equipped with the skills necessary to effectively interact with customers and the knowledge to direct customer to the services or programs that will best fit their individual need.

Assessment

All ARRA I-B participants will receive a comprehensive assessment upon enrollment. The assessment is extensive and includes an in-depth analysis of the person's job readiness, by evaluating such factors as education level achievements, past work experience and training. The assessment will identify educational deficiencies, barriers to employment and include a review of the person's financial, social and/or supportive needs. At completion of the assessment each ARRA participant will develop an employment plan that considers employment goals, appropriate achievement objectives, and the appropriate combination of services for the participant to achieve the employment goals.

Services Menu - Toolbox

As part of the local WorkSource Framework grant, the SCWDC will provide a menu of services for workers and business. The menu of service is intended to be a short and concise tool that will provide WorkSource customers an overview of the array of services available through the local system.

For workers, the menu will provide information on the range of core, intensive and training services available in each center. This will include basic information regarding education and training opportunities, as well as services available to special populations such as people with disabilities, veterans and seasonal farm workers.

For employers, the South Central Business Services team will be equipped with a toolbox which will provide business friendly language that describes programs and resources available to the employer community. The information toolbox will explain the availability of cash incentives for hiring special populations; services that can reduce recruitment and hiring costs; space for interviewing; and other related business information for employers such as assistance with employment taxes through the regional tax office.

Coordinated Business Services

The local area is highly focused on improvements in the area of customer service and has already begun training key staff that will be directly or indirectly engaged with the business community and who perform outreach, job development, and marketing. The SCWDC will staff the business team with key personnel who will work directly with the business community and who possess the skills necessary to ensure that employers receive timely and quality services. As a result of these system improvements, ARRA customers will see the benefit of enhanced services through coordinated business services among local system partners, the aggressive marketing of WorkSource programs and resources to both job seekers and employers, and coordinated job development efforts among partners to reduce unnecessary and often repetitive contact with local business.

The full array of services will be provided to ARRA customers based on the assessed needs, client goals and accessibility to training. ARRA programs will be delivered through the sector approach adopted by the South Central Workforce Area. The sector approach for the South Central region is based on industries that are important to the local economy, that provide current and high demand jobs at livable wages with benefits and opportunity for career growth and professional development. The South Central Cluster initiative embraces five industry sectors that include Agriculture/Food Processing, Healthcare, Construction, Manufacturing and Energy (Renewable and Alternative).

On-the Job-Training will be made available where classroom training is impractical due to financial consideration, where a direct opportunity exists that will lead to unsubsidized employment and/or where the specific training is only available in a work setting. Where participants need experience, exploration and exposure to new occupations, Work Experience placements will be provided. The Work Experience activity provides the opportunity to develop basic work habits and/or occupational skills in a supported environment. Individuals may receive WEX wages or need related payments as determined during assessment. Additionally, Dislocated Worker programs plan to offer private sector internships.

Other training services available to ARRA participants include short-term pre-vocational training such as effective communication, interviewing, and basic keyboarding/computer operation. Where educational and/or language barriers to employment exist, ARRA clients will have access to Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language offered through local service organizations and the community college system.

7. Efforts to Target Training to Regional Economies in High Growth and Emerging Industry Sectors

Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Green Jobs

Presently, the SCWDC through a Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board High Skills – High Wage Strategic Fund Grant is working with local training institutions, economic development agencies, energy companies and other environmental and energy stakeholders to assess the current and future opportunities in the energy sector. While much work needs to be done locally to identify growth and high demand occupations, preliminary information suggests a lack of workers with specialized skills in sectors such as wind energy poses challenges to the future growth of the industry. With the rapid development of wind farms in South Kittitas County and the Columbia Gorge region, the need for skilled workers such as wind turbine technicians to install, maintain and operate these renewable energy facilities is also growing rapidly. In August 2006, industry sources estimated a need for 360 to 400 trained workers by 2011.

As our state and country strives for energy independence and aggressively pursues alternative energy sources, we expect that new occupations and careers will emerge as businesses explore and expand to other energy sources such as solar, biomass, bio fuels and alternate forms of hydro. SCWDC is currently conducting a survey of power generating industries utilizing wind, solar, bio-mass, and hydro-pump technologies. The survey will allow us to determine industry workforce needs so that we can target workforce training. Our training provider partners will then either modify existing curriculums or develop new curriculums that will prepare our local workforce to meet the growing demand for trained workers in renewable energy sectors. Together with the WorkSource system, we will provide ITAs to qualified workers in these growing sectors.

Healthcare

While not completely recession proof, the Health Care Industry has weathered the economic downturn better than most. According to the Washington Health Workforce Institute, demographic trends such as the aging population, increases in population and aging healthcare workforce will produce greater worker shortages by 2020. In the four county South Central area, the most unfilled job openings, or 15% of all unfilled jobs, are in the healthcare sector. The industry still provides a broad range of employment and career opportunities in jobs that pay a livable wage with benefits. In addition to nurses and health care technicians, opportunities exist in occupations such certified nursing assistants, individual providers, home care workers and direct-care workers.

In order to address the needs of these high growth industries, the South Central Workforce Council will continue to pursue training opportunities through three levels.

1. The adult and Dislocated Worker providers will work directly with the local community college system to enroll eligible participants in regular health

programs.

2. Through recent discussions, the Yakima Valley Community College has agreed to offer special afternoon or evening classes for specific health care training where a complete class can be filled.
3. The Yakima Valley Community College has agreed to work directly with the council to host special green job programs (e.g. Weatherization Technicians), borrowing curricula from existing community college programs.

8. Supportive Services and Needs-related Payments (NRPs) to Eligible Adults and Dislocated Workers

Policies for the delivery of Supportive Services

The South Central Workforce Development Council has reviewed our policies for the delivery of supportive services, given the current financial climate. We will continue our long term service strategy of providing support services and need related payments (NRPs), as appropriate, to eligible adults and dislocated workers to enable them to successfully participate in programs. Support services and needs related payments will be provided when necessary for the success of the participant's training plan and when beyond the ability of the participant to pay. Need related payments are provided to participants on the basis of a documented financial assessment, individual circumstances, the absence of other resources and funding limits. Support services provided are based on the needs of the individual and include childcare, transportation assistance, emergency rent assistance, work or interview clothing and other support services.

Disseminating and Tracking Support Services and NRPs

Our local contract system has the capacity and tested mechanisms in place for disseminating support services and NRPs. Our local contract system further has an established system in place to track supportive services, including needs-related payments. Because our system has consistently utilized the NRP provision, we are experienced at determining eligibility, cross-checking eligibility with other agencies, verifying training, and tracking workers' progress to ensure compliance.

9. Delivery of Summer Youth Components Including Employment Opportunities

The Youth Program in the South Central area is designed to join regional residents, partner community based organizations, and employers with the goal of providing youth with work experience, work readiness skills, and entrance into career paths. The programs will run May 1 – September 30.

Lower Yakima County

SCWDC's contractors are coordinating efforts with existing community projects focusing on providing employment to youth during the summer. Summer employment activities include Health Careers, Get SET Program, and Work Experience/Summer School dual activities. Individual Work Experience agreements are being negotiated with private, non-profit and public sector agencies. Area planning with local employers will allow us to place participants quickly into a work experience. Planning and worksite development with employers is ongoing. Youth will receive experience and training that will provide entrance into career pathways.

Employers currently in place include:

- Area School Districts
- City Police Departments
- Area Parks and Recreation Departments
- 21st Century Learning Centers,
- Washington State Migrant Council
- Granger Library
- Learning Land
- Panda Bear Daycare
- EPIC
- Gannon's Nursery
- GMC Training Institute
- Santana's Bridal Shop
- Le Parris Hall
- Prosser, Sunnyside, Yakima Regional, and Toppenish Hospitals
- Planned Parenthood
- Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

Job opportunities in high demand sectors include the Health Careers Academy project, which provides health career exploration for at-risk high school youth interested in health careers. This program enables participants to explore health careers and to obtain their Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) credential. The goal is to prepare youth to pursue a wide range of nursing and allied health careers. This is done through Partnership with Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, Toppenish Community Hospital and Yakima Regional.

Upper Yakima County

SCWDC's contractor is coordinating summer youth employment efforts where Individual Work Experience agreements are being negotiated with private, non-profit and public sector agencies. Area planning with local employers will allow us to place participants quickly into a work experience. Planning and worksite

development with employers is ongoing. Youth will receive experience and training that will provide entrance into career pathways.

Employers currently in place include:

- Foster care plans include GetSET, DCFS and Catholic Family Services
- Local area School Districts, including teacher assistants, clerical and maintenance
- Film Production with JH Productions.
- Early learning sites
- Yakima County offices
- City of Yakima offices
- Yakima Parks and Recreation
- Yakima Regional and Yakima Memorial Hospitals
- Yakima Farmworkers Clinic
- Holtzinger Fruit
- Schucks

Job opportunities in new industries will be in green occupations, including: green construction with Critical Path, which provides classroom activity; Opportunities Industrialization Center of Washington, which provides worksite training; Yakima Housing Authority; Habitat for Humanity; and Stanton Alternative program, which provides training in community gardening and solar technology.

Kittitas County

SCWDC's contractor is coordinating summer youth employment efforts in partnership with area school districts. Individual Work Experience agreements are being negotiated with private, non-profit and public sector agencies. Area planning with local employers will allow us to place participants quickly into a work experience. Planning and worksite development with employers is ongoing. Youth will receive experience and training that will provide entrance into career pathways.

Employers currently in place include:

- Local chambers of commerce
- Central Washington University's Civic Engagement center
- City of Ellensburg
- Kittitas County
- Kittitas Headstart
- CWU day care center
- Interactive Toys and Games
- Roslyn Sunday Market
- Planned Parenthood
- Public library

- Parks and Recreation
- Housing Authority

Job opportunities in new industries will be in green occupations, including Cle Elum Roslyn School District, Roslyn Revitalization project, Roslyn Community Garden, and US Forest Service.

Klickitat and Skamania counties

SCWDC is coordinating summer youth employment efforts. Individual Work Experience agreements are being negotiated with private, non-profit and public sector agencies. Area planning with local employers will allow us to place participants quickly into a work experience. Planning and worksite development with employers is ongoing. Youth will receive experience and training that will provide entrance into career pathways.

Employers currently in place include:

- Washington Department of Licensing
- WA State Parks
- Goldendale, Troutlake, White Salmon, Stevenson, Klickitat, Lyle, Wishram and Glenwood school districts
- Chambers of Commerce - Goldendale, White Salmon, and Stevenson
- Federal agencies including USFS, USGS, BPA, Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife (Fish Hatcheries)
- NRF Foundation, the research and education arm of the National Retail Federation

Exposure to job opportunities in new industries will be in green occupations. Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) is providing career exploration classes in Renewable Energy, Health Occupations, and the Construction Trades. These classes are part of a three way partnership with contractors, CGCC and the Oregon WIA Youth Provider – The Mid-Columbia Council of Governments. Employment opportunities include community gardens, windmill sites, PC rebuilding/recycling, fish hatcheries, weatherization programs, recyclable construction materials, public parks, recycling center, office experience with green construction/remodeling companies, construction with green construction/remodeling companies, and green retail.

10. Youth Work Experience and Classroom-based Learning

As stated in the TEGL 14-8, “the conferees are particularly interested in these funds being used to create summer employment opportunities for youth. ETA strongly encourages states and local areas to use as much of these funds as possible to operate expanded summer youth employment opportunities during the summer

of 2009,” ... There will be pre-employment classroom activity provided as needed, as described in program descriptions in question nine above. Based on the success or lack of success demonstrated around the work experience activity, options to pursue classroom based learning will be made available. For those youth who have dropped out of school, there will be an academic component in addition to the activities which focus on employment and employment related activities.

11. Oversight of Youth Activities and Summer Employment

In the South Central Workforce Area the Council youth staff have all worked in the Summer Youth Programs in the JTPA era, and therefore have decades of experience from which to draw. The current Summer Youth Awarded contractors also have prior Summer Youth experience, and are pulling from that history to quick start the program. Local area staff has already met repeatedly with sub-recipient leadership to design the requirements and many procedures of the Summer Youth activities. We have collectively defined the areas of strength and shared those, as well as identified areas that may negatively impact our ability to perform. We are proactively problem solving and overcoming any obstacles. All Summer Youth subrecipients have been in verbal communication with any potential WEX sites. All Summer Youth subrecipients have a participant handbook as well as an employer orientation document that clearly describes the appropriate wage and hour provisions, child labor laws, and work site supervision and safety.

Further, SCWDC has established a Summer Youth Q & A's page on our website for all Summer Youth questions, concerns, issues and updates. This allows the subrecipient to have additional tools for staff training and be able to access answers on a fast turn-around. The website will also share information between service providers, as one may pose the question and receive the answer, and all will benefit.

12. Plan to Ensure Every Youth can Develop and Achieve Career Goals through Education and Workforce Training

With the current WIA year-round funding, we are able to serve a very small percent of the eligible population in our four county areas. Our current youth characteristics/demographics are overwhelmingly those youth most in need. The Summer Youth funds have allowed us to access the same populations, including poverty, migrant /seasonal farm workers, disabled youth, dropouts, Yakama Natives, and homeless youth. We are now able to reach out farther to serve those youth that historically we could not afford to serve. The school counselors and other education personnel have long helped our programs with referrals of youth that require WIA intervention because they manifest classic signs of dropping out of school. Our local area has long served a heavy percent of out of school youth as WIA

Youth programs are one of the only programs available. Specific programs that address these populations by region are briefly described above.