

Youth Councils

SUBJECT: Youth Councils

REFERENCE: Workforce Investment Act, Sections 117 and 123, 20 CFR: 661.335, 661.340, 664.100, 664.110, Legislative Bill 193, Procurement Standards policy.

BACKGROUND: The establishment of Youth Councils is authorized under the provisions of the Workforce Investment Act rules and regulations to provide expertise in youth policy and to assist the local board.

POLICY: A subgroup within each local board shall be established as the youth council.

Membership

The local board, in cooperation with the chief elected official for the local area, shall appoint all members of the youth council. The membership of each youth council shall include:

- Members of the local board who have special interest or expertise in youth policy;
- Members who represent youth service agencies, such as juvenile justice and local law enforcement agencies;
- Members who represent local public housing authorities;
- Parents of youth including, but not limited to, parents of eligible youth seeking assistance under Subtitle B of Title I of WIA;
- Individuals, including former participants, and members who represent organizations, that have experience relating to youth activities; and
- Members who represent the Job Corps, if a Job Corps Center is located in the local area represented by the council.
- Representatives of local kindergarten through grade twelve school boards, community colleges, and such other individuals as the chairperson of the local board, in cooperation with the chief elected official, determines to be appropriate.

Members of the youth council who are not members of the local board must be voting members of the youth council and nonvoting members of the local board.

Responsibilities of the Youth Council

The youth council is responsible for:

- Coordinating youth activities in a local area;
- Developing portions of the local plan related to eligible youth, as determined by the chairperson of the local board;
- Recommending eligible youth service providers in accordance with WIA Sec. 123, subject to the approval of the local board;
- Conducting oversight with respect to eligible providers of youth activities in the local area, subject to the approval of the local board; and
- Coordinating career preparation programs; and
- Carrying out other duties, as authorized by the chairperson of the local board, such as establishing linkages with educational agencies and other youth entities.

In addition, youth councils shall also provide expertise in youth policy and assist the local board in:

- Developing and recommending local youth employment and training policy and practice;
- Broadening the youth employment and training focus in the community to incorporate a youth development perspective;
- Establishing linkages with other organizations serving youth in the local area; and
- Taking into account a range of issues that can have an impact on the success of youth in the labor market.

Eligible Providers of Youth Activities

The local board for a local area shall identify eligible providers of youth activities. Funds allocated to a local area under Section 128(b)(2)(A) or (3) shall be used to award grants or contracts on a competitive basis to providers to carryout the activities and shall conduct oversight with respect to the providers in the local area. The grants or contracts shall be based on the recommendations of the youth council and on the criteria contained in the state plan. Exceptions to the competitive selection requirements are identified in the Procurement Standards policy.

The local board, working with the youth council, is responsible for conducting oversight of local youth programs operated under the Act, to ensure both fiscal and programmatic accountability. Local program oversight is conducted in consultation with the local area's chief elected official.

The local board may, after consultation with the Chief Elected Official, delegate its responsibility for oversight of eligible youth providers, as well as other youth program oversight responsibilities, to the youth council, recognizing the advantage of delegating such responsibilities to the youth council whose members have expertise in youth issues.