

## Phoenix Workforce Connection Youth Program

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### **BACKGROUND**

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) introduced seven key principles to help states and local partners implement reforms to the workforce investment system. The seventh key principle pertains directly to youth programs:

**Improved youth programs** linked more closely to local labor market needs and community youth programs including activities that promote youth development and citizenship, such as leadership targeted opportunities for youth living in high poverty areas.

### **PHOENIX WORKFORCE CONNECTION**

There are fifteen local workforce areas within the State of Arizona. The statewide system known as Arizona Workforce Connections (AWC) is overseen by the Governor's Council on Workforce Policy (GCWP). AWC is the "brand" adopted by the GCWP for the statewide system. The Phoenix Workforce Connection (PWC) is the City of Phoenix local workforce area, which is an affiliate of AWC.

The PWC Board members are appointed by the local chief elected official(s). The majority of PWC Board members are business community representatives with optimum policy making authority. The remaining PWC Board members are comprised of educational organizations, labor organizations, economic development agencies, community based organizations, and One Stop program partner representatives.

The PWC Board Mission and Vision Statement are as follows:

**Mission:** To provide workforce solutions to businesses and individuals.

**Vision:** Phoenix Workforce Connection will become a high value network of choice for building a workforce to keep business competitive and sustain economic growth.

The PWC Board in partnership with the local chief elected official(s) and the PWC Youth Initiatives Committee (YIC) conducts oversight with respect to local youth programs and youth program activities authorized under WIA.

The PWC Youth Program Vision Statement is:

Phoenix Workforce Connection Youth Programs will become a preferred source for youth for education, training, and leadership.

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WIA youth programs include the following program operations and services:

- 1) The provision of long-term, intensive services with 12 months of follow up offering sustained support over an extended period of time.
- 2) An increased focus on education to recognize the more stringent graduation requirements, and the demand for youth to obtain diploma and credentials to compete in today's labor market.
- 3) Strong local business involvement to promote a centralized focus on the world of work.
- 4) A focus on youth development activities and adult mentoring to cultivate positive peer support and connections with caring adults.

WIA Public Law (P.L.) Section 129, *Use of Funds for Youth Activities*, identifies the specific purposes for the funding of Youth Programs. The provision of these services and activities may be leveraged by establishing partnerships and linkages with other community programs under the umbrella of a One Stop Career Center system for Youth.

The WIA Youth Program Design and Program Elements (P.L. Section 129 (c) (1), (2)), include the ten service elements mandated in WIA plus the one local performance element (job placement and retention). The PWC Youth Program eleven service elements are:

- 1) Tutoring, study skills training and instruction leading to secondary school completion including drop out prevention strategies
- 2) Alternative secondary school
- 3) Paid and unpaid work experience
- 4) Occupational skills training
- 5) Summer employment
- 6) Leadership development
- 7) Supportive services
- 8) Adult mentoring
- 9) Comprehensive guidance and counseling
- 10) Follow-up Services
- 11) Job placement and retention

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The purpose of this PWC Youth Policy & Procedures Manual is to provide a user friendly reference manual for delivering WIA Youth Services. The Community and Economic Development Department (CEDD), Workforce Connection Division (WCD) WIA Youth Program staff are available to assist with questions or clarifications pertaining to this manual and can be contacted by using the following information:

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