

Phoenix Workforce Connection Youth Program

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BACKGROUND

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) states that a youth council must be established as a subgroup within each local Workforce Investment Board (WIB). The purpose of the local Youth Council is to strengthen the capacity of education, youth development and training programs to provide high quality services. The local Youth Council promotes a network that increases communication, coordination and collaboration, and encourages public support for this effort.

The membership of each local area youth council shall include:

- Individuals with special expertise and interest in youth policy
- Representatives of youth service agencies including juvenile justice and local law enforcement agencies
- Parents of eligible youth
- Representatives of Public Housing Authority
- Former participants or representatives of organizations who have expertise in youth activities
- Representatives of the Job Corps
- Other individuals deemed appropriate by the PWC Board

Note: Members of the YIC who are not members of the PWC Board shall be voting members of the YIC and non-voting members of the PWC Board.

PURPOSE

The Phoenix Workforce Connection (PWC) Board's Youth Council is known as the Youth Initiatives Committee (YIC), and members are appointed by the PWC Board in cooperation with the local chief elected officials. The purpose of the YIC is to develop and coordinate policy with a youth perspective to strengthen linkages between existing local youth services and draw upon the expertise of all related community/employer groups. The YIC will be actively engaged in providing oversight and guidance to the PWC youth program.

The YIC functions include strategic planning, leveraging of funds for youth programs, recommending youth program service providers and monitoring program effectiveness. The YIC will engage in strategic planning to bring together WIA-funded services and other partner services and programs to build a comprehensive youth development system in their communities.

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POLICY

A priority for the YIC is to leverage both financial and programmatic resources to ensure that all eleven WIA youth program elements are available in the local area.

Two key responsibilities of the YIC are to recommend eligible youth program service providers for youth services and conduct oversight of youth program service providers (WIA Public Law (P.L.) Section 117 (h) (4) (B) , 29 USC 2832).

WIA requires that the PWC Board select youth program service providers using a competitive process based on recommendations of the YIC.

As part of the Request for Proposal (RFP) planning process, the YIC, with authority from the PWC Board, will focus on improving the RFP process and criteria for selecting youth program service providers.

The YIC will ensure that the City of Phoenix, Community and Economic Development Department (CEDD), Workforce Connection Division (WCD) WIA Youth Program staff will have a well established monitoring system in place to include the following items

- Accounting and reporting practices
- Performance benchmarks
- Performance review process
- Corrective action plans
- Mechanisms for ongoing feedback and continuous improvement