

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

February 18, 2011

M E M O R A N D U M

What's Inside:Workforce
Opportunities
for Older Youth

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: CANDACE A. SHIVELY, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER YOUTH

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memo is to remind staff of opportunities to assist youth in employment skills, job searching and employment. Research indicates that employment while a youth is in care is a determinant of employment after transition from care. Unemployment is a national issue but can be even more difficult for youth in foster care. The Youth Independence Interdepartmental Initiative (YIII) is charged with maximizing the use of resources to support youth in or exiting from care and their transition to successful adult roles and responsibilities with the ultimate goal of improving outcomes and futures for Missouri's youth exiting from foster care. Employment and job readiness is one of the primary domains that the YIII is addressing.

State Parks Youth Corp

Applications for youth 17-25 will be accepted February 1, 2011. Youth in foster care meet eligibility requirements to participate in the program. Participants will earn \$7.25 an hour and will work an average of 400 hours from April 1- November 30. Parks staff and counselors from the state's 14 local Workforce Investment Boards will recruit and select participants. Youth may apply online at: <https://thinkoutside.mo.gov/>. Position descriptions and park locations can also be viewed here.

Job Corps

Job Corps is a career technical training and education program for young people age 16-24 that qualify as low income. It is a voluntary program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor. Job Corps offers the opportunity to earn a high school diploma or a GED for those youth who don't have either. For youth who already have a high school diploma, Job Corps can help them prepare for college through partnerships with local colleges. Courses in independent living, employability skills, and social skills are offered to all Job Corps students in order to help them make the transition into the workplace. While enrolled in the program, students receive housing, meals, basic medical care and biweekly living allowances. Corps graduates receive transitional support services,

including help locating housing, child care and transportation, for up to 18 months after they leave the program. Missouri has three locations. More information can be found at: <http://www.jobcorps.gov/Home.aspx>

Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) specializes in employment and training services that assist individuals with disabilities in becoming employed. A VR counselor will determine eligibility for services. To be eligible, a youth needs to have a physical or mental impairment that causes problems with working and need VR services to be successfully employed. Once eligible, the youth will work with a counselor who will help the youth develop a plan for rehabilitation. Vocational information and guidance is provided: <http://dese.mo.gov/vr/vocrehab.htm>

Work Opportunity Tax Credit

Private, for profit businesses across the state that hire nine targeted (including youth in foster care) groups with barriers to employment are eligible for a federal tax credit. The Missouri Department of Economic Development, through Division of Workforce Development, administers the program in the state of Missouri. There is no limit on the number of qualifying new hires per business or total amount of tax credits per year. The forms as well as a fact sheet and brochure may be obtained by visiting the Department of Labor's website at: <http://www.doleta.gov/business/Incentives/opptax/>. Information is also available at: http://missouridevelopment.org/pdfs/dwd_wotc.pdf

Workforce Investment Boards (WIB)

Participation on your local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) or attendance at the local meetings is an opportunity for staff to become involved at the community level and to be aware of services that are available for the youth through the Workforce investment Act (WIA). Information on local Workforce Investment Boards is available at: <https://worksmart.ded.mo.gov/index.cfm>. To select your Region, select from the left hand menu "Missouri Workforce Regions" and then select the region you would like to see.

Each WIB has a Youth Council which is an extension of their board whose primary purpose is to provide expertise in youth policy and to assist local WIBs with program design.

Missouri Career Centers and MissouriCareerSource.com

Missouri Career Centers are located throughout the state and offer resume preparation, career assessment, online training and workshops as well as direct access to Workforce Investment Act Youth Programs. A map of the locations and other information is available at the site: <https://www.missouricareersource.com/mcs/mcs/default.seek>. MissouriCareerSource.com is a statewide web resource that provides information on job fair listings and has a career guide which contains information on exploring careers, top Missouri jobs, interest survey, career alternatives, planning, managing money, job seeking skills, finding services, and creating a plan of action. Career assistance is offered in such areas as worker resources, disability services, on-line training, job skills assessments, job openings, and financial assistance.

Additional information can be found at:

[Tips for Caring Adult](#)

Department of Economic Development:

<http://www.ded.mo.gov/Individual/CareerAssistance.aspx>

Missouri State Government: <http://www.mo.gov/working-in-missouri/job-seekers-employers/>

US Bureau of Labor Statistics:

www.bls.gov

Perkins Collaborative Resource Network:

http://cte.ed.gov/nationalinitiatives/gandctools.cfm?&pass_dis=1

US Department of Labor:

www.dol.gov

US Bureau of Labor Statistics –Employment Projections:

www.bls.gov/emp/home.htm

NECESSARY ACTION

1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff.
2. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

PDS CONTACT

Sally A. Gaines

573-522-6279

Sally.A.Gaines@dss.mo.gov

PROGRAM MANAGER

Dena Driver

573-751-3171

Dena.Driver@dss.mo.gov

CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS

N/A

FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

N/A

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

State Parks Youth Corp: <https://thinkoutside.mo.gov/>

Job Corps: <http://www.jobcorps.gov/Home.aspx>

Vocational Rehabilitation: <http://dese.mo.gov/vr/vocrehab.htm>

Work Opportunity Tax Credit: <http://www.doleta.gov/business/Incentives/opptax/>

http://missouridevelopment.org/pdfs/dwd_wotc.pdf

Workforce Investment Boards: <https://worksmart.ded.mo.gov/index.cfm>

Missouri Career Centers and MissouriCareerSource:

<https://www.missouricareersource.com/mcs/mcs/default.seek>

[Tips for Caring Adult](#)

Department of Economic Development:

<http://www.ded.mo.gov/Individual/CareerAssistance.aspx>

Missouri State Government: <http://www.mo.gov/working-in-missouri/job-seekers-employers/>

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US Department of Labor:

www.dol.gov

US Bureau of Labor Statistics –Employment Projections:
www.bls.gov/emp/home.htm

RELATED STATUTE

Work Opportunity Tax Act of 2007 (PL. 110-28), Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (PL. 109-432) and Small Business and Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2004 (PL. 108-311)
Title I-C of the [Workforce Investment Act of 1998](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

N/A

COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS

[PA-FC 9.06](#)

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR)

N/A

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Parental Resilience: N/A
Social Connections: N/A
Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development: N/A
Concrete Support in Times of Need:
<http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/philbase.pdf>
Social and Emotional Competence of Children:
<http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/philbase.pdf>

FACES REQUIREMENTS

N/A