

RHODE ISLAND'S SHARED YOUTH VISION INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND/OVERVIEW

A 2003 White House Task Force Report on Disadvantaged Youth noted that despite billions of Federal, state, local and private dollars spent on needy youth and their families, many out-of-school, at-risk youth have been and continue to be left behind in our economy because of a lack of program focus and emphasis on outcomes.

In response to the White House Report a partnership between the U.S. Departments of Labor, Housing and Urban Development, Education, Health and Human Services, Justice, Transportation and Labor; the U.S. Social Security Administration; and the Corporation for National and Community Service was developed to create a collaborative approach at the national, state, and local levels to serve our nation's neediest youth in order to develop innovate approaches, enhance the quality of services delivered, improve efficiencies, and improve the outcomes for youth we serve. The partnership, entitled the Shared Youth Vision Federal Collaborative Partnership (SYVFCP), has as its main goal to improve outcomes for the neediest youth, particularly youth in foster care, youth ageing out of foster care, youth connected to juvenile justice, youth with disabilities, pregnant and parenting youth and out of school youth.

In November 2004 Rhode Island participated in SYVFCP's first Shared Youth Vision Forum and in September 2006 was selected to participate in their Advanced Shared Youth Vision Initiative. Rhode Island was selected as one of sixteen states to serve as a catalyst in the 2007 implementation of SYVFCP's shared youth vision. Rhode Island is charged with conducting a pilot project to demonstrate the effectiveness of state-level partnerships and programmatic outcomes and, develop an overall technical assistance plan so that the collaborative vision may be infused throughout the country.

SCOPE OF THE WORK

The Rhode Island Shared Youth Vision Team is working towards developing an integrated system to impact Rhode Island's neediest youth. The team plans to leverage resources and create a streamlined and integrated service delivery model that will also result in service strategies for the state's highest risk youth. The Rhode Island team seeks to formalize interagency collaborative agreements, integrate a statewide strategic vision, incorporate policies and strategies for the highest risk youth in Rhode Island's first Unified Workforce Development Plan, implement a shared youth accountability framework, and document project replicability guidelines. Additionally, the team seeks to establish state and local training protocols, develop a comprehensive risk assessment and test the initiatives with integrated strategies for a pilot serving up to 50 highest risk youth.