

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Action Area Eligible Activities

#### Economic Access: Building education to employment pathways for disconnected youth

Evidence-based or promising practice programs and services in this category should address outcomes and performance measures that result in:

- (1) Improved access to economic opportunities, programs and resources focused on foundational education, career exploration, and coaching to re-engage youth and provide job-readiness skills for employment;
- (2) Increased aptitude to submit competitive applications for post-secondary education;
- (3) Gainful employment;
- (4) Stronger family support to facilitate post-secondary education and career development; and
- (5) A boost of self-esteem to inspire hope for the future.

Rationale:

“Disconnected” youth are primarily out-of-school, out-of-the-workforce youth, ages 16-22. Most are significantly off-track to complete the higher education credential that can enhance their life-long earnings potential. Often they have personal challenges that have interfered with school. Additionally, they are more likely than their peers to be English language learners, pregnant or parenting, homeless, adjudicated, minority, disadvantaged, LGBTQ or have mental health concerns. Below is a compilation of the many recommendations for services:

#### *Suggested Uses of Available Funds (based on recommendations included in the Youth Master Plan):*

- Provide foundational education such as financial literacy, vision boarding, Dress for Success, time management, college tours and interview skills.
- Offer career exploration utilizing progressive, age-appropriate skill and interest inventories, guest speakers, and visits to local businesses as a means to broaden teens’ awareness of employment opportunities and careers.
- Provide personal guidance and mentoring support for post-secondary education, including but not limited to certificate programs and trade apprenticeships and career development.
- Provide exposure/access to structured entry-level employment in areas of potential career interest to increase employability and work readiness.
- Provide access to job readiness and employability training to prepare youth to compete for and excel in entry-level jobs.
- Increase knowledge/experience on post-secondary education- standardized testing, the application process and financial aid assistance, including but not limited to completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Provide coaching and apprenticeship/internships within and outside the agency to include summer opportunities.
- Assist in obtaining entry-level employment with local agencies/business.
- Facilitate youth participation in employment pathways through outreach efforts with schools including clubs and cities.
- Offer interventions and training to educators to seek and develop strengths in students in all educational settings making it easier for young people to stay in school.
- Provide opportunities in nontraditional school settings.
- Create opportunities for young offenders with felonies to be able to qualify for federal grants and scholarships.

- Increase training and professional learning opportunities for all frontline professionals working with disconnected youth to promote equitable practices, including:
  - Cultural competency training with a focus on understanding homelessness, depression, and gender identity among LGBTQ youth
  - Racial and gender equity training
  - Special needs awareness and inclusivity training

Please review the Birth to 22 Appendix, Section 3, subsection 3.3.2

(<http://pbcbirthto22.com/pdf/APPENDIX%20YMP%20SECTION%203%20ONLINE.pdf>), for a list of Evidence-Based and emerging programs.