

Workforce CONNECTIONS

**Youth Council
AGENDA**

**March 20, 2012
1:00 p.m.**

Workforce CONNECTIONS
Conference Room
7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Ste. 200
Las Vegas, NV 89128

**Conference Line: 877-873-8017
Access Code: 1487967#**

This meeting has been properly noticed and posted in the following locations:

City of North Las Vegas, 2200 Civic Center Dr., North Las Vegas, NV
City of Las Vegas, City Clerk's Office, 495 S. Main Street, Las Vegas, NV
Clark County, County Clerk's Office 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV
Esmeralda County Courthouse, 233 Crook Street, Goldfield, NV
Henderson City Hall, 240 Water Street, Henderson, NV
City Hall, Boulder City, 401 California Ave., Boulder City, NV
workforce CONNECTIONS, 7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas, NV
Nevada JobConnect, 3405 S. Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV
Lincoln County 181 Main Street Courthouse, Pioche, NV
Nye County School District, 484 S. West St., Pahrump, NV
Pahrump Chamber of Commerce, 1302 S. Highway 160, Pahrump, NV

This Agenda is also available at www.nvworkforceCONNECTIONS.org

COMMENTARY BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

This Board complies with Nevada's Open Meeting Law, by taking Public Comment at the beginning of the meeting immediately after the Board approves the Agenda and before any other action is taken and again before the adjournment of the meeting." The Board also has discretion to take Public Comment after any item on the agenda, after the item has been discussed by the Board, but before the Board takes action on the item.

Each person participating in Public Comment will be limited to three minutes of comment. If any member of the Board wishes to extend the length of a comment, then the Board member may do so through a majority vote of the Board.

The Board chair has the right to end any Public Comment which: (1) is not related to any matter within the authority of the Board; or (2) is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational, making personal attacks, or interfering with the rights of other speakers. ***Members of the public: please comply with the requests of the Board chair and do not be disruptive, otherwise you may be removed.***

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by notifying Dianne Tracy, in writing at 7251 W. Lake Mead, #200, Las Vegas, NV 89128; or by calling (702) 638-8750; or by fax (702) 638-8774. The TTY/TDD access number is (800) 326-6868 / Nevada Relay 711. A sign language interpreter may also be made available with twenty-four (24) hour advance notice.

An Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.

NOTE: MATTERS IN THIS AGENDA MAY BE TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS: Kenneth LoBene, Chair; Sonja Holloway, Vice-Chair; Alex Garza; Daniel Rose; Sgt. Mark Sharp; Chris Sullivan

All items listed on this Agenda are for action by the Youth Council unless otherwise noted. Action may consist of any of the following: approve, deny, condition, hold or table. Public Hearings may be declared open by the Chairperson, as required for any of the items on this Agenda designated for discussion or possible action or to provide direction and recommendations to workforce CONNECTIONS.

AGENDA

1. Call to order, confirmation of posting and roll call.
2. **ACTION:** Approve the Agenda with inclusions of any emergency items and deletion of any items.
3. **FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** Members of the public may now comment on any matter posted on this Agenda, which is before this Board for consideration and action today. Please clearly state and spell your name and state your address for the record. Each public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes..... 3
4. **ACTION:** Approve the Minutes from the Youth Council Meeting on February 8, 2012 5
5. **INFORMATION:** Awards & Expenditures - Youth Program PY2011 ~ Carol Turner..... 9
6. **ACTION:** Approve Recommendation to Amend Existing Youth Funded Partner Contracts (Nye Community Coalition, Nevada Partners, Inc., and HELP of Southern Nevada) for In-School and Out-of-School Youth in an Amount not to exceed \$1,966,662 10
7. **ACTION:** Approve Recommendation to Publish a Request for In-School and Out-of-School Proposals for Youth Services in an Amount not to exceed \$3,260,000 ~ Clentine January 17
8. **INFORMATION:** Ready for Life Graduate Advocate Initiative Update ~ Kimberly Colagioia..... 20
9. **ACTION:** Approve Recommendation to Fund the PY2012 Ready for Life Graduate Advocate Initiative in an Amount not Exceed \$1,000,000 22
10. **INFORMATION:** RFL Getting Connected Newsletter – March 2012 26
11. **INFORMATION:** YouthBuild Las Vegas Program Update ~ Jennifer Padilla 32
12. **INFORMATION:** Youth Re-Entry Update ~ Valerie Sims 34
13. **INFORMATION:** Rural Youth Update ~ Lucy Ivins..... 35
14. **INFORMATION:** Updates from Youth Council Members..... 36
15. **SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** Members of the public may now comment on any matter or topic, which is relevant to or within the authority or jurisdiction of the Board. You may comment now even if you commented earlier, however, please do not simply repeat the same comment you previously made. Please clearly state and spell your name and state your address for the record. Each comment will be limited to three (3) minutes..... 37
16. Adjournment

3. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: Members of the public may now comment on any matter posted on this Agenda, which is before this Board for consideration and action today. Please clearly state and spell your name and state your address for the record. Each public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes.

4. ACTION: Approve the Minutes from the Youth Council Meeting on February 8, 2012

MINUTES

**Youth Council Meeting
February 8, 2012
11:00AM**

**Workforce Connections
Conference Room
7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
Suite 200
Las Vegas, NV 89128**

Members Present

Ken LoBene, Chair
Chris Sullivan

Sonja Holloway
Alex Garza

Dan Rose

Members Absent

Sgt. Mark Sharp

Staff Present

John Ball
Heather DeSart
Ricardo Villalobos
Ardell Galbreth
Queen Hall

Suzanne Potter
Kimberly Colagioia
Jennifer Padilla
Daniel Topete

Clentine January
Chanda Cook
MaryAnn Avendano
Michael Flores

Valerie Sims
Byron Goynes
Lucy Ivins
Sylvia Spencer

Others Present

Pamela Poston, HELP of Southern Nevada
Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Toni Mims, Southern Nevada Children First
Shataiana Hunter, Southern Nevada Children First
Amber Tipton, Southern Nevada Children First

Evaleen Diaz, Western High School
Donna Romo, DETR
LaTanya Runnells, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Kenneth Taylor, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Stacy Smith, NYE CC

(It should be noted that all attendees may not be listed above).

Agenda Item 1 - CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Ken LoBene at 11:12 a.m. Staff confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed and posted in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. Roll call was taken and a quorum present.

Agenda Item 2 - ACTION: APPROVE the agenda with inclusion of any emergency items and deletion of any items
A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Sonja Holloway and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 3 – FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

None

Agenda Item 4 - ACTION: APPROVE the meeting minutes from the meeting on January 11, 2012
A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting on January 11, 2012 as presented by Sonja Holloway and seconded by Chris Sullivan. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 5 – INFORMATION: Welcome Alex Garza to the Workforce Connections Youth Council

Agenda Item 6 - INFORMATION: Ready for Life Graduate Advocate Initiative Update
Kimberly Colagioia provided an informational update; full update is provided on page 10 of the agenda packet.

Ken LoBene commented on the success of Job Shadow Day and thanked Workforce Connections' staff member Byron Goynes for his efforts.

Dan Rose suggested expanding the program to include home schooled students.

Evaleen Diaz from Western High School shared her experience and opportunity with the Ready for Life Graduate Advocate program. Ms. Diaz is a participant at Western High School and is working with Graduate Advocate Coordinator Daniel Topete.

Agenda Item 7 – ACTION: Approve Staff Recommendation to Publish a Request for Re-Entry Proposals for Adult and Youth Services in an Amount not to Exceed \$1,000,000

Sylvia Spencer provided background on the item and an overview of the RFP timeline; full backup is provided on page 12 of agenda packet. Following a brief discussion,

A motion was made to Approve Staff Recommendation to Publish a Request for Re-Entry Proposals for Adult and Youth Services in an Amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 as presented by Daniel Rose and seconded by Sonja Holloway. Motion carried.

Heather DeSart, Deputy Director, Workforce Development provided a brief overview of the upcoming RFP 101 conference which is designed to provide information to the public including the Statement of Qualifications, the funding procurement process and information on responding to the RFP.

Agenda Item 8 - INFORMATION: Youth Re-Entry Update

Valerie Sims provided an update on the February 1st Youth Symposium, performance measures, and the goals and challenges of the program. The full update is provided on page 13 of the agenda packet.

Ken LoBene requested Ms. Sims to identify re-entry youth to serve on the Youth Council on a rotating basis.

Agenda Item 9 - INFORMATION: Rural Youth Update

Lucy Ivins provided an information update on National Job Shadow Day in Nye County and Career Exploration Day at the Pahrump Valley High School. Six WIA youth participated in Job Shadow Day. The full update is provided on page 14 of the agenda packet.

Agenda Item 10 – INFORMATION: Year-Round Youth Funded Partner Update

Clentine January provided an overview of the year to date demographics for the year round youth program. The full report is on page 15 of the agenda packet.

Ken LoBene requested Ms. January to add to the report: how many out-of-school youth being served and the zip codes.

Youth participant Kenneth Taylor from Nevada Partners, Inc., Shataiana Hunter and Amber Tipton from Southern Nevada Children First shared their experiences and how their program has made a positive impact in their lives.

Agenda Item 11 – INFORMATION: Youth 2011 Expenditure Report

Mary Ann Avendano, Sr. Financial Analyst provided an overview of the youth awards and expenditures report on page 19 of the agenda packet. CCSD/Desert Rose has low expenditures and staff is continuing to work closely with them. Both HELP of Southern Nevada and Nevada Partners, Inc. are on target with their expenditures; Nye Community Coalition (year round) and Southern Nevada Children First have low expenditures and staff is working closely with the providers to ramp up their spending. Staff commented that these are 15-month contracts that include a summer component. Discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 12 – DISCUSSION/INFORMATION: Funding Request from the Summer Business Institute (SBI) 2012 Program

John Ball provided background on the Summer Business Institute (SBI) proposal on page 20 of the agenda packet. Workforce Connections has been a major funder for the SBI program for the last few years through ARRA funds (Governor's Reserve funds); however, the funds are no longer available. Workforce Connections has little or no resources to fund discretionary programs such as the SBI program as it has in the past. Staff will look further into

SBI's request and discuss possible issues such as eligibility for non-WIA youth and the program design which is essentially a summer program. The item will be brought back to the Youth Council.

Agenda Item 13 – DISCUSSION/INFORMATION: Funding Request from the Jobs for Nevada Graduates (JAG) Model in Nevada

Chanda Cook provided a brief overview of the JAG proposal on page 26 of the agenda packet. Ardell Galbreth, Deputy Director-Operations commented that the program would require a waiver from the Department of Labor to make WIA funds more flexible. Staff will continue to research and develop this item over the next several months and bring it back to the Youth Council. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ball briefly explained how the Governor's Reserve funding structure has changed with more money going straight to the local board.

Agenda Item 14 – INFORMATION: Updates from Youth Council Members

None

Agenda Item 15 – SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc. commented that expenditure rates coincide with program design and program design coincides with performance measures: graduation, placement in employment or education, and increase literacy/numeracy skills. Ms. Tyler stated that expenditures increase at the end of school semesters and during the summer program, to include career exploration, work experience, summer school fees, and other fees to get the youth prepared for employment and college, and that NPI always meets the benchmark for expenditures.

Agenda Item 16 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

5. INFORMATION: Awards & Expenditures – Youth Program PY2011 ~ Carol Turner

workforce CONNECTIONS
Awards and Expenditures
Program Year 2011 WIA Formula
As of February 29, 2012

WIA PY11 Youth General **% of Program Year Completed (15 Month Contracts)** **46.67%**

Provider	Contract Award	Youth In-School Expenditures	Youth Out-Of-School Expenditures	Total Invoiced	% Spent	Remaining Balance
CCSD - Desert Rose	\$ 362,000.00	\$ 17,780.00	\$ -	\$ 17,780.00	4.91%	344,220.00
HELP of Southern Nevada	\$ 713,000.00	\$ 96,831.22	\$ 168,063.13	\$ 264,894.35	37.15%	448,105.65
Nevada Partners	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 94,326.41	\$ 94,443.21	\$ 188,769.62	37.75%	311,230.38
Nye Communities Coalition (Year Round)	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 40,520.03	\$ 23,250.18	\$ 63,770.21	21.26%	236,229.79
Nye Communities Coalition (Summer)	\$ 48,514.00	\$ 34,427.16	\$ 14,019.15	\$ 48,446.31	99.86%	67.69
So. NV Children First	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 16,979.33	\$ 22,919.11	\$ 39,898.44	31.92%	85,101.56
Total	\$ 2,048,514.00	\$ 300,864.15	\$ 322,694.78	\$ 623,558.93	30.44%	1,424,955.07

WIA PY11 Youth Tri County

Provider	Contract Award	Youth In-School Expenditures	Youth Out-Of-School Expenditures	Total Invoiced	% Spent	Remaining Balance
Lincoln County School District (Tri-County)	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 6,982.93	\$ 11,582.93	\$ 18,565.86	18.57%	81,434.14
Nye Communities Coalition (Tri-County)	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 19,546.37	\$ 9,384.97	\$ 28,931.34	19.29%	121,068.66
Total	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 26,529.30	\$ 20,967.90	\$ 47,497.20	19.00%	\$ 202,502.80

WIA PY11 Internal Programs and To Be Allocated Amounts

Provider	Contract Award	Youth In-School Expenditures	Youth Out-Of-School Expenditures	Total Invoiced	% Spent	Remaining Balance
RFL Graduate Advocate Initiative	\$ 900,000.00	\$ 252,555.38	\$ -	\$ 252,555.38	28.06%	647,444.62
Youth Green - TBD	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	500,000.00
Youth HealthCare - TBD	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	500,000.00
Strategic Initiative	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	1,000,000.00
To be allocated	\$ 1,214,822.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	1,214,822.00
Total	\$ 4,114,822.00	\$ 252,555.38	\$ -	\$ 252,555.38	6.14%	3,862,266.62

Provider	Contract Award	Youth In-School Expenditures	Youth Out-Of-School Expenditures	Total Invoiced	% Spent	Remaining Balance
Total Youth	\$ 6,413,336.00	\$ 579,948.83	\$ 343,662.68	\$ 923,611.51	14.40%	\$ 5,489,724.49

6. ACTION: Approve Recommendation to Amend Existing Youth Funded Partner Contracts (Nye Community Coalition, Nevada Partners, Inc., and HELP of Southern Nevada) for In-School and Out-of-School Youth in an Amount not to exceed \$1,966,662

Introduction:

NyE Communities Coalition (NYE CC), Nevada Partners, Inc.(NPI), and **HELP** of Southern Nevada are currently funded partners under contract for PY 2011 who will receive additional funds to serve in-school and out-of-school youth who qualify for WIA services.

Background:

Provide funded partners with additional funds to serve existing youth and youth needing assistance who would not have been served this program year. This total amount will not exceed \$1,966,662.

NPI	91.2% Participant Services Cost 4.8% Direct Staff Cost 4.0% Overhead Costs	\$677,909	To provide out-of-school youth work experience, occupational skills training, and supportive services
NYE CC	73% Participant Services Cost 15.9% Direct Staff Cost 11.1% Overhead Cost	\$88,753	To provide work experience for out-of-school youth, summer camp for in-school youth and short term pre-vocational and weekend leadership training
HELP	91.4% Participant Services Cost 6.9% Direct staff Cost 1.7% Overhead Cost	\$1,200,000	To provide approximately 500 in-school youth work experiences, tutorials, supportive services, and placement
	Total:	\$1,966,662	

workforce CONNECTIONS

Agenda Action Item

FACT SHEET

Agenda Action Item	
FACT SHEET	
PROJECT TITLE	NyE Communities Coalition
CONTRACT DATES	April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Serve Out-of-School and In-School youth who are in need of additional services to complete established goals and to serve youth who would not have had the opportunity to participate in WIA services during this program year. Summer Camp and provide Supportive Services to youth.
PARTICIPANT PROFILE	Out-of-School Youth and In-School Youth
SERVICES PROVIDED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work Readiness Training <input type="checkbox"/> Internship <input type="checkbox"/> OJT <input type="checkbox"/> Job Shadow <input type="checkbox"/> Job Search/Placement <input type="checkbox"/> Career Counseling/Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Occupational Skills Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <small>Work Experience, Short term pre-vocational (serve safe training and food handlers)</small>
DESIRED OUTCOMES	Recognized certificates, and Job placements
wC Staff CONTACT INFO	Clentine January
SUBCONTRACTORS / COMMUNITY PARTNERS	No sub-contractors
MATCHING FUNDS/LEVERAGED RESOURCES	None
<i>workforce</i> CONNECTIONS FUNDING AWARD	\$88,753
FUNDING STREAM	Formula

workforceCONNECTIONS Budget Template

Agency Name: NyE Communities Coalition

Contract Name/Funding Type: Regular WIA Youth

Budget Period (Dates): April 1, 2012-June 30, 2012

NOTE: THIS PAGE IS LOCKED AND POPULATES BASED ON INFORMATION ENTERED ON THE SECTION TABS TO THE RIGHT OF THIS SHEET.

Cost Type	Budget Summary	WIA Request	Percent of Budget	Matched Resources	
Participant Services Costs	A. Participant/Training	\$ 57,625	64.9%	73.0%	\$ -
	B. Supportive Services	\$ 7,200	8.1%		\$ -
Direct Staff Costs	C. Direct Personnel	\$ 12,480	14.1%	15.9%	\$ -
	D. Fringe Benefits for Direct Personnel	\$ 1,622	1.8%		\$ -
Overhead Costs	E. Travel	\$ 2,007	2.3%	11.1%	\$ -
	F. Equipment	\$ -	0.0%		\$ -
	G. Consultants/Contracts	\$ -	0.0%		\$ -
	H. Other Direct	\$ 7,819	8.8%		\$ -
	Total Direct Costs	\$ 88,753	100.0%		\$ -
	I. Allocated Indirect Personnel	\$ -	0.0%		\$ -
	J. Other Allocated Indirect Costs	\$ -	0.0%		\$ -
	Total Indirect Costs	\$ -	0.0%		\$ -
Budget Summary	Total WIA Request	\$ 88,753	100.0%		
	Total Matched Resources				\$ -
	Percent	100%			
	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$88,753			

Prepared By (Provider):

Jill Smith [Signature] 3-12-12
 Print Name Sign Name Date

Approved By (Provider):

 Print Name Sign Name Date

Approved By (WC Program):

 Print Name Sign Name Date

Approved By (WC Fiscal):

 Print Name Sign Name Date

workforce CONNECTIONS

Agenda Action Item

FACT SHEET

Agenda Action Item	
FACT SHEET	
PROJECT TITLE	Nevada Partners, Inc. WIA Youth Program
CONTRACT DATES	April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Serve Out-of-School and In-School youth who are in need of additional services to complete established goals and to serve youth who would not have had the opportunity to participate in WIA services during this program year
PARTICIPANT PROFILE	Out-of-School Youth and In-School Youth
SERVICES PROVIDED	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Readiness Training <input type="checkbox"/> Internship <input type="checkbox"/> OJT <input type="checkbox"/> Job Shadow <input type="checkbox"/> Job Search/Placement <input type="checkbox"/> Career Counseling/Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupational Skills Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Work Experience</u>
DESIRED OUTCOMES	Youth will receive recognized certificates through OST, Job placements
wC Staff CONTACT INFO	Clentine January
SUBCONTRACTORS / COMMUNITY PARTNERS	No sub-contractors Community Partner: Summer Business Institute
MATCHING FUNDS/LEVERAGED RESOURCES	None
<i>workforce</i> CONNECTIONS FUNDING AWARD	\$677,909
FUNDING STREAM	Formula

workforceCONNECTIONS Budget Template

Agency Name: Nevada Partners, Inc.

Contract Name/Funding Type: WIA Youth WEX

Budget Period (Dates): April 1, 2012 - June 30, 2012

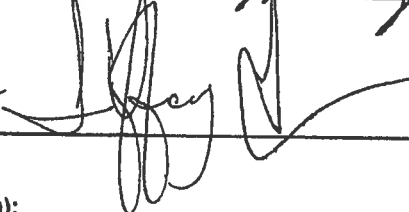
NOTE: THIS PAGE IS LOCKED AND POPULATES BASED ON INFORMATION ENTERED ON THE SECTION TABS TO THE RIGHT OF THIS SHEET.

Cost Type	Budget Summary	WIA Request	Percent of Budget	Matched Resources	
Participant Services Costs	A. Participant/Training	\$ 481,380	71.0%	91.2%	\$ -
	B. Supportive Services	\$ 136,723	20.2%		\$ -
Direct Staff Costs	C. Direct Personnel	\$ 23,942	3.5%	4.8%	\$ -
	D. Fringe Benefits for Direct Personnel	\$ 8,425	1.2%		\$ -
Overhead Costs	E. Travel	\$ 1,332	0.2%	4.0%	\$ -
	F. Equipment	\$ 1,500	0.2%		\$ -
	G. Consultants/Contracts	\$ 1,560	0.2%		\$ -
	H. Other Direct	\$ 2,289	0.3%		\$ -
	Total Direct Costs	\$ 657,151	96.9%		\$ -
	I. Allocated Indirect Personnel	\$ 10,249	1.5%		\$ -
	J. Other Allocated Indirect Costs	\$ 10,509	1.6%		\$ -
	Total Indirect Costs	\$ 20,758	3.1%		\$ -
Budget Summary	Total WIA Request	\$ 677,909	100.0%		
	Total Matched Resources				\$ -
	Percent	100%			
	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$677,909			

Prepared By (Provider):

ROBERT BUTTERFIELD  3/7/12
 Print Name Sign Name Date

Approved By (Provider):

Tiffany Tyler  3/7/12
 Print Name Sign Name Date

Approved By (WC Program):

Print Name Sign Name Date

Approved By (WC Fiscal):

Print Name Sign Name Date

workforce CONNECTIONS

Agenda Action Item

FACT SHEET

Agenda Action Item	
FACT SHEET	
PROJECT TITLE	HELP/Graduate Advocate Initiative
CONTRACT DATES	April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	To provide approximately 500 in-school youth work experiences, tutorials, supportive services.
PARTICIPANT PROFILE	In-School Youth who were credit deficient and at-risk of graduating.
SERVICES PROVIDED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work Readiness Training <input type="checkbox"/> Internship <input type="checkbox"/> OJT <input type="checkbox"/> Job Shadow <input type="checkbox"/> Job Search/Placement <input type="checkbox"/> Career Counseling/Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupational Skills Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Work Experience, Tutorials, Supportive Services</u>
DESIRED OUTCOMES	Youth receive diplomas, Enter Post-Secondary Education, Training or Employment
wC Staff CONTACT INFO	Clentine January/Kim Colagoia
SUBCONTRACTORS / COMMUNITY PARTNERS	No sub-contractors
MATCHING FUNDS/LEVERAGED RESOURCES	None
<i>workforce</i> CONNECTIONS FUNDING AWARD	\$1,200.000
FUNDING STREAM	Formula

workforceCONNECTIONS Budget Template

Agency Name: HELP of Southern Nevada

Contract Name/Funding Type:

Budget Period (Dates): April 1, 2012 - September 30, 2012

Cost Type	Budget Summary	WIA Request	Percent of Budget	Matched Resources	
Participant Services Costs	A. Participant/Training	\$ 701,940	58.5%	91.4%	\$ -
	B. Supportive Services	\$ 394,750	32.9%		\$ -
Direct Staff Costs	C. Direct Personnel	\$ 62,352	5.2%	6.9%	\$ -
	D. Fringe Benefits for Direct Personnel	\$ 20,590	1.7%		\$ -
Overhead Costs	E. Travel	\$ 4,480	0.4%	1.7%	\$ -
	F. Equipment	\$ 1,800	0.1%		\$ -
	G. Consultants/Contracts	\$ -	0.0%		\$ -
	H. Other Direct	\$ 2,500	0.2%		\$ -
	Total Direct Costs	\$ 1,188,413	99.0%		\$ -
	I. Allocated Indirect Personnel	\$ 11,588	1.0%		\$ -
	J. Other Allocated Indirect Costs	\$ -	0.0%		\$ -
	Total Indirect Costs	\$ 11,588	1.0%		\$ -
Budget Summary	Total WIA Request	\$1,200,000	100.0%		
	Total Matched Resources				\$ -
	Percent	100%			
	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$1,200,000			

Prepared By (Provider):

Print Name Sign Name Date

Approved By (Provider):

Print Name Sign Name Date

Approved By (WC Program):

Print Name Sign Name Date

Approved By (WC Fiscal):

Print Name Sign Name Date

7. ACTION: Approve Recommendation to Publish a Request for In-School and Out-of-School Proposals for Youth Services in an Amount not to exceed \$3,260,000

Introduction:

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is a federally funded program designed to increase employment, educational opportunities, occupational skill attainment and training to eligible low-income youth ages 14-21 that has at least one of six barriers to employment:

1. School dropout
2. Basic Skills deficient
3. Pregnant or parenting
4. Homeless, Runway, or Foster child
5. Offender
6. An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or secure and hold employment; locally defined as...

Background:

The WIA vision for youth is that all youth acquire the necessary skills and work experience to successfully transition into adulthood, careers, and further education and training.

The focal point of the Youth Program is to increase the focus on longer term academic and occupational learning opportunities and provide long-term comprehensive service strategies and to graduate youth.

Therefore, we have created two proposals in an effort to establish long-term effectiveness through providers who have expertise in the following areas for maximum positive results for the participant and the workforce.

1. **Youth Out-of-School:** The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) requires that a minimum of 30 percent of the Youth formula funds expended for Youth program activities be spent on out-of-school Youth. WIA Sections 101(33) and (39) and 129(c)(4)(A) and Title 20 CFR (Code of Federal Regulation) Sections 664.300-320.

An Out-of-School Youth is defined as a youth who is a school dropout, or a youth who has received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent or a youth who is not attending any school or has not received a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; but is basic skills deficient, unemployed or underemployed.

This proposal will serve the following youth:

- Rural
- Former foster youth,
- Pregnant/parenting youth,
- Offenders
- Youth with disabilities

- 2. **Youth In-School:** Provide youth with the knowledge and competencies that prepare them for jobs and careers, with a strong link between academic and occupational learning. The focus is to help youth who are credit deficient graduate. The population to server within that scope will be youth who are at risk of dropping out, homeless, offenders, foster youth, youth with disabilities, and youth who are returning to school.

Recommendation

Approve Recommendation to Publish a Request for In-School and Out-of-School Proposals for Youth Services in an Amount not to exceed \$3,260,000

The Tentative RFP schedule would be as follows:

Release RFPs	March 29, 2012
Bidder’s Conference.....	April 4, 2012
RFQ Due Date	April 9, 2012
RFP’s Due Date.....	April 23, 2012
Technical Review Process.....	April 24, 2012
Oral Presentations.....	April 30, 2012
Evaluation of Proposals Process Begins.....	May 2, 2012
Evaluation process ends	May 8, 2012
Youth Council Recommendation	May 9, 2012
Board Approval	May 22, 2012
Contract Negotiation Period.....	May 23 - May 31, 2012
Contracts Typed for Signature.....	June 1 – June 8, 2012
Training for Funded Partners.....	June 18 - June 22, 2012
Contracts Executed.....	July 1, 2012

*Any or all of the above dates are subject to change.

8. INFORMATION: Ready for Life Graduate Advocate Initiative Update ~ Kimberly Colagioia

Graduate Advocate Initiative Updates

Program Update:

- Our first GAI Stakeholder meeting was held on February 27, 2012. All partners participated in the meeting including: CCSD administration, school principals and liaisons, United Way, School Community Partnership Program, and workforceCONNECTIONS. The purpose of the meeting was to update all of the stakeholders on the progress of the initiative. We talked about the various processes (expenditures, mentors, etc.), the successes and challenges of enrolling WIA youth in the program, and answered questions regarding the Graduate Advocate Initiative.
- At the request of the school principals, a one page flier was developed for parents that highlight the benefits of the Graduate Advocate Initiative. The flyer talks about the benefits of the program before graduation and AFTER graduation for WIA eligible youth.
- GAC's have been focusing on registering and certifying eligible WIA youth. They are following up with WIA eligible youth, talking to school administrators and parents to get the required WIA documents, making home visits, etc.
- 584 mentors are engaged in the GAI program. This is a huge partnership that involves multiple community partners recruiting mentors including: United Way, CCSD, City of Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Chamber, School Community Partnership Office, *workforceCONNECTIONS*, etc.

GRADUATE ADVOCATE INITIATIVE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HOW CAN THE GRADUATE ADVOCATE INITIATIVE HELP MY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR GRADUATE?

High school seniors who are WIA certified are eligible for the following ADDITIONAL services to:

- Help your high school senior access additional tutorials and tutoring support to ensure that s/he has the knowledge and skills to pass the state proficiency tests
- Help your high school senior access and pay for additional credit retrieval classes and courses necessary to attain his/her standard high school diploma
- Help your high school senior develop a plan for after graduation to include college and career options (short and long term goal setting)
- Access FAFSA, scholarships and grant applications AND assist your high school senior with the process
- Help your high school senior complete college applications
- Help your high school senior by pairing him/her up with a community mentor - someone to talk to about career options and the schooling required to meet their individualized goals.

HOW CAN THE GRADUATE ADVOCATE INITIATIVE HELP MY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AFTER GRADUATION?

WIA certified high school graduates who have successfully received a standard high school diploma are eligible for the following ADDITIONAL services to provide:

- An opportunity for a PAID work experience - this work experience will allow your high school graduate to gain valuable skills needed to secure future employment
- An opportunity for your high school senior to enroll in an occupational skills training program and potentially receive financial assistance should post-secondary education not be right for your son/daughter
- An opportunity to secure employment
- Continued academic support to ensure success if your high school senior is enrolled in post-secondary education .

9. ACTION: Approve Recommendation to Fund the PY2012 Ready for Life Graduate Advocate Initiative in an Amount not Exceed \$1,000,000

Introduction:

The Youth Council adopted an action plan “to increase graduation rates” as their ultimate goal, which is in agreement with the Nevada Youth Council’s Strategic Plan and the Nevada Shared Plan. This plan, the Ready for Life Graduate Advocate Initiative, includes collaboration with the Workforce Connections, Clark County School District (CCSD) and United Way of Southern Nevada. The objectives include tutorials, supportive services, summer school, work experiences, incentives and ancillary assistance.

In addition to other direct services, Workforce Connections will provide project oversight and technical assistance in the following:

RFL GA Director: The Director will plan, coordinate, lead and manage the RFL GAI through the Graduate Advocate Coordinators and Business and Community Liaison. The Director will act as liaison between workforceCONNECTIONS, the Clark County School District, various additional partners, including collaborating with level personnel (superintendent, deputy superintendent, and/or designated staff), and ensure appropriate adjoining of Policies and Procedures of operating campus-compliant programs.

RFL GA Coordinators: The Coordinators will coordinate, lead, and manage day-to-day operations of the RFL GAI at their designated high schools. They will provide intake, objective assessments, and management of program at their designated high school, and ancillary services as necessary.

RFL GA Business & Community Liaison: The Liaison will coordinate business and community services for students who are participating in the RFL GAI, including solicitation of mentors, internships and job shadowing opportunities. The Liaison will manage partner strategies for workforceCONNECTIONS that will result in the development of business relationships and serve as the business representative to outside entities, such as colleges, training institutions, businesses and other interested parties.

Background:

The pilot initially targeted ten high schools and students identified by CCSD who were credit deficient and/or had not passed the high school proficiency exam(s). This program year the initiative will target two additional high schools, totaling 12. WIA students enrolled in the pilot program are provided an individual service strategy, supportive services, work experiences, case management, and placements.

The approximate budget to serve at least 600 WIA-certified students for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 with an optional two-year extension is \$1,000,000.

Recommendation:

Approve the request for \$1,000,000 to fund the PY2012 Ready for Life Graduate Advocate pilot program.

*workforce*CONNECTIONS

Agenda Action Item FACT SHEET											
PROJECT TITLE	RFL Graduate Advocate initiative										
CONTRACT DATES	July 2012 - June 2013										
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Accept and approve recommendation to fund the PY 2012 Ready for Life Graduate Advocate Initiative in the amount of \$1,000,000 total for In-School youth.										
PARTICIPANT PROFILE	The targeted outreach program will identify youth at 12 local high schools who are WIA eligible and need support and guidance to complete their high school career. The program will provide all WIA eligible youth a project design component, intake and an individual service strategy. The program will also continue to provide tutorial assistance which could include credit retrieval classes and proficiency testing support to ensure high school graduation.										
SERVICES PROVIDED	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Work Readiness Training</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Internship</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> OJT</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job Shadow</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job Search/Placement</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Career Counseling/Planning</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Occupational Skills Training</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Supportive Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Readiness Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Internship	<input type="checkbox"/> OJT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job Shadow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job Search/Placement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Career Counseling/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupational Skills Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Supportive Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Work Readiness Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Internship										
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<input type="checkbox"/> Occupational Skills Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Supportive Services										
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____											
DESIRED OUTCOMES	Enroll and serve 600 WIA eligible youth with the goal of helping them reach high school graduation and then enter those youth into employment and/or post-secondary education.										
wC Staff CONTACT INFO	Rik Villalobos - RFL Systems Director Kimberly Colagioia - RFL Graduate Advocate Director										
SUBCONTRACTORS / COMMUNITY PARTNERS											
MATCHING FUNDS/LEVERAGED RESOURCES											
<i>workforce</i> CONNECTIONS FUNDING AWARD	\$1,000,000.00										
FUNDING STREAM	Formula										

workforce CONNECTIONS

Budget Detail

Budget Summary	workforce CONNECTIONS Request	Match
A. Personnel	\$ 630,500.00	\$ -
B. Fringe Benefits	\$ 239,590.00	\$ -
C. Travel	\$ 22,400.00	\$ -
D. Supplies	\$ 32,510.00	\$ -
E. Participant Costs/Supportive Services	\$ -	\$ -
F. Consultants/Sub-Contracts	\$ -	\$ -
G. Infrastructure/Operating/Other Costs	\$ 75,000.00	\$ -
Total Direct Costs	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -
H. Indirect Costs	\$ -	\$ -
Total workforceCONNECTIONS Request	\$ 1,000,000.00	
I. Total Cash/In-Kind Contribution (Match)		\$ -
Percent	100%	0%
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$1,000,000.00	

10. INFORMATION: RFL Getting Connected Newsletter – March 2012

SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Administrative flexibility is vital to properly serve disconnected youth.
- The “greening” of jobs presents new opportunity for youth.
- Graduate Advocate Coordinators guide youth to the finish line.
- YouthBuild surges despite funding realities.
- NCIS website offers wealth of interactive tools.

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Green Jobs	2
GAI Program	3
YouthBuild	4
NCIS Website	5

State Can Improve Services With Less Red Tape

Leaders ask Washington for flexibility in rules for some federally funded programs

Nevada’s young people have been hit particularly hard by our nation’s tumultuous economy. To turn things around for Nevada’s most vulnerable youth, government must do business differently.

Recently, state agency leaders, gubernatorial staff and federal officials based in Nevada made that pitch to the White House when they met in Las Vegas February 29 to discuss ideas for better serving at-risk youth and to ask for flexibility from Washington to help carry out those ideas.

Nevada is vying to be chosen by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as one of five states to test “administrative flexibility” to better coordinate local efforts that get federal funds, like job training, food assistance, afterschool services and substance abuse prevention. “That flexibility will allow us get more young people on track for success – especially those who are out of school, out of work, or who use public systems like foster care, juvenile courts or social services,” according to **Chanda Cook, Ready for Life Southern Nevada Region**



Ready for Life Systems Director Ricardo Villalobos makes a point at the recent Convening while Karlene McCormick Lee of the NPEF and Karen Stanley of CCSD look on. The event drew participants from local, state and federal agencies and sectors.

Director with Workforce Connections.

The “State Leadership Convening,” organized by the **Ready for Life (RFL) Nevada: Our Shared Youth Vision Statewide Council**, included a videoconference with the OMB in Washington. Other participants included **Senator Reid’s Office**, the **Department of Labor**, and the **Department of Health and Human Services**.

Nevada leaders shared four pilot concepts with the OMB during the event, which were favorably received. One key idea included loosening federal regulations to allow common case management and cross-system data sharing for youth in multiple public systems. This would bring

much-needed cohesion to the current system.

Participants advanced another idea: expanded eligibility and blending of funds for youth services to enhance collaboration among school districts and workforce development.

“The problem is that states face a fragmented set of funding streams from Washington, all with their own rules for who is eligible, what expenses are allowed and what data has to be collected,” said **Elizabeth Gaines, policy director for the Forum for Youth Investment**, which facilitated the meeting. “Nevada’s leaders know they can be more efficient and effective if they coordinate these efforts into a comprehensive strategy.”

The opportunity to do that began last year, when President Obama ordered federal agencies to find ways to provide flexibility in their administrative and regulatory requirements so that state and local governments can focus more resources on efforts that will improve outcomes.

Continued on page 6



Student performing the lab exercises on the micro scale eco-STEM house. During this activity students use solar and wind energy sources to energize lighting and cooling systems inside the house. They also charge and operate a mini electric vehicle seen parked under the porch.



Student connecting the components of a solar photovoltaic system. During this activity students capture the light from the sun with photovoltaic panels, store the energy in batteries, and then using a DC to AC inverter, power up a common household electrical appliance.

Training Youth for Green Jobs Benefits Environment and the Bottom Line

There is green to be had in green jobs, or those that are environmentally sound or beneficial.

Consider this: Despite its electric glitter and energy consuming glitz, Las Vegas is projected to add nearly 17,000 new, well paying green jobs through 2038, according to the Green Job in U.S. Metro area report. These positions can be especially attractive to young workers as they embark on their chosen career path and begin to train for traditional jobs that will, by necessity, start incorporating green elements.

"I like to call it the "greenification" of the job market," says Jaime Cruz, Director of Green Economy Workforce Development at Workforce Connections. "When you think of the "green" economy, jobs in

renewable energy and energy efficiency may come to mind, but almost any job can have elements of green."

For example, a purchasing director buying goods for a large strip hotel can strive to procure non-toxic chemicals for use throughout the facility while he also cuts back on paper waste. Or a new mechanic will be trained in the finer aspects of servicing batteries and transmissions that are much more energy efficient.

"It's all about efficiency and productivity while conserving natural resources," Cruz explains.

Workforce Connections, through Department of Labor grants that specifically support green initiatives in Nevada, has an environmental focus for many of its workforce development activities, including those specifically geared toward youth. These include YouthBuild Las Vegas (read related article on page

4), where disconnected youth get real-world training and job skills while they undertake the *What's It Mean to be Green* program.

In 2012, nearly 1,400 youth will participate, giving them an introductory view of the green economy as well as various green career pathways. Its curriculum explores concepts such as energy efficiency, sustainability, renewable energy, resource conservation, and green design and construction.

Students take a certification exam as they wrap up the program, get hands-on experience in the custom-designed Green Mobile Classroom, and an incentive gift card to recognize their tenacity to finish. The program is funded by Nevada's State Energy Sector Partnership, whose partners include Nevada's State Office of Energy, Nevada's Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation, Nevada JobConnect, Workforce Connections, and Nevadaworks.

Infographic Reveals Startling Stats on Green Jobs

Chemically Green posted an informative infographic, **What's the Deal With Green Jobs**, that lays out key statistics on the number, variety, and impact of green jobs on the U.S. economy. The graphic notes that green or "clean" jobs will offer wages that are 13 percent higher than U.S. median wages.

Additionally, there is information on how to upgrade existing jobs into green jobs. Consider these startling statistics:

- In 2010, 2.7 million jobs in the United States directly contributed to the production of goods and services with an environmental benefit.
- The jobs were spread over

57,501 different establishments in 41,185 companies and existed in almost every industry.

Go to <http://chemicallygreen.com/whats-the-real-deal-with-green-jobs/> to learn more.

Graduate Advocate Coordinators Provide Framework, Discipline to Guide Students Ahead



Evaleen Diaz poses with Graduate Advocate Coordinator Daniel Topete.

At a tender age, Evaleen Diaz is setting out to prove her parents wrong about their fears for her future.

Despite the fact that the 17-year-old is expecting a baby this year and is credit deficient, as well as behind in completing proficiency tests for school, the Western High School senior is confident she will cross the graduation finish line and move into a bright future.

Evaleen credits **Daniel Topete**, a **Graduate Advocate Coordinator** at Western, for providing her the impetus to complete the necessary testing and coursework. As an advocate, his job is to guide her through the necessary tutoring and preparatory courses she needs to complete her education, as well as a boot camp program to help her pass proficiency tests in math, science, and writing.

“Evaleen is working diligently to obtain the credits she needs and

pass the remaining proficiency tests in math, science, and writing,” explains Topete. “She’s doing a great job maintaining her class work and I will do my very best to keep her on track.”

Topete is one of 10 counselors who have been placed at key high schools across the Las Vegas valley to assist students who are vulnerable to drop out or discontinue their studies and ensure they’re on the path to graduation through the Graduate Advocate Initiative (GAI). The program, a public-private partnership between Workforce Connections and the United Way of Southern Nevada, provides strategic outreach to schools to identify and enroll WIA-eligible youth while it also provides one-on-one counseling through its advocates.

The program continues to reach out to the community, enticing future mentors to consider the satisfaction of guiding a child to stay on track to graduate. This is not tutoring but empathetic one-on-one interaction, cultivated through careful listening and the ability for mentors to impart the ins and outs of their own journey toward productive adult

lives. Sharing ideas, setting goals and helping youth build self-confidence are keys to a successful mentor/mentee relationship.

The Clark County School District predicts that more than 6,500 seniors are at risk of not getting a high school diploma this year. This high number is still an improvement—At the beginning of the school year more than 10,000 students were identified as at risk for not finishing the graduation finish line. Their failure to do so has dire consequences—for area youth and the larger region. Consider Evaleen.

“Being pregnant is hard,” explains Evaleen. “When I first heard about this program I just didn’t think I could do it given my situation. But Daniel reached out to me and convinced me I could make this happen and have a future. This baby requires me to get a high school education and get training beyond that. I feel that I am being helped not only to graduate from high school but go on to college if I choose.”

Consider the impact of the failure of youth to complete high school on the larger region, courtesy of the **Alliance for**

Excellent Education (www.all4ed.org/econ):

If just 1,000 of the 23,900 students who dropped out of school had graduated, combined they would likely earn \$9 million more on average per year, support 60 new jobs, and pour an additional \$700,000 annually into state coffers.

To learn more: www.nvworkforceconnections.org, click on What We Do, and go to GAI

“If we want to create hope, we must create change.”

Rich Harwood
Harwood Institute for Public Innovation

Despite Funding Cutbacks, YouthBuild Program Continues to Surge Ahead



YouthBuild Las Vegas participants enjoy a day at Red Rock Canyon outside of Las Vegas. The trip allowed them to experience nature and gain a new perspective.



With energy and enthusiasm, YouthBuild students hone their skills constructing homes for grateful community members.

YouthBuild is a vital youth and community development program that has taken off across the country, despite funding cutbacks over the past few years. Since 1994, 110,000 YouthBuild students age 18 to 24 have built 21,000 units of affordable and increasingly green housing, allowing them to acquire hands-on construction skills while obtaining necessary high school credits and helping their communities.

YouthBuild Las Vegas receives full grant funding under the President's Community-based Job Training Grants, as implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration. It is projected that YouthBuild programs nationwide, including YouthBuild Las Vegas, will receive \$80 million in Fiscal Year 2012 funding. Although this sounds like a hefty sum, it is a drastic cut from the original 2010 appropriation of \$102.5 million, which included an additional \$25 million from ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) and leaves many programs without funding.

In February, members of the Workforce Connections team met with Nevada Congressional representatives in Washington D.C. to thank politicians for their continued support and advocate for restored funding to the YouthBuild line item in the Fiscal

Year 2013 Federal Budget. **Ready for Life Systems Director Ricardo Villalobos** and **YouthBuild Program Director Jennifer Padilla** were in the D.C. area attending the 2012 National Directors Association Meeting of the YouthBuild USA Affiliated Network.

The event convened 175 youth directors from around the country to celebrate successes and gather ideas on how to run effective programs. Activities also included Youth Build Capitol Hill Day, where Jennifer and Ricardo attended a "meet and greet" breakfast with **U.S. Senator Harry Reid** and also interacted with other Nevada congressional members and staff, thanking them for their support of the program and reminding them of its importance.

Although YouthBuild has been around for decades, the Las Vegas program is just three years old. Staff continues to look at ways to improve and refine the program and welcomed an opportunity to see how other programs are executed around the country.

"Many of the programs have similar components, such as curriculum, but others operate much differently," explains Padilla. "In fact, some are even run as charter schools, which can be a great model. We'll continue to look at other programs across the country to see what models

they've adopted and how those may fit within our community." The program recently launched a new Facebook page—YouthBuild of Las Vegas—featuring some of their recent activities, including a trip to Red Rock just outside of the city limits.

Available through **Workforce Connections**, YouthBuild Las Vegas is based on an international model program and is described simultaneously as a leadership, youth, and community development program. Youth receive job training and pre-apprenticeship opportunities through on-site training in construction skills from qualified instructors. Students are literally building homes for homeless and low-income individuals while they build their resumes and finish credits.

Key Statistics on YouthBuild

- About 100 youth have participated in YouthBuild Las Vegas.
- Program partners include **Desert Rose High School**, **Habitat for Humanity Las Vegas**, **Mission Housing**, and the **Vitality Center**.
- There are 273 YouthBuild programs in 46 states, Washington, D.C. and the Virgin Islands.

NCIS Website Guides Job Seekers with Interactive Data, Videos

The Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation recently released the 25th edition of the Nevada Career Information System (NCIS) at www.nvcis.intocareers.org. The site contains a wealth of workforce, career, and education information for youth and adults alike. Users can search for information under the three main categories—Occupations and Employment, Education & Training, and (skills) Assessment—or they can develop a Career Plan using a comprehensive step-by-step action guide.

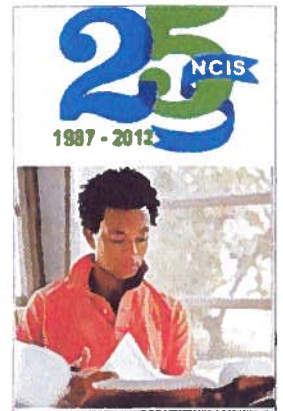
Additionally, the site offers links to quick tips for job seekers at any stage in life, from those with disabilities and persons re-entering the workforce, to high school and college students. For example, youth are encouraged to seek out volunteer, internship and work study opportunities, as well as part-time jobs, to develop necessary work skills. Under the Job Search category, there are sections on how to write applications and resumes, how to

ace a job interview, considerations when you receive a job offer, as well as a wide-ranging resource list related to job searching. Youth are encouraged to emphasize extra-curricular activities and to interview on their own to show they are responsible and independent.

Youth can search and sort through a database of detailed information on various courses of study, as well as a full list of colleges, universities and trade schools across the nation with key information on tuition, student life and activities, as well as the size and type of school they seek. Succinct tutorials have been added to the system to guide users through the School Sort section as well as the Resume tool.

There's also a new Green Jobs File with videos and in-depth descriptions of green occupations, which must meet one of several criteria to be considered green. These include improving energy efficiency, or recycling, reusing, or reducing waste and/or pollution.

"As the labor market place continues to become increasingly competitive, those preparing to enter it must equip themselves with as many "tools" as possible, and the jobs of the future will certainly require strong Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) skills," says Jaime Cruz, Director of Green Economy Workforce Development at Workforce Connections. The "What's It Mean To Be Green?" Program, offered by Workforce Connections, introduces youth to the green economy and green career pathways. The curriculum, the hands-on activities and the labs are STEM-based and provide youth an opportunity to explore up-close the principles of energy efficiency and renewable energy.



National News & Trends

The Building a Grad Nation Summit Convenes Mid-March:

The Grad Nation Campaign—a 10-year effort to end the high school dropout crisis and prepare young people for college and the 21st century workforce—hosts its free, premier event in Washington D.C. March 18th thru the 24th. The summit gathers community organizations, educators, local and state leaders, national non-profit organizations, businesses, youth and others to share progress but also catalyze additional action. Go to the following website at: <http://www.americaspromise.org/Our-Work/Grad-Nation/Summit.aspx> to learn more.

Anchor Institutions Should Look Outward to Drive Change:

Rich Harwood of the Harwood Institute lays out the need for community anchor institutions and seven key ways they can move ahead productively. He is clear that communities cannot create change without these institutions, but not all their actions will be positive and some may even cause harm. For example, he says institutions need to adopt a community perspective and focus less on just improving their own programs. Institutions must engage community leaders and the public to be effective or they risk advancing

half-baked ideas and strategies. Also, don't assume as an anchor institution that you "own the path to change." Instead, help create conditions in your community for others to innovate for new capacity and leadership. Go to www.thehardwordinstitute.org to learn more.





workforce CONNECTIONS

PEOPLE. PARTNERSHIPS. POSSIBILITIES.

Workforce Connections

Address: 7261 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Suite 200

Las Vegas, Nevada 89128

Phone: 702) 638-8750

Fax: 702) 638-8774

Workforce Connections, the workforce investment board serving Southern Nevada, focuses on coordinating job development and career pathway building to maximize the potential of the Southern Nevada workforce. A national effort grounded at the local level—where the needs of businesses and individuals are best understood. For more information on Workforce Connections, call 702-638-8750 or visit www.nvworkforceconnections.org.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. TTY (800) 326-6868 or Nevada Relay 711.

About the Ready for Life Movement

Convened by the Nevada Public Education Foundation, Ready for Life is a collaborative cross-agency effort to improve Nevada's success at engaging and graduating "ready for life" students and re-engaging those who prematurely left school. It aligns with the goals of the **Workforce Investment Act (WIA)** that are directed toward youth, which include academic development, credit retrieval, and career training/development as well as life skills.

For story ideas or comments contact Norma Restivo.

Phone: (702) 994-3687

Email: nrestivo@nvworkforceconnections.org

Continued from page 1

Among the changes that Nevada would seek is to better align workforce training opportunities for young people. This is right in line with the Ready for Life movement to increase Nevada's high school graduation rate and re-engage disconnected youth to ensure they have the resources to become life and career ready. Two key organizations—the Nevada Public Education Foundation and Workforce Connections—have recently partnered to execute this vital movement with more focus and alignment.

The event was part of an ongoing effort by Ready for Life Nevada: Our Shared Youth Vision Statewide Council "to remove barriers and align policies to better serve Nevada youth," said Ken LoBene, council chairperson and HUD Field Office Director. Event sponsors included: Bank of America, Wells Fargo Bank, Noah F. Herrera V and Marquis Aurbach Coffing Law Firm.

MENTORING is a Mutually Beneficial Commitment



"One of the things I keep learning is that the secret of being happy is doing things for other people."

- Dick Gregory

Work with local students one-on-one to help them complete high school and thrive thereafter.

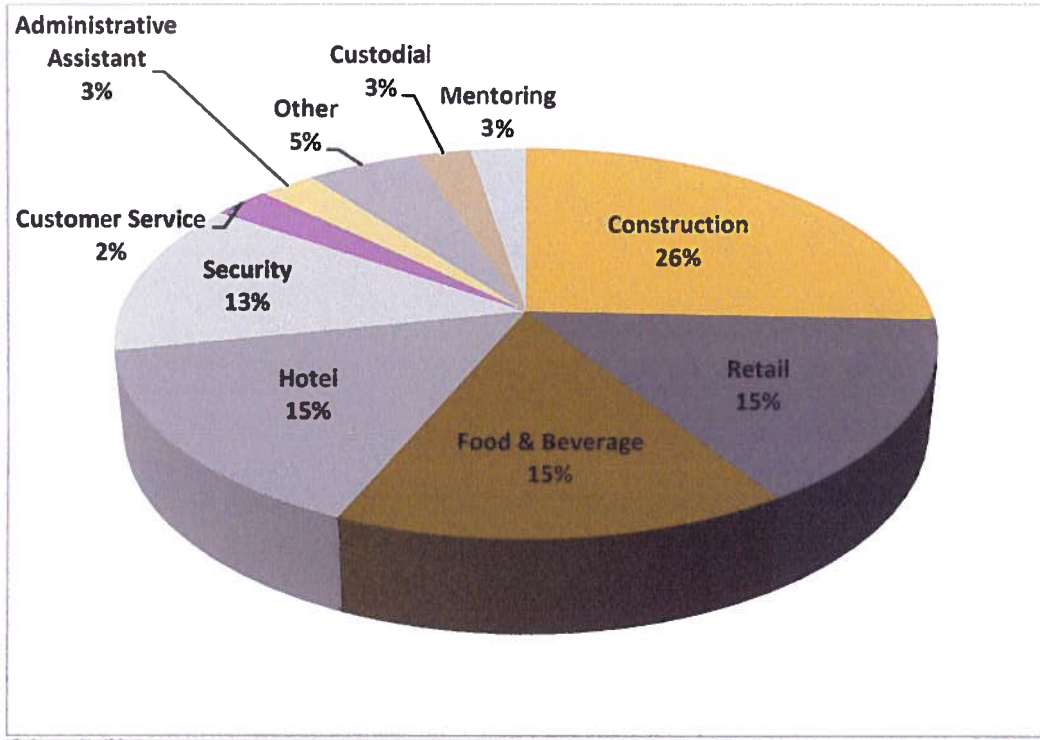
Sign up to be a Graduate Advocate@www.nvworkforceconnections.org
Go to What We Do and click on Graduate Advocate Initiative or call
702.638.8759

11. INFORMATION: YouthBuild Las Vegas Program Update ~ Jennifer Padilla

- YBUSA Directors Meeting in Washington D.C. & Capitol Hill Day
- YouthBuild students register to vote and receive a Friday mornings education on the importance of voting and government.
- Continuing “Green” education on most Fridays
- Five participants have now received their GED’s & HSD’s. We will have all participants take the GED by May and encourage them as they receive their GED’s to finish up with their High School Diplomas. For many of the participants earning both their GED and High School Diploma is feasible.
- Mrs. Levey the school counselor at Desert Rose has been a lot of help and support for the YBLV staff and participants.
- 09’ Grant Modification has been approved and has helped the YouthBuild program give necessary raises to our case managers, purchase all new office furniture, hire a new staff member, and provide training for all staff members in their field of work.
- Collaborated with “Southern Nevada Children’s First” in helping to house one of our pregnant YouthBuild participants who recently became homeless.
- Had gang expert Ralph Salazar and his partner from “Richard Steele Boxing Club” come and speak with the YouthBuild group about everything from making choices in their life from gangs, drugs, and jail time.
- YouthBuild went on a college tour at UNLV which was a very enlightening and exciting experience for some of the participants.
- YBLV staff took the time to recognize 18 participants out of the 29 that are currently enrolled to let them know what an outstanding job they are doing in all 3 components of the program which are: Education, Construction, and Leadership. All staff members partook in choosing the individuals.
- All participants were post-tested in CASAS for the second time this past Friday.
- Came in 2nd nationally in recycling at the Recycling challenge @ UNLV with a large thanks to the YouthBuild volunteers!
- Construction Trainer (Adam Taylor) and a participant will share about what is happening at the construction site and what the experience has been like.

Request from Youth Council

Charts on the types of jobs and wages for Cohorts 1 & 2



The average wage of a YouthBuild participant after graduating from our program is: \$9.61

12. INFORMATION: Youth Re-Entry Update ~ Valerie Sims

1. Performance Measures

- a. 70% of the Re-entry Youth participants have obtained their High School Diploma and/or GED; at CYC most of the participants obtain dual diplomas. While detained at the Caliente Youth Center the daily curriculum is to attend C.O. Bastian High School on the Caliente Youth Center campus; many of our participants are released with their High School diploma and/or GED. There are a few that are released and currently working towards their High School diploma or GED.
- b. 30% of the Re-Entry Youth participants are employed with employers such as Abercrombie & Fitch, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Clouds Draperies, Target, McDonalds, Family Dollar, Dollar Tree, Monte Carlo Hotel & Casino, Aria Hotel & Casinos.
- c. One youth participant is attending a post-secondary/vocational institution.
- d. Seeking to groom and pre-screen 1-2 youth participants for the military
- e. I will attempt to have 1-2 youth participants attend this upcoming YCM. Maybe 3 if permissible, I am so proud of my stars the youth that are doing so well.

2. Additional Activities:

- a. I have one youth participant in a Work Experience Program (WEX) through Kids-R-Us Academy which is not considered a performance measure, but he is doing very well and the employer is pleased with his work.

13. INFORMATION: Rural Youth Update ~ Lucy Ivins

- Met with Layoff Aversion team and we will work on making presentations in the rural areas in collaboration with NyE Communities Coalition and others TBD.
- March 14th Career Day at Pahrump Valley High School Update
- Working with Nye County government administration to provide WIA-participating youth work experiences via Internships.
- Met with BEC Environmental, Las Vegas, in Pahrump to dialogue about UNLV Solar Decathlon; update on rural renewable energy projects. BEC is Nye County's "economic developing agent" and will be a great partner for Workforce Connections' Youth and Green Departments.
- Discussed Ready for Life initiatives with Nye County School District Board of Trustees' newly elected President, Tracie Ward.
- Town of Pahrump Youth Advisory Board presented its report to the Nye County School District Board of Trustees and youth received great accolades from the Board, Staff and Audience! This was an effort for "adults- in-charge" to listen to students' perspectives, ideas, and solutions to improve the education system and school experience for youth. My role for Youth Advisory Board was one of Mentor and Facilitator for Strategic Planning and Goal Setting.

14. INFORMATION: Updates from Youth Council Members

15. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: Members of the public may now comment on any matter or topic, which is relevant to or within the authority or jurisdiction of the Board. You may comment now even if you commented earlier, however, please do not simply repeat the same comment you previously made. Please clearly state and spell your name and state your address for the record. Each comment will be limited to three (3) minutes.