

Bridging the Opportunity Gap (BOG)

Executive Summary

Partners: Bristol Workforce Investment Board, Bristol County Training Consortium, SER-Jobs for Progress, Southeast Regional DYS, Fall River & Taunton DYS District Office, the Career Centers of Bristol County

Program Design: *Project Success* is an integrated and comprehensive career readiness and youth development program that focuses on providing participants with a supportive and structured environment where both self-expression and team building skills are an integral part of all activities. This initiative will build upon current efforts to grow and sustain a job development system for youth in the re-entry phase of DYS custody.

Key elements of the program include:

- Assessment & development of an Individual Service Strategy (ISS) for each youth.
- Career Readiness Training
- Career Exploration Activities
- Certification opportunities
- Referrals to educational partners for HiSET, ABE or post-secondary education
- Subsidized internship opportunities
- Job Coaching
- Job search assistance

Program Delivery:

- *Project Success* will serve six youth in the re-entry phase of DYS custody in Greater Fall River and Taunton areas.
- The program will run from Oct. 1 2015 to June 30, 2016
- Eligibility for the program will be determined by **DYS & Project Success Staff**
- Once DYS identifies eligible youth, a DYS staff member will accompany the youth to either the Youth Connection (Fall River) or Taunton Career Center – initial intake will be preformed at either center
- Youth will be required to complete a job application, applicable forms and documents (I-9, work permits, etc.)
- *Project Success* staff will provide 10 hours of Orientation Training; this training will also act as the initial career readiness curriculum and must be completed before youth are placed at a work based learning opportunity.
- Youth will take part in ongoing career readiness sessions (2 hours a week); sessions will take place at SER-Jobs in Taunton and Fall River
- A minimum of 20 hours of career readiness will be provided to each participant using the *Empower your Future* career readiness curriculum
- Youth will create a portfolio (digital and hardcopy) that will include a resume, a sample thank you note, writing samples, etc.

- *Project Success* staff will be responsible for brokering and placing youth in employment opportunities that fit their career interests
- All program participants engaged in a work experience will be placed on a MA Work Based Learning Plan

Coordination with DYS: DYS staff will support participants through every program component. At the onset of the program, DYS staff will assist SER Jobs with overall program coordination. DYS staff will inform participants of program expectations, discuss Assent of the Ward option participants can invoke, DYS staff will participate in quarterly meetings with program partners, and maintain regular contact with Vocational Counselors and Job Coaches.

Roles of Partners:

- **BWIB** – will serve as lead agency. BWIB will be responsible for program monitoring and oversight.
- **BCTC**- will be the fiscal agent for the project
- **Ser-Jobs**- administer training and educational program components
- **DYS in Fall River & Taunton**- will identify and refer youth, support participants
- **Career Centers**- oversee intake and employment eligibility process

Retention: Stipends, such as gift cards, will be awarded for attendance and achieving career-related milestones. Youth will also be paid for training at a rate of \$9.00 per hour. Youth will participate in 30 hours of training throughout the program. On average, youth will participate in a work experience for 15 hours a week for 6 weeks.

Educational and Support Services: Youth who do not have a high school diploma, GED, HiSET Credential will have the opportunity to enroll with SER-Jobs for HiSet preparation and additional career readiness training.