

SHARED YOUTH VISION PILOT PROJECTS

STATE: IOWA

PROJECT TITLE: Iowa Shared Youth Vision: Addressing the Transitional Needs of System-Involved Youth

TARGET POPULATION: Youth ages 14 to 21 who are involved in or who have aged out of Iowa's Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice System (CW/JJ)

GEOGRAPHIC AREA: Dubuque and Buena Vista counties

FUNDING: \$116,000

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) is a network of state agencies committed to improving results among Iowa youth through the adoption and implementation of positive youth development principles and practices at the state and local levels. The team will work with public-private coalitions in Dubuque and Buena Vista counties to strengthen partnerships, build capacity, and integrate services and resources for youth, ages 14 to 21, who are involved in or who have aged out of Iowa's CW/JJ system. Local stakeholders from the system and community partners in both communities will participate in the pilot. The specific strategy will emphasize youth-engagement by expanding a leadership program for system-involved youth called Elevate. Elevate educates policymakers, foster parents, human services and juvenile court professionals, and the public about the CW/JJ system from the perspective of youth involved in that system. The project will provide training and technical assistance related to engaging youth in public speaking, leadership development, and decision-making. The strategies developed in the pilot counties will be shared with other communities throughout the state. Training and technical assistance developed and delivered through this initiative will be available to communities throughout the state. ICYD will prepare a *Guide to Effective Transitions for System-Involved Youth* based on the results of the pilot and related efforts underway in the state.

LIST OF PARTNER AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS: Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Workforce Development/Workforce Investment Act, Iowa Department of Health, Iowa Department of Economic Development, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service/Iowa PROMISE, Iowa Department of Education, University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Cooperative Extension, 4-H Development, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Youth Policy Institute of Iowa, businesses, chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, local housing authorities

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