

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Youth Offender Demonstration Program

Workforce System Results  
December 31, 2005

Youth offender grants provide offenders and those at-risk of offending with the information, advice, job search assistance, and training they need to get and keep good jobs and advance toward long-term careers while providing employers with skilled workers. In addition to helping youth attain employment or an education credential, this effort seeks to ensure that youth offenders returning to the community remain crime-free. Youth offender grants further the goals of the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative and the Youth Vision of the Department of Labor.

**T**he youth offender portfolio, which contains a number of youth offender demonstration grants funded through the Responsible Reintegration of Youthful Offenders Program, continues to build on strategies that have been the focus of previous pilot and demonstration projects. They include: (1) the expansion of partnerships between state and local workforce investment systems and the criminal justice system; (2) the use of faith and community organizations to provide mentoring services and to connect former prisoners to training and employment opportunities; and, (3) the use of intermediary organizations in connecting employers with offenders particularly in high growth industries. The program has demonstrated a number of achievements so far in Program Year 2005.

- Only 10.5 percent of the 7,954 youth offenders were re-arrested after entering the project. Nationwide, 44 percent of youth offenders are re-arrested within one year of release from prison. The results vary by state, as does the program's goal, which is 20 percent below the recidivism rate for each state.
- 3,993 youth (50.2 percent) were placed in unsubsidized employment, long-term occupational skills training, and postsecondary education. The percentage represents the proportion of older youth (18-24 years old) enrollees who have been placed in employment or postsecondary education.
- 851 youth attained a diploma or GED. In addition, many youth are still working toward their GED or high school diploma.