

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Youth Offender Grants

Workforce System Results

June 30, 2006

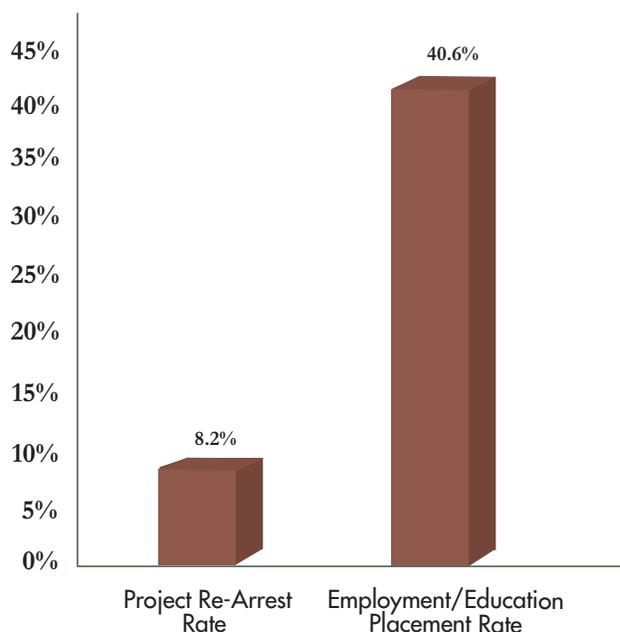
In 1999, the ETA initiated the multi-phased Youth Offender Demonstration Project to increase employability and employment of 14-24 year-old youth offenders, gang members, and youth at risk of court or gang involvement. Demonstration findings are designed to uncover institutional change that, if replicated in local areas, will assist youth offenders and youth at risk of court or gang involvement to reenter the labor market. The Demonstration has been implemented in three consecutive rounds of grants. The first round was completed December 31, 2002. The second round of Youth Offender Demonstration grants completed the last phase of its 30-month period of performance in December 2003. A third round of these grants is currently underway.

Consistent with both the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative and the Department of Labor's new Youth Vision, DOL's 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.

The youth offender portfolio, which contains a number of youth offender demonstration grants funded through the Responsible Reintegration of Youthful Offenders, 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. Cumulative results for the quarter ending June 30, 2006, include:

- Only 8.2% of youth offenders were re-arrested after entering the project. The results vary by state, as does the program's goal, which is 20 percent below the recidivism rate for each state.
- 7,035 youth (40.6%) 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.
- 1,493 youth attained a diploma or GED. In addition, many youth are still working toward their GED or high school diploma. A total of 17,314 youth were served by the project.

Youth Offender Grant Outcomes, PY 2005 Q4



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