

Creating New Opportunities for Collaboration



A SHARED VISION FOR YOUTH

Labor, Education, Human Services, and Justice **Creating a Collaborative Approach** to Prepare Youth for Success in a **Global, Demand-Driven Economy**

Well-designed and coordinated programs offer youth who have become disconnected from mainstream institutions and systems additional opportunities to successfully transition to adult roles and responsibilities. The 2003 White House Task Force Report on Disadvantaged Youth notes that despite the billions of Federal, state, local and private dollars spent on needy youth and their families, many out-of-school, at-risk youth are currently being left behind in our economy because of a lack of program focus and emphasis on outcomes.

In response to the White House Report the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Justice and Labor have committed to a collaborative approach at the national, state, and local levels to serving our nation's neediest youth in order to develop innovative approaches, enhance the quality of services delivered, improve efficiencies, and improve the outcomes for the youth we serve.

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND JUSTICE



OUR WORK TOGETHER AS FEDERAL PARTNERS

Specifically, an Interagency Work Group was created to ensure that the communication, coordination, and collaboration recommended by the White House Task Force occurs and to focus on the following objectives outlined in the Report:

- Developing and coordinating policy, within existing policy structures to address the needs of disadvantaged youth.
- Maximizing interagency collaborations to utilize the significant expertise within specific Federal agencies.
- Coordinating Federal research so the government can fund programs that produce results that help disadvantage youth.
- Finding and elevating models of “what-works” and help replicate them nationwide.
- Developing innovative model strategies that efficiently and effectively respond to the needs of disadvantaged youth.

One of our first activities was to jointly convene Regional Forums which were designed to:

- Communicate the shared vision and commitment to collaboration.
- Facilitate the creation of state teams that will undertake strategic planning activities to develop cross-agency systems to better serve the neediest youth through improved leveraging of resources, policy alignment and other activities.
- Develop strategies for Federal support of the state teams.

Based on the feedback from the Regional Forums, the Federal Partnership will focus on:

- Engaging support of state executives including Governors, tribal leaders, and lead agency executives.
- Creating Federal cross-agency teams to consult with to the state teams.
- Providing a “crosswalk” of key federal program definitions and program policies in order to better understand where there are opportunities and barriers to aligning programs and funds.
- Providing states and tribal governments with broad principles to assist them in gauging the effectiveness of their collaborative efforts.
- Providing states and tribal governments with information on the funding from each of the Federal agencies that is available in their state to serve the neediest youth.
- Providing models of collaboration.

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