

**TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT
NOTICE**

NO. 26-04

DATE April 19, 2005

TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS

FROM: *Maria K. Flynn*
MARIA K. FLYNN
Administrator
Office of Policy Development and Research

SUBJECT: Announcement of a Conference and Call for Proposals for
"From Roots to Wings: Guiding Youth with Disabilities
to Employment"

1. **Purpose.** To inform the workforce investment system of:
1) a conference sponsored by the United States Department of Education's Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA) and the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation to enhance the transition delivery system (from education to employment) for youth with disabilities and, (2) the request for proposals that may be presented at the conference.

2. **Background.** This national conference, *From Roots to Wings: Guiding Youth with Disabilities to Employment*, will bring together vocational rehabilitation and education practitioners and policy makers and constituency groups for purposes of capacity-building, highlighting model programs, and developing strategies for improving transition services overall.

The conference will be held June 16-17, 2005, at the:

Capitol Hilton Hotel
1001 16th Street, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20036-5701
(202) 393-1000

The conference will provide two levels of learning experiences. The first tier will concentrate on techniques and practices aimed at improving direct services to youth with disabilities. The second tier will provide technical assistance to vocational rehabilitation and special education administrators to help them identify model methods of administration. These methods then can be jointly employed to increase collaboration and infuse innovative practices throughout a school system or state vocational rehabilitation agency to improve performance and increase successful outcomes. Five hundred participants are

**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210**

expected.

To this end, the conference sponsors are requesting proposals in five different strands. The strands are:

- Strand 1: Bridging the Service Gaps
- Strand 2: Building a Career
- Strand 3: Making Life Choices
- Strand 4: Addressing the Leadership Challenge
- Strand 5: Utilizing Federally Supported Transition Initiatives

Successful applicants will be given 75 minutes for their presentation.

Please see the attached for further information on submitting proposals and registering for this conference.

3. **Action Required.** States are requested to share this TEN with the One-Stop system and all officials within the states who may be interested in this conference or in submitting proposals for presentation.

4. **Inquiries.** Questions on this TEN may be directed to Mary Ann Donovan at (202)693-3936 or Adele Gagliardi at (202)693-3985.

Attachment