

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 19-08
	DATE November 21, 2008

TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: THOMAS M. DOWD /s/
Administrator
Office of Policy Development and Research

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of Youth Opportunity Grant Initiative Reports

1. Purpose. To announce the release and the availability of the following Youth Opportunity (YO) Grant Initiative items:

- *Youth Opportunity Grant Initiative: Summary and Implications*
- *Youth Opportunity Grant Initiative: Executive Summary*
- *Youth Opportunity Grant Initiative: Ethnographic Evaluation Final Report*
- *Youth Opportunity Grant Initiative: Impact and Synthesis Report*
- *Youth Opportunity Grant Initiative: Management Information System Final Report*
- *Youth Opportunity Grant Initiative: Process Evaluation Final Report*
- *Youth Opportunity Grant Initiative: Appendices*
- *Youth Opportunity Grant Initiative: Public Data Set*

2. Background. In 2000, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) awarded grants to 36 high poverty urban, rural, and Native American communities to provide services – including education, employment, support, and leadership development – to youth 14 to 21 years old. The objective of the YO Grants Initiative was to concentrate a sufficient level of funds in high poverty areas to improve the long-term educational and employment outcomes for youth living in these areas and to serve a high enough proportion of those youth to positively affect peer pressure. Key components of the YO model included: (1) establishing at least one Youth Opportunity Center in each community, which provided a safe and accessible place for youths to meet; (2) developing the potential of youth as citizens and leaders, as a means of achieving employment and educational outcomes; (3) encouraging youth to maintain contact and seek assistance, even after they had completed their service plan; and (4) establishing partnerships among public, private, and nonprofit organizations.

3. Report Findings. The report's major findings include:

- YO succeeded in concentrating large amounts of resources in high poverty areas and reaching a large proportion of the youth in those areas.
- Positive community-level impacts are achievable for communities similar to those served by YO; especially with regard to educational outcomes.

4. Availability. To view an abstract of the publication or to download the full YO reports, appendices, public data set, or executive summary, visit the Employment and Training Administration's publications Web site at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>.