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: 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](http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm).