

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 16-15
	DATE November 23, 2015

TO: STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARD CHAIRS AND
DIRECTORS
FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES

FROM: PORTIA WU
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Performance Partnership Pilots (P3) for Disconnected Youth

1. **Purpose.** To announce the nine pilot sites that will receive a grant award under the Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) authority.
2. **References.** The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr3547enr/pdf/BILLS-113hr3547enr.pdf> (see p. 409)
3. **Background.** Performance Partnership Pilots (P3) for Disconnected Youth offer a unique opportunity to test innovative, cost-effective, and outcome-focused strategies for improving results. The 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act provides authority to the Departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services along with the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and related agencies to enter into Performance Partnership agreements with states, regions, localities, or tribal communities that give them additional flexibility in using discretionary funds across multiple Federal programs. Pilot sites will commit to achieve significant improvements for disconnected youth in educational, employment, and other key outcomes in exchange for this flexibility. For P3, statute defines disconnected youth as individuals between the ages of 14 and 24 who are low income and either homeless, in foster care, involved in the juvenile justice system, unemployed, or not enrolled in or at risk of dropping out of an educational institution.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 5 million 16-to-24- year olds in the U.S. are not on a clear path to postsecondary education or training and a rewarding career. They are neither working nor in school and, in many cases, face the additional challenges of being homeless, in foster care, or involved in the justice system. Often disconnected from their families and valuable social networks, these young people struggle to make successful transitions to adulthood and to reach the educational and employment milestones critical to escaping a lifetime of poverty.

Nine Pilot Sites. On October 29, 2015, the Department of Education, on behalf of the participating Federal agencies, selected the first P3 pilot sites to tackle these challenges by blending funds that they already receive from Federal agencies and by acquiring new flexibility under Federal statutes, regulations, and other requirements. Each of the nine pilot sites received a start-up grant of up to \$700,000 to cover critical implementation costs.

Pilot sites will implement solutions that include, for example, helping low-income mothers acquire the skills to become better parents while gaining valuable job experience through childcare internships; helping foster youth successfully transition from high school to college or employment; and, intervening with the highest-risk youth before they drop out of high school.

This first set of pilots will test flexibility with Federal youth-serving funds in diverse environments across America, including urban, rural, and tribal communities. Pilot sites include:

- City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge
- Children’s Services of Broward County
- Chicago Department of Family & Support Services
- City of Indianapolis
- City of Los Angeles
- Oklahoma Department of Human Services
- Workforce Development Council of Seattle - King County
- Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Programs, Inc.
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

The P3 model emphasizes evidence and learning, both within communities and at a national level. The P3 competition asked sites to match existing evidence of what works with community challenges identified through a needs assessment and to demonstrate how they will use reliable data to guide decision-making and be accountable for better outcomes. All nine pilots responded to the competition’s incentive to rigorously evaluate the impact of at least one component of their on-site approach. The Department of Labor, on behalf of the Federal agencies, will also conduct a national cross-site evaluation of how pilots implement the P3 model, their strategies, challenges, and outcomes. Findings will help strengthen how agencies and the field address disconnected youth needs in the future.

4. **Press Release.** To view the press release announcing the P3 pilots, see <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/obama-administration-names-9-communities-chosen-finalists-pilot-improve-outcomes-disconnected-youth>.
5. **Inquiries.** For more information on P3, visit <http://youth.gov/youth-topics/reconnecting-youth/performance-partnership-pilots/p3-fy2014-pilot-sites>. For specific questions related to P3, e-mail disconnectedyouth@ed.gov.