



Project Objective: Create a World Class Youth Organization

Steps: The first step was to brand the program to include all aspects of the program. Through a naming contest by the existing participants the name "Generation: Go! Powered by the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board". Next, we developed three areas of focus: (1) Developing Career Pathways in the K-12 system, (2) Integrating Foster Youth and (3) Restructuring the Youth Contracts to Encourage Leveraged Funds.

- 1) The largest school district in the county has committed to having every child participate in a career pathway program. The WDB chose this as a priority this year to provide work based learning opportunities for every child. Additionally, the system will be developed to be scalable to the other school districts in the county.
- 2) San Bernardino County has the second largest number of foster youth in the state. This group is a target population for both the WDB's Youth Committee and Special Populations Committee. The goal of this aspect of the project is to better engage foster youth with the youth system.
- 3) The Youth Program is operated through contracts with providers. The goal of this aspect of the project is to encourage providers to develop new partnerships to better serve youth with the most barriers.

Outcomes/Challenges/Next Steps:

- 1) For the career pathway project, the biggest challenge is the large number of work based learning opportunities that will be needed, as well as the funding to be able to provide paid opportunities. The mentor sessions offered through BootCamp provided many suggestions and resources on how to get the summer youth employment program going next summer. So far the outcome has been planning and getting the right folks together to develop a system for tracking. Additionally, staffing the Business Services Team has been critical so they can start taking to businesses now.
- 2) To improve linkages for foster youth into the youth system, we recently developed an MOU with the county's Children and Family Services (CFS) Department. We just received the first 9 referrals which are being used a pilot to ensure all goes smoothly. Our youth providers are going to go onsite to the CFS site to do the orientation with the foster youth and their Peer and Family Assistant (foster youth mentor). The biggest challenge for the foster youth project will be ensuring success for the pilot project to ensure positive word of mouth for both the other foster youth and the Social Workers.
- 3) To ensure youth providers are leveraging funds from additional funding sources, the contracts were restructured with caps per participant. Caps were developed based on a tiered system that encourages youth providers to serve the hardest to serve youth. Providers are adjusting to the new contracts. Staff are continually providing technical assistance and using data to make decisions to ensure that the desired outcomes are achieved.

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