



JAMES K. HAHN
MAYOR

DATE: **JAN 18 2005**

TO: All WIA Youth Opportunity System Contractors

FROM: Manny Chavez, Acting Director
Workforce Development Division

SUBJECT: **INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 05- 28**
YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY INITIATIVE

For the past several years the Youth Opportunity System (YOS) has worked to assist the YOS contractors to acquire some of the necessary tools to provide services to youth with disabilities. This has included the purchase of assistive technology equipment at the Youth Centers, the provision of Legacy training, and technical training. In addition, Marriott Bridges has provided program services to youth with disabilities and has also provided technical assistance to the YOS.

As part of this ongoing effort the YOS has joined with the EmployABILITY program to tap into the services that they provide to the WorkSource Centers. The following outlines how Marriott Bridges, Goodwill Industries and Quest Diversity Training will all work together to provide more accessible services to our youth clients.

Marriott will continue to provide direct program services to the YOS. They will serve 120 youth ages 17-21 with a certified disability under WIA. In some cases they will co-enroll clients with another network in order to maximize the level of services available.

Christina Harrington of Goodwill will serve as the YOS EmployABILITY Specialist and will provide technical assistance to all the YOS networks. This will include on-site technical assistance, training and support to the YOS networks, strategic planning, assistance in the participation of the EmployABILITY Partnership, assistance with outreach and referrals, and distribution of marketing materials. Russell Dwiggins will assist with purchasing and installing assistive technology equipment and provide training on its use.

Quest Diversity Training will provide live Legacy Diversity Training sessions which will cover topics such as Cognitive and Psychiatric Disabilities. Quest will also provide technical assistance training sessions such as Signage & Required Postings, and MIS Reporting & Capturing Youth with Disabilities.

As a reminder, Christina Harrington will be conducting the Service Accessibility Survey in January and February 2005. In addition, notices will be sent out regarding the next live Legacy training scheduled for February 8, and the EmployABILITY Partnership meeting on February 16, 2005.

For more information please contact YOS Program Analyst Bertha Calderon at (213) 847-6542 or bcaldero@cdd.lacity.org.

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