

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Vermilion County Workforce Investment Board (VCWIB) and the Vermilion County Job Training Partnership will be hosting a Bidder's Conference on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. is open to walk in or on Wednesday, February 8, 2006 by appointment only at the IETC 407 N. Franklin St. Danville, for those interested in being a youth service provider for the Local Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title I Youth Program for Program Year July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. The Vermilion County WIA Youth Request for Proposal was released to the public January 30, 2006 and is available online at www.vermilioncountyietc.com or by contacting the Vermilion County Job Training Partnership office at 217/442-3044 Ext. 233.

The VCWIB identifies eligible providers of youth activities by awarding grants or contracts on a competitive basis based on the recommendation of the VCWIB Youth Council.

Funds are available to service providers that are most likely to enable youth to be successful in achieving their educational,

employment, and career goals. The intentions of the Youth funds are to improve youth programs linked more closely to local labor market needs with strong connections between academic and occupational learning, including youth activities to promote youth development, citizenship and employment success.

The Youth Program targets the population for low-income youths ages 14-21 that meet the following criteria: deficient in basic literacy skills, school dropout, pregnant or a parent, truancy, substance abuse, offender, physical disability, learning disability, mental illness, developmental disability, need for pre-employment and work maturity, workplace skill deficient as defined by standardized assessment, living in a single parent household, or living with a person who is not a legal guardian (for ages 14-17).

WIA allows a 5% window for those that do not meet the minimum income requirements, but fall under one or more of the following categories: school dropout, basic skills deficient, educational attainment that is one or more grade levels below the grade level appropriate to the age of the individual, pregnant or a parenting, physical disability, learning disability, mental illness, developmental disability, homeless or runaway, offenders, those that face serious barriers to employment as identified by the local Workforce Investment Board.

The Youth Program requires 10 services to be provided by the youth provider or partnership between a provider and a local agency, which are: 1.) Tutoring, study skills training, instruction leading to secondary school completion including: dropout prevention strategies; 2.) Alternative secondary school offerings; 3.) Summer employment opportunities directly linked to academic and occupational learning; 4.) Paid and unpaid work experiences including: internships and job shadowing; 5.) Occupational skill training; 6.) Leadership development opportunities, which may include such activities as: positive social behavior, soft skills, decision-making, teamwork and other activities; 7.) Supportive services; 8.) Adult mentoring for a duration of at least twelve months that may occur both during and after program participation; 9.) Follow-up services; 10.) Comprehensive guidance and counseling including drug and alcohol abuse counseling, as well as referrals to counseling, as appropriate to the needs of the individual youth.

All proposal requests must be submitted to Vermilion Co. Job Training Partnership 407 N. Franklin St. Danville by Thurs, March 23, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

The Vermilion County local WIA Youth Program has met or exceeded all performance measures since WIA has been implemented in July 2000.

The local workforce area has 2 Youth Providers serving 134 youths for the allocated amount of \$315,135, for this program year, which ends June 30, 2006.