

**CAPE - Youth**

CENTER FOR ADVANCING POLICY  
ON EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH

# Unlocking the Potential of WIOA Title I – An Opportunity for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities

# Overview for Today

- Welcome
- Introduction to CAPE-Youth
- Overview of “Unlocking the Potential of WIOA Title I — An Opportunity for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities”
- National Dialogue

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CAPE-Youth seeks to improve employment outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities (Y&YAD) by helping states build capacity in their youth service delivery and workforce systems through:

- Conducting research on new and existing innovative policy and practice.
- Developing strategic partnerships.
- Sharing best practices among key stakeholders.
- Helping policymakers identify opportunities for new programs and services.

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# Partners



**The Council  
of State  
Governments**

**ILR Yang-Tan Institute**



**SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

Interwork Institute

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# Opening Remarks



**Kirk Lew**

Director of Youth Initiatives

U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy

# Today's Panel

## **Michelle Banks**

NextGen Careers Strategic Director,  
Massachusetts Rehabilitation  
Commission

## **Alyssa Statz**

CareerRise, Youth Internship  
Coordinator,  
Larimer County, Colorado

## **Alyssa Kee**

Program Specialist for Transition and Pre-  
ETS,  
Texas Workforce Commission

## **Shauna-Lee Ruglass**

Chief People and Culture Officer,  
YouthBuild USA

## **Jennifer Lawrence**

Executive Director,  
Social Enterprise and Training  
(SEAT) Center

# WIOA Title I (1)

- Provides formula funding to states through the **Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker Grant Program** to support employment training and other related services to unemployed and underemployed individuals.
- Provides opportunities to meet the career and employment needs of **out-of-school and in-school youth and young adults ages 14 to 24** who have one or more barriers to employment through the provision of comprehensive youth services.

# WIOA Title I (2)

## Populations served include youth:

- Experiencing homelessness.
  - In the foster care system or who have aged out.
  - In an out-of-home placement.
  - Low-income and require additional assistance to begin or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.
  - Economic need.
  - Basic skills deficient, English language learner and others.
- **85 percent of youth** served under Title I are eligible to receive services based on income status alone.
  - Y&YAD are a sample of this group, **representing 19.5 percent** of those served under Title I.



# Key Considerations (1)

1. Leveraging other federal initiatives across state workforce agencies to initiate innovation at the local level.
2. Enhancing collaboration among state and local workforce, education and non-traditional WIOA partners to prioritize Y&YAD.

## Key Considerations (2)

3. Building specific blended service approaches with vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies to enhance access to services for Y&YAD.
4. Supporting inclusive approaches in programs like Job Corps or YouthBuild to expand access to Y&YAD.

# Leveraging other Federal Initiatives (1)

- Opportunities existed in pilot and demonstration projects funded by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), Social Security Administration and Rehabilitation Services Administration.
- Identifying the following models which build the connections of Title I workforce:
  - Integrated Resource Teams.
  - Career Pathways.
  - Mentoring.

# Leveraging other Federal Initiatives (2)

**Michelle Banks**, NextGen Careers, Strategic Director

1. Can you provide an overview of NextGen project components?
2. How can states enhance their partnership with Title I programs when implementing projects like NextGen?
3. What are some lessons learned from implementing a program of this nature? Please note any successes or challenges.

# Enhancing Collaboration (1)

- Exploring opportunities to work with non-traditional WIOA partners such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, juvenile justice, foster care, homeless shelters and others.
- Out-of-school youth historically present a challenge for the workforce system.
- Look to Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential (LEAP):
  - Initiated by Annie E. Casey Foundation.
  - Y&YAD ages 14 to 25 who are in foster care or involved in the criminal justice system or who are homeless.
  - 10 local partnerships in Alaska, Arizona, California, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska and New York.

# Enhancing Collaboration (2)

**Alyssa Statz**, CareerRise Youth Internship Coordinator, Larimer County Colorado

1. Can you provide an overview of the CareerRise team in Larimer County, Colorado, including the inCompass initiative?
2. How can states enhance their partnership with Title I programs in implementing projects like CareerRise?
3. What are some lessons learned from implementing the program of this nature? Please note any successes or challenges.

# Building Specific Blended Approaches (1)

- In states where the VR partner is operating under an Order of Selection, a proactive approach for blending methods is critical.
- Maryland Division of VR and the Community College of Baltimore County to serve Y&YAD with cognitive, developmental and mental health disabilities by providing academic, pre-vocational, social and independent living skills.

# Building Specific Blended Approaches (2)

**Alyssa Kee**, Program Specialist for Transition and Pre-ETS, Texas Workforce Commission

1. Can you provide an overview of the Summer Earn and Learn initiative in Texas?
2. How can states enhance their partnership with Title I programs in implementing projects like SEAL?
3. What are some lessons learned from implementing the program of this nature? Please note any successes or challenges.



# Inclusive Approaches in YouthBuild and Job Corps (1)

- Job Corps has appointed disability coordinators within each program, and published resources available to support staff, participants and employers on the Job Corps disABILITY site.
- There are currently 175 DOL-funded YouthBuild programs operating in 41 states, serving approximately 6,000 youth annually. This indicates a growing focus on Y&YAD.
- Heart of Oregon Corps has expanded access to YouthBuild, and other programs like Camp LEAD, a week-long outdoor paid work experience, to provide access to a diverse set of experiences to build skills of Y&YAD.

# Inclusive Approaches in YouthBuild and Job Corps (2)

**Shauna-Lee Ruglass**, Chief People and Culture Officer, YouthBuild USA

**Jennifer Lawrence**, Executive Director, SEAT Center

- Can you provide an overview of YouthBuild?
- How can states enhance their partnership with YouthBuild programs to foster inclusion?
- Can you provide an overview of SEAT, and your efforts to enhance inclusion?
- What are some lessons learned from implementing the program of this nature? What successes and challenges were discovered during implementation?



# Questions?

# CAPE-Youth Resources

- [Promoting and Maintaining Career and Technical Education for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Expanding Apprenticeships as a Career Pathway for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities](#)
- [Guideposts for Success: States Engaging Employers through Policy](#)
- [Trauma-Informed Policy for Youth](#)
- [Addressing the Needs of Youth with Disabilities and Other Intersecting Identities](#)
- [Improving Transition Services for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities through Braided Funding](#)
- [Transition Services for Justice-Involved Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities](#)

# Contact Us

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If you are interested in learning more about our work or participating in our research initiatives, please contact [info@capeyouth.org](mailto:info@capeyouth.org) or visit <https://capeyouth.org/>