

Provide a description of any innovative service-delivery projects for OSY currently operating in the LWDA or a project the Board is planning to implement. Describe the Board's involvement in the projects, and the Board's efforts to continue involvement and funding for the continuation of these projects.

The board is engaged in several innovative projects for OSY that are outlined below. The resources used to operate the programs are included with the program descriptions. Due to the use of combined partner resources, the ability to continue the operation of these programs appears favorable. The Youth Standing Committee and Board are involved in over-sight of these projects and are kept informed of their outcomes. They also provide feedback regarding the projects and identify additional resources to allow for growth and continuous improvement.

Academic Support with use of Workforce Skills for 21st Century

With advice on all the most important workplace skills, Learning Express offers a variety of interactive tutorials to assist participants in learning how to be strong and reliable employees. Users are given a variety of instruction including basic skills, computer skills, Career/Education placement tests, NCRC remediation, Hiset preparation, as well as workplace skills. These tutorials may be accessed online from any device. This program offers strong assistance to those preparing for the NCLEX, HISET, CDL and many other exams crucial to employment. Individual user's progress, including hours of use and modules accessed are tracked through an admin portal.

Financial Literacy Training

Central Workforce Development Board, Inc., in collaboration with University Extension is offering "Taking Control of Your Finances" within the Job Centers on a monthly basis. University Extension provides the instructor and the materials for this interactive training that addresses bill paying, budgeting, credit, and goal setting. Funding for this valuable program is provided through University of Missouri Extension Family Financial Education Program.

Substance Abuse Treatment Services

Preferred Family Healthcare offers inpatient and outpatient treatment services for adolescents and young adults at a variety of locations in the State of Missouri. WIOA Youth participants have access to these services, as needed, through internal referrals and collaboration between PFH's Workforce Partnerships and Treatment Services divisions. These services are funded in a variety of ways such as Medicaid, MO Dept. of Mental Health Purchase of Service (POS) and private insurance/pay funding options.

Tackling the Tough Skills

Missouri Ozarks Community Action Agency provides a week long work readiness camp called "Tackling the Tough Skills". MOCA provides the instruction and materials, while CWDB offers space and personnel support, WIOA Youth attendees for the camp, and an attendance incentive funded through WIOA Youth for qualifying attendees.

Scholars @ Work

Scholars@Work provides an innovative approach in facilitating an increase in a youth's basic skills and embraces the mandate of WIOA to focus education and employment supports on "out-of-school" youth/young adults. Funded with WIOA Youth resources, this program blends those supports into one unique approach. Providing Scholars @ Work for youth/young adults whose education has been interrupted and who have an adult responsibility creates the opportunities for selected youth to complete their education while earning a paycheck. Too many of these youth face a nearly insurmountable barrier to success without this additional assistance. Earning a credential such as their HiSet while receiving an income can become the catalyst for propelling these young adults into a career pathway and self-sufficiency.