



Shared Youth Vision in Arkansas

Arkansas Youth Development Collaborative (AYDC)

A collaborative approach to prepare youth for success in a Global, Demand-Driven Economy

What is the Shared Youth Vision?

“The Nation’s neediest youth will acquire the talents, skills, and knowledge necessary to ensure their healthy transition to successful adult roles and responsibilities.”



Arkansas’s Commitment to Serving the Neediest Youth

In 2003, the White House Task Force Report on Disadvantaged Youth noted that despite billions of public and private dollars spent on services to youth, many of the neediest youth are still being left behind. The report cited a lack of communication, coordination, and collaboration among federal agencies that provide services to youth, especially our country’s neediest youth.

In response, Governor Mike Beebe has made providing services that are comprehensive and appropriate to this target population a priority. Arkansas has designated this population as our Youth of Promise.

- Children of incarcerated parents
- Court-involved youth
- Youth at risk of court involvement
- Homeless and runaway youth
- Indian and Native American Youth
- Migrant youth
- Out-of-school youth
- Youth most at risk of dropping out
- Youth in or aging out of foster care
- Youth with disabilities



A Collaborative Effort

Arkansas Youth Development Collaborative (AYDC) is the entity leading the effort to develop the Arkansas State Youth Vision program. The AYDC was formed out of the challenge given to the state following the first Federal Youth Vision Forum held in Phoenix, Arizona, in December 2004. The Collaborative was formed in April 2005 from a core group of interested state agency liaisons, community leaders, and local workforce area administrators and has continued with strong participation from state agencies, service providers and volunteers. The Collaborative has conducted regular quarterly meetings to advance the mission, vision, and strategies listed below.

AYDC Vision

All youth-serving entities freely share information and resources to create and sustain a comprehensive system that provides youth easy access to the services and support that will prepare them to be productive members of society.

AYDC Mission

All partners (public agencies, private entities, churches, community and faith-based organizations, and family members) actively seek input from employers and youth, and each jointly focuses their resources on meeting the needs identified.

AYDC Objectives

The Arkansas Youth Development Collaborative has undertaken the challenge of providing demand-driven workforce systems for youth. The programs and services made available through these systems will be aimed at preparing the most at-risk and neediest youth of Arkansas for real job opportunities. The strategies enlisted by the Collaborative include the following:

- To engage youth service providers, high growth industry employers, and local workforce investment boards in maintaining a strong, committed team approach.
- To ensure the appropriate integration of services for high performance outcomes.
- To establish multiple communication mediums that will ensure proper access to needed services by youth clients and their families.
- To advocate for better and improved systems that will be accountable for a high ratio of successes in the development of a workforce that meets the challenge of high demand/high growth industries.
- To focus on connecting youth with high quality secondary and postsecondary educational opportunities, high-growth and other employment opportunities.

A Coordinated Approach for State, Regional and Local Level Entities

The Shared Youth Vision calls upon all levels of the youth service system to work collaboratively in designing and coordinating programs focused on serving the Youth of Promise. State, regional and local areas all play a critical role in the outcomes of youth served through their programs. Youth serving systems and organizations can implement their Shared Youth Vision by working together to:

- Conduct an analysis to gather data on the neediest youth, identifying gaps in existing services and infrastructures;
- Target services to the neediest youth;
- Develop strategic plans and coordinate initiatives at all levels to better serve the neediest youth; and
- Build partnerships and engage state agencies, economic development agencies, business and industry associations, community-based and faith based organizations in the development and implementation of collaborative vision activities.

By implementing a Shared Youth Vision, all youth service organizations, youth and communities benefit through:

- Better use of resources;
- Better outcomes for programs; and
- Better futures for youth and the state's economy.

Shared Youth Vision: State Partnership Activities

- 2004 Regional DOL Youth Vision Forum (Phoenix, AZ)
- 2005-Present Ongoing Quarterly Meetings
- 2005 and 2006 Transition to Adulthood for Foster Care Youth Conference
- 2006 AYDC Youth Summit with Arkansas Coalition for Juvenile Justice
- 2006 Advanced Youth Vision Forum (Atlanta, GA)
- 2006 Solutions Desk Prototype Field Test
- 2006 Webpage Launch (www.aydc.arkansas.gov)
- 2007 Juvenile Detention Center Administrators and Teacher Conference
- 2007 Regional Dialogue Meeting (Dallas, TX)
- 2007 Shared Youth Vision Pilot Project Grant Recipient



Youth of Promise



PARTNERS

American Indian Center of Arkansas
Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute
Arkansas Department of Education
Special Education
Post Outcome Intervention (POISE)
Juvenile Education Initiative (JEDI)
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention
Division of Youth Services
Children & Family Services
Arkansas Department of Workforce Education
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services
Arkansas Rehabilitative Services
Arkansas Student Loan Authority
Arkansas Transitional Employment Board
Arkansas Workforce Investment Board
Central Arkansas Workforce Area
Crittenden County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Disability Rights Center
Eastern Arkansas Workforce Area
Eastern Arkansas Workforce Youth Council
Easter Seals of Arkansas
Huntsville Schools
Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention, Arkansas
Little Rock Job Corps
Little Rock Workforce Area
Metropolitan Career-Technical Center
Migrant Education Center at Hope
Northeast Arkansas Workforce Area
Northwest Arkansas Workforce Area

Northwest Arkansas Workforce Youth Council
Phoenix Youth & Family Services
Southeast Arkansas Workforce Area
Southwest Arkansas Workforce Area
The Heritage Company
West Central Arkansas Workforce Area
West Central Arkansas Youth Council
Western Arkansas Workforce Area



*AYDC is an initiative of the
Arkansas Workforce Investment Board.*

Resources

The following are Arkansas resources for the Shared Youth Vision:

- www.aydc.arkansas.gov
- State Solutions Desk
- eSources at www.ar.gov/dhhs/esources/index.php
- www.arworks.org

The federal resources for the Shared Youth Vision are available at www.doleta.gov/ryf.

