

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Purpose of Program

The Youth Employment Opportunity Program (YEOP) provides services to youth, ages 15 through 24, to assist them in achieving their educational and vocational goals. The program emphasizes education, assessment, and peer advising. The YEOP Specialists assist youth in attaining their goals through:

- **Peer advising** allows youth clients to interact with individuals having similar life experiences and perspectives as they identify their occupational interests and develop career goals.
- **Referrals to supportive services** is necessary to enable an individual to participate in the program and may include transportation, child care, housing assistance and clothing.
- **Job referrals and placement** services in employment that consider the interests and abilities of the youth clients while meeting the needs of the local labor market.
- **YEOP Workshops** that prepare students for the hiring process with résumé writing, interview preparation, and assistance in developing educational and occupational goals.
- **Referral to training** providers including Regional Occupational Programs, General Educational Development Test centers with the purpose of receiving the California High School Equivalency Certificate, and post-secondary education.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible youth include individuals, ages 15 through 24, who are at risk of not achieving their educational goals. This includes high school dropouts and potential dropouts.

Some high risk characteristics include:

- Youthful offender
- Poor literacy skills

- Teen parent
- Limited English skills
- Foster or homeless youth
- Gang member/associate
- Member of a minority group
- Economically disadvantaged

Mentors and YEOP Specialists

Two major components of the YEOP program are Mentors and Youth Employment Specialists.

Mentors

Career Employment Development Department (EDD) staffs advise and counsel YEOP Specialists while providing intensive on-the-job training in the basic functions of Workforce Services.

YEOP Specialists

Youth Aides and Student Assistants serve at-risk youth, ages 15 through 24, who are identified as having high risk characteristics.

The YEOP Specialists are trained to provide YEOP assessment, peer advising, YEOP workshops, job development, selection and referral to education, or suitable youth jobs.

For more information, please contact your local EDD Workforce Services site (listed under "Employment Development Department" in the State Government section of your telephone directory).

For additional information on other EDD programs and services, visit EDD's Internet site at www.edd.ca.gov.

EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.