

YOUTH AND FAMILY WORKSOURCE CENTERS: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ADDRESSING DAYTIME CURFEW VIOLATIONS

OVERVIEW

Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) § 45.04 currently makes it unlawful, with limited exceptions, for any youth under the age of 18 to be in a public place during hours of the day when the youth's school is in session. Given the fact that there has been significant work to amend the Municipal Code by the Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the Countywide Truancy Task Force, and concerned community-based non-profits, the Community Development Department (CDD), in collaboration with LAUSD, has developed an evidence-based alternative to increase student attendance and is in the process of soliciting qualified entities to manage eleven to twelve (11-12) Youth WorkSource Centers that will serve as an alternative to daytime curfew citations in Los Angeles.

The Youth WorkSource Centers were developed to primarily serve youth ages 16-21 but will service all youth with a focus on engaging out-of-school youth with school or work, improving student retention and bolstering academic proficiency. The Centers will also serve as a deterrent, intervention and alternative for all students dealing with citations for daytime curfew violations. The Centers will assist in reducing daytime curfew citations while at the same time guiding youth through an assessment and self-inventory process that helps them identify their interests, preferences, motivations and options and assesses the root causes of their attendance-related issues. From an informed stance, youth will be better prepared to map out a path toward higher education, vocations and careers. Given the intensive services to be provided, effective case management is a main priority.

The Youth WorkSource (formerly OneSource) System was last procured in 2004 through an RFP process that resulted in the establishment of eleven to twelve (11-12) Youth WorkCenters in the seven City planning areas. The System has been highly successful in providing services to youth and has become a nationally recognized leader in implementing youth programs. Anticipating the national trend toward focusing services on out-of-school youth, the System has gradually increased its enrollment goals for this population and is prepared to be an alternative for students who are at-risk of being pushed out of school or who have already left the school system, rather than the traditional criminal justice system approach.

The Youth WorkSource Centers compliment CDD's comprehensive FamilySource Program that was established in 2009 to provide an infrastructure for delivering coordinated, outcome-driven services to the most vulnerable city residents. In addition to the Youth WorkSource Centers, the FamilySource Program is comprised of 21 FamilySource Centers, five (5) of which are managed by City staff. The FamilySource Centers are located in identified high-need areas of the City and provide a continuum of core services designed to assist low-income families become self sufficient by increasing family income and youth academic achievement. All FamilySource Centers have universal access services available and case management services are available to low-income parents/guardians and their children ages 17 or under requiring more comprehensive services.

With a heightened focus on addressing the high school dropout crisis and implementing student recovery efforts, the overall WorkSource System will concentrate on providing services for out-of-school youth and secondly in-school youth who are most in need. The main purpose of the Youth WorkSource Centers is to address the reasons why a student is not attending school, make the appropriate referral to necessary services, and monitor the student's progress in the program. Both the Youth and Family WorkSource System will provide services provided by a consortium of providers, ideally with all consortium members co-located at the same program facility or facilities in close proximity.

Besides the services offered by the WorkSource System, six full-time LAUSD Pupil Services and Attendance (PSA) Counselors will be housed in six of the Youth WorkSource Centers. These PSA will provide services throughout the System for the 2012-13 academic year. Such services will include: case management and follow-up using research based strategies, linkages to school-sites, case management, assessments, referrals for assessments for special education and other services, attendance plans to be implemented at school-sites, and much more. The City hopes that LAUSD will match the City in funding four to six additional PSA Counselors in the future, thereby allowing each Youth WorkSource Center one full-time Counselor who can provide case management to those students most in need of services.

Ultimately, the partnership between the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Unified School District represents our shared commitment to providing services to out-of-school youth and will serve as a deterrent, intervention and alternative to citation for daytime curfew violations. Funding for the Youth WorkSource Centers comes from the Workforce Investment Act. Funding for the Family WorkSource Centers comes from the Federal Consolidated Plan. The City of Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board (WIB) provides policy and oversight while the City's Community Development Department will be responsible for regular monitoring and compliance.

FREE SERVICES PROVIDED

The Youth WorkSource Centers will provide the following services for youth enrolled in the program:

- Tutoring, study skills training
- Contextual basic skills
- Dropout prevention/dropout recovery strategies
- Leadership development opportunities, which may include community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social behaviors during non-school hours
- Adult mentoring for at least 12 months
- Paid and unpaid work experience, job shadowing
- Occupational training
- Assessment of occupational interests, aptitudes and skill levels
- Psychosocial Assessment, which will include assessment of obstacles/barriers/issues preventing youth from attending school regularly
- Comprehensive guidance and counseling, including substance abuse counseling
- Specific workshops or courses such as anger management, computer literacy instruction, workforce readiness, expungement
- Connection to and support for specific populations such as foster youth, youth involved with the criminal justice system, youth with disabilities, teen parents, homeless youth, and/or gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth.

FREE SERVICES PROVIDED

The Family WorkSource Centers will provide the following services for youth enrolled in the program:

- Multi-Benefit Screening*
- Information & Referral
- Financial Literacy
- Case Management
- Parenting Classes
- Child Car Safety Seat Workshops
- Disaster Preparedness Information
- Pre-employment / Employment Support
- Income Tax Preparation
- College Access Activities
- Computer Literacy
- Adult Education
- Legal Services
- Tutoring (Youth)
- Mentoring (Youth)
- Leadership Training (Youth)
- Recreational & Cultural Activities (Youth)