



## ***June Funding Tip***

The Finance Project is pleased to announce the next installment in a series of [monthly funding tips](#) for youth programs. These tips cover different financing strategies to help programs finance and sustain their work.

### **Tip: Maximizing Federal Dollars to Support Workforce Development Services for Youth**

Maximizing federal resources is one strategy to support workforce development services for youth. Funds for youth workforce development can be accessed through a variety of federal programs, depending on the types of services offered and the kinds of youth populations served.

Federal funds can help support three types of workforce development services for which youth program providers are likely to seek funding: 1) educational activities; 2) job skills training; and 3) work experience.

One key source of federal funding for youth based workforce development is the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The WIA, which was authorized in 1998, sought to improve the coordination among federally funded workforce development programs and create a more market-driven workforce system. WIA formula grants to states, the largest single source of federal funds for workforce development, support services for youth, adults, and dislocated workers. While WIA's legislative authorization expired in 2003 and reauthorization is still pending, Congress continues to appropriate funds for WIA programs. One such program is the WIA Youth Program, which is designed to support low-income youth between the ages of 14 and 21 who face barriers to employment.

In addition to the WIA, funds to support youth workforce development can be accessed through a number of other federal programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); Community Services Block Grant (CSBG); Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); Job Corp and Youthbuild programs; and the Chafee Education and Training Vouchers program. Some programs focus specifically on workforce development, while others support youth services more broadly. Program and initiative leaders will want to evaluate the potential of different federal programs to fund their activities.

#### **Example from the Field: Accessing WIA Youth and Adult Funds for Youth Services**

Southern New Hampshire Services, Inc.'s Youth Empowerment Program is an employment and training program for youth ages 18 to 21 living in the Manchester area. The program helps students prepare for the GED as well as build occupational skills. It also works on building life skills as a way of empowering youth to become more self sufficient. The program accesses youth and adult funds for skills training through participants' dual enrollment in the WIA Adult and Youth Programs. WIA Title I adult dollars fund individual training accounts to support occupational skills training as well as fund job placement support and other supportive services not covered by youth funds. WIA Title I youth dollars fund counseling, supportive services, and academic activities. For more information, see <http://snhshome.homestead.com/workforcedevelopment.html>.

For more information on this financing strategy and the various strategies for using federal dollars to support workforce development services for youth, see The Finance Project's publication, [Finding Resources to Support Workforce Development Services for Youth](#).

Within the [Youth Programs Resource Center](#) you will also find an [online clearinghouse](#), jointly developed by The Finance Project and The Forum for Youth Investment. The clearinghouse contains a wealth of information and resources for supporting and sustaining youth programs and initiatives. It is designed to help you learn about data, tools, policies, practices, financing strategies, coordination efforts and technical assistance resources developed by organizations in the field that aim to improve the lives of youth.