


TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
Informational Notice 02-06

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
Commission Executive Staff
Integrated Service Area Managers

From:  Luis M. Macias, Director, Workforce Development Division

Date: January 26, 2006

Subject: **Providing Comprehensive Employment and Training Services to Homeless and Runaway Youth, including Youth Displaced by Recent Hurricanes**

PURPOSE:

To inform Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) that on January 6, 2006, the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOL-ETA) issued Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 15-05, entitled “Providing Employment and Training Services to Homeless and Runaway Youth.”

BACKGROUND:

TEN 15-05 cites Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Act) (42 U.S.C., Chapter 119, Subchapter VI, Part B, Section 11334a), which generally describes homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” This includes:

- youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing;
- youth living in motels, camp grounds, cars, or emergency or transitional shelters; and
- abandoned youth or youth awaiting foster care placement.

Migratory youth are defined as homeless because they are living in circumstances that meet the above definitions.

Displaced and homeless families and youth in Texas, including those youth whose lives have been disrupted by the hurricanes and who fit the definition of “homeless” under the Act, qualify for services under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

TEN 15-05 provides strategies for serving the nation’s neediest youth. It emphasizes that—through the support offered by WIA-funded programs—youth, including hurricane-affected youth, can development the skills and competencies necessary to initiative and maintain self-sufficiency and decrease their personal risk of homelessness.

Useful Web site links:

- The Texas Education Agency maintains current information on the distribution of enrolled, school-aged children displaced by the hurricanes, as well as directives and funding opportunities for local education agencies (LEAs). <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/hcane>
- Texas Homeless Education Office (Charles A. Dana Center, University of Texas at Austin) provides free training to a wide variety of audiences on the educational rights of children and families experiencing homelessness. <http://www.utdanacenter.org/theo/index.html>
- LEA liaison information is maintained at: <http://www.utdanacenter.org/theo/directory.html>

TEN 15-05 also lists models or best practices for collaborative efforts to serve youth and provides additional resources that are useful for youth practitioners in the field.

TEN 15-05 is available on the DOL-ETA Web site at:
http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2176

Training and Employment Guidance Letter 3-04, issued July 16, 2004, and entitled “The Employment and Training Administration’s (ETA’s) New Strategic Vision for the Delivery of Youth Services Under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)” is available on the DOL-ETA Web site at:
http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=1589

INQUIRIES:

Direct inquiries to the assigned contract manager for your local workforce development area.