


**Youth Program Reporting:
Implications of the New
Youth
Vision and Program Design**




Long-Term Participation

Engagement and Retention Strategies

- **Youth-centered programs**
 - Focus on youth's strengths
 - Listen to youth – what they like and dislike

Program Design Implication #2: Network of Services

- **Since long-term participation is needed to achieve outcomes, more than ever, WIA youth must have access to a network of services, not a single program or provider.**
 - Strategic case management strategies will be needed to connect youth to multiple programs.
 - Develop short-term attainable goals for youth and youth programs to support long-term positive outcomes.
 - Have a point of contact for youth.
 - Customize services and outcomes.



Network of Services

Strategic Case Management

- Case management is key.
 - Create and maintain positive relationships with youth; have youth see case manager role as connector to a network of services; use team approach to helping youth.
 - Develop trust with youth.
 - Remember whom you are serving – they are not numbers.

Network of Services

Short-Term Outcomes

- **For Youth**


- ▶ Setting intermediate goals (outcomes) helps them see progress, which contributes to engagement and retention.

- Think SMART; Set goals WITH the youth; Make it VISUAL

- **For WIA Youth Programs:**

- ▶ WIA outcomes aren't appropriate to use as program outcomes for one-year contract; develop intermediate measures to monitor program success.

- Including participation rates, skill/goal attainment rates
 - Balance outcomes with outputs



Program Design Implication #3: Assessment

- **When done well, assessment sets the stage for all future services across programs; when done poorly, it can have a negative impact on individual youth success and youth program success.**

Program Design Implication #3: Assessment

- **Youth friendly assessments**
 - Shorter versions when possible (subtests), pleasant testing environments, don't send for a test right from the start
- **Tell youth why they are being tested and how test will be used – don't retest too soon.**
- **Consider other assessments – style, self-awareness, learning style – remove the high-stakes test pressure.**