

PARTNERSHIPS FOR OPENING DOORS

A summit on integrating employment and housing strategies to prevent and end homelessness

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

Updated 9/24/14

What is the location of the Partnerships Summit?

The Summit will take place at the US Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. Community set up begins at 8:00AM; registration commences at 8:30AM and the Summit begins promptly at 9:00AM.

Since we may expand our team to 5 members, who do you recommend we add?

When reviewing the current list of participants, we noted that there were three key constituencies either not represented or under-represented:

- Employers
- State Workforce agency staff
- People with direct experience of homelessness

If you are able to include a representative from one of these constituencies, it would help us round out the participation.

Ultimately, each community will determine which individuals will most effectively advance the ideas that are generated at the Summit.

What sub-population will be the focus of the Summit?

Discussions and recommendations will focus on the sub-populations of families (adult members) and single adults, including chronically homeless individuals.

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Promising practices for youth and Veterans will also be highlighted when identified by Summit community participants.

What are the hotel arrangements for the Summit?

Since the Summit will occur at the Department of Labor, there is not a specific hotel affiliated with the Summit. Participants will need to make their own lodging arrangements.

What definition of “homelessness” will be used at the Summit?

While Federal agencies use different definitions of “homelessness” for the purposes of their programs and funding, we do not intend to limit the scope of the conversation at the Summit to any one definition. Our goals are to learn together to identify promising program practices, emerging practices, and common misconceptions and act together to identify key activities that Federal agencies can undertake to increase meaningful and sustainable employment for all people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. We encourage participants to discuss how they have solved problems associated with varying definitions of “homelessness” and to learn from other communities’ challenges in defining the term.

Where can I learn more about WIOA?

Information on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) implementation, including links to guidance, technical assistance events and tools, and opportunities to provide stakeholder input will be posted on ETA’s WIOA Resource Page at www.doleta.gov/WIOA. The WIOA Resource Page will be updated with new tools

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and resources, including responses to frequently asked questions, as they become available.

Questions regarding WIOA implementation should be submitted to DOL.WIOA@dol.gov or directed to your ETA Regional Office. Additionally, official ETA guidance on WIOA will be posted on ETA's advisory Web site, <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives>.

How will the community receive the grant funds from Butler?

Butler Family Fund will send a grant form to the designated non-profit for each community upon submission of the final community profile (due October 30, 2014). Please note that Butler will provide one check and each team will decide how the funds will be allocated amongst the partners.

Can more than five people participate in the Summit from our community?

Due to space limitations, only five representatives may participate on the community team at the Summit. The community team may include other representatives in the preparation for the Summit as well as the post-Summit follow up steps.

Why are we required to have a representative of the local workforce system and the local Continuum of Care?

The Summit has a primary objective to identify opportunities for US DOL to assist local communities increase access to employment, training, and career pathways through improved use of DOL mainstream programs. The DOL funded partners in the local workforce system are best positioned to identify opportunities and

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challenges to use these resources. The HUD-funded Continuum of Care (CoC) is the key community infrastructure that coordinates the local homelessness response. HUD is encouraging CoC's to better access all mainstream programs and benefits, including US DOL.

Why is participation by the State Workforce Agency/State Workforce Investment Board encouraged?

The State Workforce Agency/Workforce Investment Board is the recipient of the US DOL formula grants, establishes the State Plan, and negotiates performance measures with US DOL. Local Workforce Investment Boards receive their funding from the State and not directly from US DOL. Since the State Workforce Agency/Workforce Investment Board plays an important policy-setting role, it would be very helpful to have one of the five team members be a representative of this Agency/Board.

What is the minimum number of team members that can participate from our community?

Although teams of up to five (5) are permitted, communities may elect to send fewer. Teams may not be less than two (2) members and must include a representative of the local workforce system and the Continuum of Care.

Why do we need to identify a nonprofit agency to accept the Butler Family Fund grant?

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Butler Family Fund cannot provide grants to organizations that are not 501(c)3 organizations. The nonprofit organization that is accepting the grant is not required to participate in the Summit.

What if our travel costs exceed the Butler Family Fund grant of \$2,000?

The team will need to identify other funds to supplement the costs. Unfortunately, no additional funding will be available.

What if our travel costs are less than the Butler Family Fund grant of \$2,000?

The nonprofit can invest the grant in other community activities that further the project goal of integrating employment and housing to prevent and end homelessness.