

2000

2000



2000

2000

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Community Planning and Development

Andrew Cuomo, Secretary

Cardell Cooper, Assistant Secretary

EZ/EC News Flash

Flash #29

March 30, 2000

Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities Awarded Department of Labor Youth Opportunity Grants

Twenty-one EZ/ECs won over \$152,000,000 in Youth Opportunity Grants 2000. Twenty-four urban sites (21 EZ/ECs included) were awarded these grants, emphasizing how qualified EZ/ECs are for additional federal funding across agency and department lines.

The Youth Opportunity Grants, authorized in the 1998 Workforce Investment Act (WIA), offer a chance to make a significant impact on concentrated poverty and unemployment in this country. As a complement to Job Corps, School-to-Work, and formula-funded youth programs, Youth Opportunity Grants provide the Department of Labor with a means to saturate targeted high-poverty urban and rural communities with sufficient resources to cause a significant drop in youth unemployment and idleness in these communities.

Effective strategies to help at-risk youth find employment must address personal, societal, academic and professional challenges. Job training alone is not enough: while young people need "hard" career-oriented skills, such as computer training, they also need "soft" skills, such as learning how to interview for a job. While various programs have succeeded in treating parts of the problem, the Youth Opportunity Movement will apply a "360° approach" by focusing on the whole person and engaging the whole community.

To find out further information about grants and other Department of Labor youth programs, call the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) at 202-219-6871 or visit the website: www.yomovement.org