MAYOR UPDATES RESIDENTS ON YOUTHWORKS INDY

STIMULUS FUNDING SUPPORTS SUMMER PROGRAM FOR MORE THAN 600 YOUTH

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, Mayor Greg Ballard joined representatives from the Indianapolis Private Industry Council (IPIC) and other partnering organizations to share an update on the YouthWorks Indy program. The program— which is managed by IPIC and provides paid positions, education, and job skills training to more than 600 Marion County residents ages 16 to 24— is supported by federal stimulus dollars designated to Indianapolis through the Workforce Investment Act.

"YouthWorks Indy has put money in the pockets of youth, employed educators during the summer, and offered some additional funding to schools serving as education sites for the program," said Mayor Ballard. “More importantly, this unique summer program is working to ensure our City’s long-term economic health by preparing our youth to enter the workforce through job readiness and educational means. Additionally, as cities work to identify more ways to stem the tide of high school dropouts, I believe programs like YouthWorks Indy can play an important role.”

YouthWorks Indy focuses on three areas: education, employment, and work readiness. Participants spend part of their time in the classroom and part of their time gaining work experience at local companies and organizations. Forty-eight employers have partnered with the Mayor’s Office and IPIC to provide work experience to participating youth.

“In keeping within U.S. Department of Labor guidelines, we worked hard to develop and implement a program quickly and to inject more than $3 million of stimulus funds into the community,” said Brooke Huntington, President and CEO of IPIC. “However, simply spending the funds quickly could not be the only benchmark of success. Therefore, when the program comes to a close next month, my team at IPIC will get to work measuring the results of the program.”

IPIC has developed metrics across a number of issue areas, including participants who: obtained needed credits; achieved various certifications such as work readiness, HIPAA or CPR; increased one grade level; achieved a GED; obtained an occupational credential; and, returned to education or entered employment. These results will be posted on IPIC’s website (www.ipic.org) as soon as the calculations are complete.
**Additional Information on YouthWorks Indy**

YouthWorks Indy provides a stipend of $50 per educational session (up to $250 per week) to cover transportation and meals and an hourly wage for work of $8.50 (up to $170/week).

YouthWorks Indy participants were chosen with priority of selection given to Veterans (past or present), Fall 2009 enrolling Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) participants, Youth Employment Services (YES) participants and current WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker or Youth participants.

YouthWorks Indy has been selected as one of four summer youth employment programs in the United States to be visited by Brandeis University for their study *Innovating Under Pressure: The Process and Challenge of Implementing the Summer Youth Jobs Stimulus in Four Featured Communities*. Researchers from the Center for Youth and Communities at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management are in Indianapolis this week conducting site visits and interviews with program partners and participants.

For more information on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and how monies are being spent by the city of Indianapolis, please visit [www.indygov.org/mayor](http://www.indygov.org/mayor).

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