

## Comparison of Urban Youth Opportunity Grants Performance: Summary Report

The United States Department of Labor (USDOL) established a number of performance benchmarks for the 36 Youth Opportunity (YO) programs. These benchmarks are:

1. **Program Participation**: a monthly goal for youth engagement in the program;
2. **Program Completions**: requiring 80% of youth to complete a developmental activity;
3. **Service Goal**: a numeric goal for the number of youth expected to achieve participation status in the program year;
4. **Long-Term Placements**: a monthly goal for placing youth in jobs, post secondary education, training and/or the military;
5. **Retention**: requiring 80% of youth placed to remain successful;
6. **Employment Activities**: a monthly goal for placing youth in developmental program activities.

In order to assess how the YO! Baltimore compared to other urban Youth Opportunity programs, we analyzed USDOL data on the above performance benchmarks for the program year ending June 30, 2004 and compared Baltimore's performance against similar Youth Opportunity programs in urban areas. The table below shows the 24 Urban YO sites that were a part of this review:

### Youth Opportunity Urban Sites

Baltimore	Birmingham	Boston
Brockton	Buffalo	Cleveland
Denver	Detroit	Hartford
Houston	Kansas City	Los Angeles
Louisville	Memphis and Shelby County	Milwaukee
Philadelphia	Pima County / Tucson	Portland
San Antonio	San Diego	San Francisco
Seattle	Tampa/Hillsborough County	Washington, D.C.

**YO Participation Rates:** First, a review of the Program Participation performance factor was completed. Baltimore did well relative to the program participation measure, making the DOL assigned goal of 55% for the six-month period reviewed. When compared to the other YOs, Baltimore was ranked at 10<sup>th</sup> of the 24 urban YO programs.

**YO Program Completions:** In terms of program completions, again Baltimore exceeded its USDOL established goal of 80% and was in the top ten of urban YOs. With a completions rate of 82%, Baltimore ranked 6<sup>th</sup> of the 24 programs..

**YO Program Service Goal:** The next performance area reviewed was the "Service Goal." Baltimore exceeded its annual goal of 2,200 set by USDOL. It achieved a level of 2,681 for the year, outperforming the goal by 21%. In terms of overall program rankings, Baltimore ranked 9<sup>th</sup> of the 24 programs relative to this performance factor.

**YO Long-Term Placements:** Again Baltimore exceeded its benchmark by achieving 1,428 for the entire program period. In terms of total numbers of placements, Baltimore was ranked as 8<sup>th</sup> of the 24 sites reviewed. In order to make an equitable comparison of the programs based on the number of youth enrolled in each program we compared the total placements to the total enrollments to calculate placements as a percent of total enrollments, using this methodology Baltimore ranked number 16 of the 24 programs.

**YO Retention:** The next USDOL performance area is Retention in Long-Term Placements. Baltimore's 73% retention average was in the top group of YO program performers coming in at number 10 of the 24 programs.

**YO Employment Activities:** The last USDOL performance area reviewed was Employment Activities. This factor is measured monthly and with an 85.67 monthly average for the time period reviewed, Baltimore exceeded its USDOL goal of 50. When compared to the other Urban YOs, Baltimore was in the top ten of YO program performers, coming in 9th of the 24 programs.

**Conclusion:** Clearly, YO! Baltimore was among the top performers of all the urban Youth Opportunity program when considering the USDOL performance criteria. Baltimore was in the top 10 of every measure except for one. By combining all of the rankings and averaging them into a composite ranking, an overall ranking was constructed. When this was completed Baltimore placed 9th of the 24 programs. Readers who wish additional information or the specific performance data can obtain a copy of the full report.