

# Fact Sheet

## Youth Employment Opportunity Program

The Youth Employment Opportunity Program (YEOP) helps California's youth, ages 15 through 25, achieve their educational and vocational goals through a variety of specialized services in education, assessment, and peer advising. Our services include:

- **Peer advising** that allows our youth to interact and share their life experiences and perspectives with one another to help each other identify occupational interests and develop career goals.
- **Referrals to supportive services** to help our youth participate in our program through services that may assist in transportation, child care, housing assistance, and clothing.
- **Job referrals and placement services** to consider the interests and abilities of our youth while meeting the needs of the local labor market.
- **YEOP Workshops** to help students prepare for the hiring process by offering assistance in résumé writing, interview preparation, and guidance in developing their educational and occupational goals.
- **Referral to training centers** to help our youth achieve the California High School Equivalency Certificate and post-secondary education through Regional Occupational Programs and General Educational Development Test centers.

### How is the program structured?

The YEOP is structured around two major roles: mentors and youth employment specialists.

#### Mentors

Our mentors are career Employment Development Department (EDD) staff who advise and counsel our YEOP specialists while providing intensive on-the-job training.

#### YEOP Specialists

Our YEOP Specialists are youth aides and student assistants, ages 15 through 25, who are identified as having high risk characteristics. The YEOP specialists are trained to provide YEOP assessments, peer advising, YEOP workshops, job development, selection, and referral to education or suitable youth jobs.

### Am I eligible?

You may be eligible if you are 15 to 25 years of age and believe you may not achieve your educational goals.

Some eligibility characteristics include:

- Youthful offenders.
- Poor literacy skills.
- Teen parents.
- Limited English skills.
- Foster or homeless youth.
- Gang member/associate.
- Member of a minority group.
- Economically disadvantaged.
- Youth with a disability.

### For More Information

Please contact your local EDD Workforce Services site or visit the EDD at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov).

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The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Requests for services, aids, and/or alternate formats need to be made by calling 1-866-490-8879 (voice). TTY users, please call the California Relay Service at 711.