

Summer Youth 2009



ARRA's Greatest Hit?

*Larry Good, Chairman
Corporation for a Skilled Workforce*



CSW

Corporation for a
Skilled Workforce

Good Jobs. Thriving Communities.

Why Was Summer Youth in the Recovery Act?



- ❖ Guaranteed path to fast employment results
- ❖ Severe lack of jobs for young people
- ❖ ARRA: opportunity to demonstrate value of summer jobs programs



CSW
Corporation for a
Skilled Workforce

Good Jobs. Thriving Communities.

What Actually Happened?



- ❖ 300,000 young people getting jobs -- phenomenal accomplishment
- ❖ Insane start up timing – 60 days to go from zero to operational
- ❖ Some well-publicized bumps – eligibility determination, payment processes
- ❖ Older youth eligibility proved popular
- ❖ High energy on this among lots of WIBs
- ❖ Looks like 70% spent – matches urging from DC to spend in 2009, but leaves much less for 2010



CSW

Corporation for a
Skilled Workforce

Good Jobs. Thriving Communities.

Impressive Results



- ❖ 300,000 young people got jobs -- phenomenal accomplishment
- ❖ 70% of funds spent nationally
 - ❖ Matches urging from DC to spend in 2009
 - ❖ Leaves much less for 2010



CSW
Corporation for a
Skilled Workforce

Good Jobs. Thriving Communities.

Huge Managerial Challenge



- ❖ Insane start up timing – 60 days to go from zero to operational
- ❖ WIBs faced staffing challenges:
 - ❖ Some had just laid off staff due to budget cuts
 - ❖ Big gaps in “how to do summer youth” institutional knowledge -- decade after end of JTPA program
- ❖ Some well-publicized bumps – eligibility determination, payment processes



CSW

Corporation for a
Skilled Workforce

Good Jobs. Thriving Communities.

Staff Passion, Creativity



- ❖ Lots of anecdotes of innovative design
 - ❖ Peer learning opportunities
 - ❖ Candidate pre-screen for level of work readiness and match with employers

- ❖ Raising age limit to 24 was important
 - ❖ Helping at-risk young adults break into employment

- ❖ Many designed learning to go with the work
 - ❖ Philadelphia: academic projects for all
 - ❖ Columbus, Ohio: IT program – skills, pathways



CSW

Corporation for a
Skilled Workforce

Good Jobs. Thriving Communities.

Media Coverage Mixed



- ❖ Early major media “bad news” stories
 - ❖ Mostly focused on management problems
 - ❖ GAO: hard to know the results

- ❖ NAWB, WIBs focusing on telling positive story
 - ❖ Reports, videos across country
 - ❖ Emphasis: numbers and impact stories

Opportunities Ahead



- ❖ ARRA summer youth emphasis likely to be seen overall as big success
- ❖ While remaining youth ARRA funds scarce, 2009 effort created opportunity to return summer youth to federal funding priorities
- ❖ Connect summer youth as part of reaching President's vision of 1 year post secondary for everyone



CSW

Corporation for a
Skilled Workforce

Good Jobs. Thriving Communities.