



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Youth Committee Agenda



Date: April 29, 2026

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: 1600 E. Belle Terrace Bakersfield, CA 93307

Second Floor, Large Conference Room



Kern, Inyo & Mono
Workforce Development Board
Youth Committee Agenda

Date: April 29, 2026

Time: 2:00

Location: 1600 E. Belle Terrace, 2nd Floor

Dial In: (831) 296-3421

Access ID: 272 913 94#

Committee Members:

Norma Rojas-Mora, **Chair**
Dale Countryman
Alyssa Cervantes

Jovon Dangerfield
Brandon Evans
Brian Holt

Olivia Kent
Priscilla Sanchez
Priscilla Varela

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I. Introduction

II. Public Comments

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Committee on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Committee members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for information or request staff to report back to the Committee at a later meeting. Also, the Committee may take action to direct the staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES.]**

III. New Business

- 1-2 A. Approval of the January 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes – **Action Item**
- 3-9 B. Preliminary Allocation and Funding Recommendations for Youth Programs Funded Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for Program Year 2026-27 – **Action Item**

IV. Departmental Updates – Discussion Items

- 10-11 A. Youth Agency Quarterly Update
- B. EPIC Youth Participant Life Cycle Presentation

V. Miscellaneous Filings Receive and File – Action Item

- 12-13 A. Youth Committee Attendance Report
- 14 B. Kern, Inyo and Mono Workforce Development Board and Committees' Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2026

VI. Adjournment

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**KERN, INYO AND MONO
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
YOUTH COMMITTEE
DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS
JANUARY 20, 2026**

Members Present: Alyssa Cervantes, Brandon Evans, Brian Holt, Dale Countryman, Jovon Dangerfield, Olivia Kent, Priscilla Sanchez, and Priscilla Varela.

Members Absent: Greg Terry, and Norma Rojas-Mora.

Staff Present: Rosalia Adame, Marsha Manos, Scott Couture, Candy Gettman, Jeremy Shumaker, Linda Lara, Diana Hernandez, and Simone Bellanger.

Guests Present: Esbeydy Ruvalcaba, Joshua Rudnick and Joe Cantu,

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

*Unexcused Absence

Introduction

Staff and guests introduced themselves.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of the November 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Olivia Kent moved to approve November 12, 2025, meeting minutes with corrections. Dale Countryman seconded the motion. Brian Holt abstained All ayes. The motion carried.

Committee Member Reports

Olivia Kent provided the committee with a report on the Bakerfield Youth Jobs Program.

Departmental Updates – Discussion Items

- **Statement of Economic Interests and Code of Conduct:** Members were reminded that their form 700 filing and Code of Conduct are due by April 1, 2026.

- **Youth Agency Quarterly Report:** As of December 31, 2025, youth agencies submitted actual expenditures equal to 27% of the total allocated to youth providers in Program Year 2025-2026. In-School Youth providers expended 33% of their allotted funds and enrolled 55% of their participants into work experience. Out-of-School Youth providers expended 24% of their allotted funds and enrolled 28% of their participants in work experience.

- **EPIC Center Update:** Rosalia Adame provided a report to the members on the EPIC center and potential new partnerships.

Miscellaneous Filings Receive and File – Action Item

There was a motion to receive and file the following documents:

- Youth Committee Attendance Report
- Kern, Inyo and Mono Workforce Development Board and Committees' Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2025

Olivia Kent seconded the motion. All ayes. The motion carried.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.



April 29, 2026

Youth Committee
Kern, Inyo and Mono
Workforce Development Board
1600 E. Belle Terrace
Bakersfield, CA 93307

PRELIMINARY ALLOCATION AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS FUNDED UNDER THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2026-27

Dear Committee Member:

At its meeting on December 17, 2025, the Workforce Development Board (WDB), approved a Request for Refunding (RFR) process for In- and Out-of-School Youth (ISY and OSY) programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for Program Year (PY) 2026-27.

While ETR has not yet been notified of youth funding amount for PY 2026-27, we are proceeding with funding recommendations. The funding for the current PY is \$6,568,883 and we anticipate funding for PY 2026-27 to be similar. The final funding recommendations may be adjusted prior to the contracts being executed depending on the actual funding ETR receives.

Funding opportunities were divided into two categories under the PY 2026-27 RFR:

1. Comprehensive ISY programs to serve youth in Community, Continuation, or Court Schools (RFR open to the currently contracted providers only).
2. Comprehensive OSY programs providing a full array of services directly or via referral (RFR open to the currently contracted providers only).

Applicants were asked basic questions about their history of success serving the population, any current challenges, proposed program changes, and budget/cost justification. All agencies were advised to request funding at the same level or lower than the current year.

As per ETR's procurement policy, RFR applications were reviewed by a committee of ETR staff members. The committee of six ETR staff members reviewed the RFR applications in terms of the following:

- Necessity and reasonableness of costs/proposed budget;
- Demonstrated success in the provision of services, participant outcomes, and goals;
- Continued need for the for the program or service;
- Significant monitoring findings or other issues reported by ETR staff; and
- Proposed changes to current program and/or budget.

As part of the review process, agencies are required to provide a complete copy of their most recent audit or financial statements. ETR fiscal staff reviewed the audit or financial statements for findings and/or major issues and make recommendations regarding the financial risk of the agency. All agencies passed the financial statement review.

The recommendations were presented to ETR senior management for final review and approval. ETR recommends the following:

ISY Program

Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) - \$293,306 for 65 participants

Kern High School District (KHSD) - \$300,000 for 80 participants

OSY Program

Farmworkers Institute of Education and Leadership Development (FIELD) - \$200,445 for 20 participants

Kern High School District (KHSD) - \$344,540 for 50 participants

Proteus, Inc. - \$229,425 for 42 participants

West Kern Adult Education Network JPA (WKAEN) - \$370,582 for 52 participants

The total recommended for ISY program funding is \$593,306, the total recommended for OSY program funding is \$1,144,992, and the total for all youth programs is \$1,738,298.

Notification to Agencies

RFR applicants were provided a copy of this letter and informed of your Committee and Board's meeting dates. Agencies were also provided information on the appeal process.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Committee recommend that the Workforce Development Board authorize WIOA funding for Program Year 2026-27 in the amount of \$1,738,298 to the following: 1) Kern County Superintendent of Schools to provide comprehensive services to 65 ISY participants in the amount not to exceed \$293,306; 2) Kern High School District to provide comprehensive services to 80 ISY in the amount not to exceed \$300,000; 3) Farmworkers Institute of Education and Leadership Development

(FIELD) to provide comprehensive services to 20 OSY in the amount not to exceed \$200,445; 4) Kern High School District to provide comprehensive services to 50 OSY in the amount not to exceed \$344,540; 5) Proteus, Inc. to provide comprehensive services to 42 OSY in the amount not to exceed \$229,425; and 6) West Kern Adult Education Network JPA to provide comprehensive services to 52 OSY in the amount not to exceed \$370,582; with awards subject to negotiations, funds available, and approval of the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,



Brandon J. Evans
Chief Workforce Development Officer

BJE:dh

Attachments:

- A) Funding Recommendations –Youth for Program Year 2026-27
- B) Description of Proposed Programs

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS
 WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT - YOUTH PROGRAMS
 JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027

AGENCY/ACTIVITY	Criteria Met	Funding Stream	Youth Funding Rec'd PY 2025-26	PY 2025-26 Planned Participants	PY 2026-27 REQUESTED	Net Change In 2025-26 Request	Proposed # Participants	Proposed Cost per Participant	PY 2026-27 RECOMMENDED Funding	% of Requested Funding	RECOMMENDED # Participants	RECOMMENDED Cost Per Participant
Request for Funding - In-School Youth Programs												
Kern County Superintendent of Schools	Yes	In-School Youth	\$288,102	65	\$293,306	\$5,204	65	\$4,512	\$293,306	100%	65	\$4,512
Kern High School District	Yes	In-School Youth	\$300,000	80	\$300,000	\$0	80	\$3,750	\$300,000	100%	80	\$3,750
Total In-School			\$588,102	145	\$593,306	\$5,204	145	\$4,092	\$593,306	100%	145	\$4,092
Request for Funding - Out of-School Youth Programs												
FIELD												
	Criteria Met											
	Yes	Out-of-School Youth	\$200,445	20	\$200,445	\$0	20	\$10,022	\$200,445	100%	20	\$10,022
Kern High School District	Yes	Out-of-School Youth	\$344,540	50	\$344,540	\$0	50	\$6,891	\$344,540	100%	50	\$6,891
Proteus, Inc.	Yes	Out-of-School Youth	\$229,425	42	\$229,425	\$0	42	\$5,463	\$229,425	100%	42	\$5,463
West Kern Adult Education Network JPA												
	Criteria Met											
	Yes	Out-of-School Youth	\$370,582	52	\$370,582	\$0	52	\$7,127	\$370,582	100%	52	\$7,127
Total Out-of-School			\$1,144,992	164	\$1,144,992	\$0	164	\$6,982	\$1,144,992	100%	164	\$6,982
Total Youth			\$1,733,094	309	\$1,738,298	\$5,204	309	\$5,626	\$1,738,298	100%	309	\$5,626

Out-of-School % 66%
 In-School % 34%

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) YOUTH PROGRAMS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2026-2027

Comprehensive In-School Youth (ISY) Programs

1. Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Funding Request: \$293,306

Proposed Number to Serve: 65

Areas served: Court and Community Schools in Bakersfield and throughout Kern County

Jobs Plus!: The primary goal of the program is to prepare high-risk youth who have been expelled from home schools, parenting youth, foster youth, homeless youth, or incarcerated youth with 21st Century Employment Readiness Skills. To reach this goal the program focuses on the following: attainment of basic work-readiness skills, job shadowing to learn more about career options, training programs for specific industry skills (e.g. medical or construction), development of a job portfolio (i.e. resume, additional training certificates), graduation from high school, enrollment in college/trade school or enter an entry level job and successfully embarking on a career or academic path for the future.

Recommended at full amount of request.

2. Kern High School District- Quest 4 Success

Funding Request: \$300,000

Proposed Number to Serve: 80

Areas served: Arvin, Bakersfield (multiple locations), Lamont, and Shafter.

Quest 4 Success: This program offers eligible participants attending one of the Kern High School District's continuation schools an opportunity to receive enhanced employability and life skills education followed by subsidized work experience. Participants attend an after-school class providing instruction in employability and life skills for which they earn up to 11 credits per semester. Participants who successfully complete the course are placed in a local worksite to receive subsidized work experience. Upon completion of Quest 4 Success, participants who are not college-bound are provided information and priority access to the Kern High School District's Out-of-School Youth program.

Recommended at full amount of request.

Comprehensive Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Programs

1. Farmworkers Institute of Education and Leadership Development

Funding Request: \$200,445

Proposed Number to Serve: 20

Areas served: Arvin, Bakersfield, California City, Delano, Lamont, McFarland, Tehachapi, and Wasco

WIOA Out-of-School Youth: This program is designed to provide educational services, workforce training services, paid employment, case management, financial literacy, and other activities to young adults. Some of the educational services include the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and an opportunity to enter a Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway. These CTE pathways offer participants the chance to earn certificates of completion, industry recognized certifications, and/or college credit. FIELD also provides the participants with paid work-experience opportunities in either recycling, natural resources, or firefighting. Program components also include 21st Century Work Skills and job readiness.

Recommended at full amount of request.

2. Kern High School District- KernWorks!

Funding Request: \$344,540

Proposed Number to Serve: 50

Areas served: Greater Bakersfield, Lamont, Arvin, Shafter, and Kern River Valley

KernWorks!: This program is designed to provide high school graduates and non-graduates with the skills they need to become self-sufficient. Most of these youth are not college-bound, so vocational education is coupled with paid work experience to create a pathway into the workforce. Vocational training programs are developed based on current labor market needs and the interests of the youth with current options including medical front office, auto tech, business services, customer service-retail, and warehousing/logistics. Youth attend vocational training followed by paid work experience after which they attend Job Search "Boot Camp" in preparation for unsubsidized employment, or, alternately, enrollment in post-secondary education or advanced training.

Recommended at full amount of request.

3. Proteus, Inc.

Funding Request: \$229,425

Proposed Number to Serve: 42

Areas served: North Kern County- Delano, McFarland, Wasco, Shafter, and surrounding areas

WIOA Out-of-School Youth: This program provides services to the north side of Kern County to meet the needs of communities in outlying areas. The program provides opportunities for youth to acquire the educational and skill competencies necessary for successful transition into careers, future education, and training. Participants are offered the opportunity to gain paid-work experience (PWEX) for a total of 160 hours/8 weeks in various career pathways. Participants also have the opportunity to job-shadow for hands-on experience. In addition to PWEX and job-shadowing opportunities, youth are provided access to career counseling, job search assistance, and supportive services. Proteus uses a two-pronged approach engaging youth with immediate employer-driven, work-based learning components and on-going counseling emphasizing the benefits of continuing education.

Recommended at full amount of request.

4. West Kern Adult Education Network Joint Powers Authority

Funding Request: \$370,582

Proposed Number to Serve: 52

Areas served: West Kern County- Taft, Maricopa, Fellows, Elk Hills, McKittrick, Tupman, Derby Acres, Dustin Acres, and Valley Acres

West Kern Youth at Work: This program provides services to the west side of Kern County where the communities have a high poverty level. The program serves at-risk youth by building upon the capacity of the local areas to expand employment opportunities through work-based learning, work experiences, and educational options. Youth are provided access to soft skills training, job search assistance, CTE pathways, a youth counselor, and GED preparation. West Kern Youth at Work supports a system strategy that leads to community involvement.

Recommended at full amount of request.



April 29, 2026

Youth Committee
Kern, Inyo and Mono
Workforce Development Board
1600 E. Belle Terrace
Bakersfield, CA 93307

YOUTH AGENCY QUARTERLY UPDATE

Dear Committee Member:

Through March 31, 2026 (75% of the fiscal year), youth agencies submitted actual expenditures equal to 56% of the total allocated to youth providers in Program Year 2025-2026.

The Third Quarter Progress Report, which is attached, contains information about all of the youth providers and elements of their respective programs through the end of March. In-School Youth providers expended 54% of their allotted funds and enrolled 38% of their participants into work experience. Out-of-School Youth providers expended 57% of their allotted funds and enrolled 30% of their participants into work experience.

Staff continues to work closely with our youth providers to assist them with the implementation of their respective programs as well as providing technical assistance to ensure the goals are met.

Sincerely,


Brandon J. Evans
Chief Workforce Development Officer

BJE: dh

THIRD QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT

YOUTH PROVIDERS PROGRAM YEAR 2025-26

	BUDGET	PY25-26 EXPENDITURES
IN SCHOOL YOUTH PROVIDERS		
Kern County Superintendent of Schools	\$ 288,102	\$ 178,115
Kern High School District *	\$ 300,000	\$ 138,838
TOTALS	\$ 588,102	\$ 316,953
OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH PROVIDERS		
FIELD	\$ 200,445	\$ 112,763
Kern High School District *	\$ 344,540	\$ 179,356
Proteus	\$ 229,425	\$ 68,158
West Kern Adult Education Network	\$ 370,582	\$ 290,902
TOTALS	\$ 1,144,992	\$ 651,180
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 1,733,094	\$ 968,133

ENROLLMENT GOAL	TOTAL ENROLLMENTS	PWEX	TRAINING	GED or HIGH SCHOOL	POST SECONDARY
52	42	13	0	0	0
70	64	27	0	0	0
122	106	40	0	0	0
18	29	10	0	0	0
43	47	28	17	0	0
35	22	2	0	0	3
47	46	3	7	11	5
143	144	43	24	11	8
265	250	83	24	11	8

*Does not include March expenses

Kern, Inyo & Mono Workforce Development Board Youth Committee Attendance 2026					
P = Present		U=Unexcused	X=Cancelled		
A = Excused Absence					
Member		1/20/26	4/29/26	8/19/26	11/12/26
First	Last	YC	YC	YC	YC
Alyssa	Cervantes	P			
Brandon	Evans	P			
Brian	Holt	P			
Dale	Countryman*	P			
Greg	Terry*	A			
Jovon	Dangerfield	P			
Norma	Rojas-Mora	A			
Olivia	Kent	P			
Priscilla	Sanchez	P			
Priscilla	Varela	P			
*Non-WDB					

Kern, Inyo & Mono Workforce Development Board Youth Committee Attendance 2025					
P = Present	U=Unexcused	X=Cancelled			
A = Excused Absence		1/24/25	5/7/25	8/20/25	11/12/25
Member					
First	Last	YC	YC	YC	YC
Alyssa	Cervantes				A
Brandon	Evans	X	P	A	P
Brian	Holt	X	P	P	A
Dale	Countryman*	X	P	P	P
David	Villarino*	X	U	REMOVED	
Greg	Terry*	X	U	A	A
Jovon	Dangerfield				A
Karine	Kanikkeberg*	X	RESIGNED		
Leticia	Perez	X	U	RESIGNED	
Norma	Rojas-Mora	X	P	A	P
Olivia	Kent				P
Priscilla	Sanchez		Appt 5/28	P	P
Priscilla	Varela	X	A	P	P
Rosa	Chipres *	X	U	REMOVED	
Todd	Yepez	X	A	A	RESIGNED
*Non-WDB					

**KERN, INYO AND MONO
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND
COMMITTEES' MEETING SCHEDULE
CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

Program and Business Services Committee

**Employers' Training Resource 1600 E. Belle Terrace
2nd Floor Conference Room**

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 8 a.m.
Thursday, April 23, 2026, 8 a.m.
Thursday, August 13, 2026, 8 a.m.
Thursday, November 5, 2026, 8 a.m.

Youth Committee

**Employers' Training Resource 1600 E. Belle Terrace
2nd Floor Conference Room**

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, **2 p.m.**
Wednesday, April 29, 2026, **2 p.m.**
Wednesday, August 19, 2026, **2 p.m.**
Thursday, November 12, 2026, **2 p.m.** (Due to Veterans Holiday)

Executive Committee

Recruitment Center – 1215 Olive Drive

Thursday, February 5, 2026, **8 a.m.**
***Thursday, May 14, 2026, 8 a.m. SPECIAL SESSION**
1600 E. Belle Terrace
2nd Floor large conference room
Thursday, September 10, 2026, **8 a.m.**
Thursday, December 3, 2026, **8 a.m.**

Workforce Development Board

Recruitment Center – 1215 Olive Drive

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 7 a.m.
Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 7 a.m.
Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 7 a.m.
Wednesday, December 16, 2026, 7 a.m.

*The location for this meeting has been changed.
2-26-2026 mvm