



# New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission

Dennis M. Bone, *Chairman*

Philip D. Murphy, *Governor*

## **POLICY RESOLUTION: SETC #2022-01**

**Subject:** Shared Youth Vision Council – Youth Voice Framework

### **Purpose**

The New Jersey Shared Youth Vision Council has determined a need for a consistent discussion of an authentic youth voice throughout New Jersey’s workforce development areas. To allow for that consistency and inclusion, a “Youth Voice Framework” is being requested of local workforce development entities with associated technical assistance made available.

### **Background**

The State Employment Training Commission (SETC) serves as an entity that provides policy guidance and strategic leadership on state and federal regulations, coordinates various aspects of the workforce board, and ultimately serves the public to ensure that resources are maximized and equitable for all. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides resources to support services to three specific populations; Adults, Dislocated Workers and Youth.

As the State Workforce Board, the State Employment and Training Commission utilizes a committee structure to fulfill its responsibilities under WIOA. Specifically, the SETC’s Shared Youth Vision Council (SYVC) represents the coordinated workforce partnership. The council considers the needs of youth and the organizations providing related services to the population. As WIOA allows the State Workforce Board to develop *other policies that may promote statewide objectives for and enhance the performance of the workforce development system in the State*, the following request is brought to the SETC.

In reviewing information shared by federal, state and local youth leaders as well as considering how the current pandemic has impacted the development, delivery and provision of services for this population, it was noted that there may be multiple interpretations of Youth Voice, its role, and how it may be utilized to serve, enhance and engage the young people. Given the volunteer nature of the Youth Councils, and also understanding that level of undertaking may differ by project and by local workforce development area, a youth voice framework is suggested to create a consistency of understanding. Following four meetings with federal, state and local speakers, research, discussions, with the SYVC guidance/input, the SYVC initiated efforts and reached an agreement that the Youth Voice Framework is a needed area of inclusion. The purpose of the policy resolution is to initiate consideration of efforts to raise awareness, importance, and value of the youth population in the state of New Jersey. It requests that local workforce development areas develop a more formalized method to include the input of the young people to be served, in the design, development, implementation and delivery of services targeted to their participation. This construct should be developed in consideration of the diversity, inclusivity and equity needs of the respective workforce development area and the population which it serves.

To ensure that this accumulated effort and related information benefits young people at a state level and that it may be shared and used as an effective tool in shaping programs and services for young people, it is also strongly recommended the SYVC construct a mechanism where the input from the local frameworks are made available on a larger scale and that it works with and recognizes these local efforts.

**RESOLUTION:**

**The New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission strongly urges the local workforce development areas to develop, effectuate, and include a Youth Voice framework that utilizes the direct input of the target population to be served and that their input be used in the design, development, implementation and delivery of youth services.**

**Commission Approved: April 6, 2022**