



## Riverside County Economic Development Agency

**Project Name:** *The Linking Innovation Knowledge & Employment (@LIKE) project*

### Mission:

The @LIKE project seeks to reconnect disconnected young adults to education and/or stable employment. It incorporates key strategies known to have a positive impact with disconnected young adults (e.g., aligned assessments, life coaches, school credit recovery and navigation of education/workforce options, development of work readiness competencies, work-based experiences and connection to youth-oriented social media), and focuses on program alignment among multiple stakeholders to serve disconnected young adults with the greatest barriers.

### Initiative Goals:

- The participant goal is that the array of services and delivery strategies moves disconnected young adults to positive education and/or employment outcomes
- The partnership goal is that the Consortium builds a system where Riverside, San Bernardino and Imperial Counties effectively collaborate to serve disconnected young adults
- The program goal is that the Consortium creates a replicable service model at the program level that others can learn from and adapt

### Approach:

The Riverside County Economic Development Agency (EDA) – Workforce Development Division is the lead agency for the @LIKE project, collaborating with the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board and the Imperial County Workforce Development Board to serve disconnected young adults, age 18 to 24, who are not in school, working, or serving in the military or connected to other program services. The @LIKE project proposes to create an innovative education model that includes high school credit recovery, attaining academic and industry-recognized certificates, and ongoing transitional support to young adults as they navigate education and workforce options with the help of a Life Coach. The Consortium will partner with education institutions, private sector business, regional workforce investment boards and community based-organizations in order to provide a core set of interventions to participants that will re-connect them to education and/or stable employment.

@LIKE’s interventions include psychosocial and academic assessments; Life Coaches to help the young adult make decisions, solve problems and achieve goals; work readiness training resulting in the attainment of ACT’s Work Readiness Certificate; and community-based learning

### Lead Agency Location:

Riverside County, California

### Grant Award Amount:

\$6,000,000

### Areas Served:

Riverside, San Bernardino and Imperial Counties in Southern California

### Innovation Focus Area:

Disconnected Young Adults Integrating Services at the Regional Level Systems/Policy Alignment

### Target Population Served:

Disconnected young adults who are out of school and work and who may be gang-involved, ex-offenders, on aid, low-income or a recently separated veteran

### Target Industries Engaged:

Healthcare, Renewable Energy, Construction and Construction Technology, Transportation, Logistics, Manufacturing

### Partners:

Riverside County Economic Development Agency - Workforce Development Division; San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board; and Imperial County Workforce

# WIF Grantee Summary



experiences including internships, paid/unpaid work experience, and job shadowing. The wrap around service strategy focuses not only on employability skills and academic skills development, but also on gaining internal capacities and resiliency. The @LIKE program will also offer innovative approaches to career exploration through on-line tools. Roadtrip Nation will provide participants with an opportunity to explore career options, discover their interests, set goals, and map out a plan. This curriculum culminates with building a local “Roadtrip Project” where the young adults interview community leaders who align with their interests. My IE Youth Portal allows participants to explore and access career options, internships, employment opportunities, post-secondary education options, and to network.

## Stay Connected:

If you are interested in learning more about this grant and following its progress then visit <https://innovation.workforce3one.org/>.

Development Board

## Evaluation Type:

Quasi-Experimental Design

## People Served:

Six hundred seventy-five  
18-24 year-olds

## Contact:

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## Web Link to Full Proposal:

<http://webapps.dol.gov/DOLGrantData/KeywordSearch.aspx?parameter=SGA-DFA-PY-11-05B>