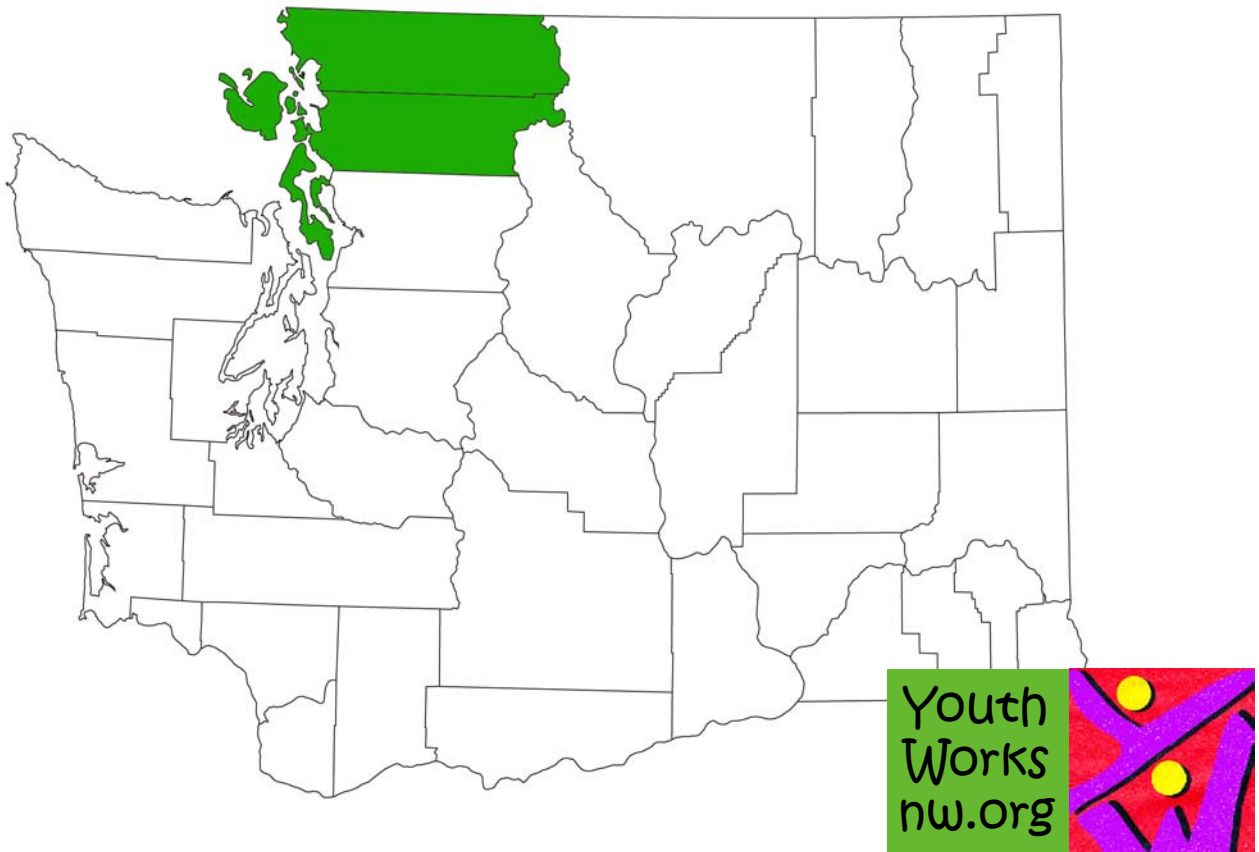


# YOUTH AUDIT AND RESOURCE MAPPING

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Northwest Workforce Development Council  
Youth Council

For the workforce development area including  
Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties

February 2003

Paul Schissler Associates, Incorporated

Bellingham, Washington



## Executive summary

The Northwest Workforce Development Council (the Council) sets policies, fashions strategies, fosters interagency coordination, and oversees the implementation of comprehensive strategic and operational plans for economic and human resource development.

A standing committee of the Council, the Youth Council, is responsible for oversight of development and delivery of services to youth in Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom.

The Youth Council established that its primary goal was to conduct a Youth Audit and Resource Mapping of its service area. In addition to a compilation of the area's youth characteristics and demographics, the project identifies current services and resources available to youth, and identifies needed services, resources, and service gaps.

## Objectives

The Council intends that this project's findings will provide a knowledge base to help achieve the Council's goals and objectives:

- Formulate strategic plans to address youth service gaps
- Increase the integration of existing services
- Raise awareness of existing youth services
- Systematically network youth resources

## Youth resources

For the purpose of this project *youth resources* are those organizations and their programs that serve youth 14 to 21 years old. This project categorized youth programs in five general categories of youth services. The five categories include ten of the Council's program elements required under the Workforce Investment Act.

### Youth service categories used in this project

Academic achievement

Leadership and mentoring

Counseling

Work experience and school -to-work

Other services

### WIA required program elements

Tutoring, study skills training, instruction leading to completion of secondary school

Alternative school offerings

Adult mentoring

Leadership development opportunities

Comprehensive guidance and counseling

Summer employment opportunities to academic and occupational learning

Paid and unpaid work experience

Occupational skills training

Supportive services

Youth resources were analyzed for the region and for each of the region's counties (Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom).

## **Methods**

Data for this project were developed by collecting existing statistical indicators of youth and households in the Council's service area, administering a self-administered mail survey to identified youth resources, and processing and analyzing the data. Methodological details are included in the Methods section of the full report.

## **Youth service provider survey respondents**

Survey questionnaires were mailed or hand delivered to 107 youth service organizations identified earlier in the project. Data from 82 completed questionnaires form the resource mapping database analyzed for this report. The response rate of 76% exceeded the project's goal (70%).

Geographic areas served by respondent organizations:

- 55% of organizations provide youth services in Whatcom County
- 40% serve Skagit County
- 36% serve Island County
- 31% serve San Juan County
- 33% of respondents serve sub-county areas including school districts, Native American populations, cities, and individual islands in San Juan County

Youth services provided by respondent organizations:

- 41% provide leadership and mentoring services
- 36% provide counseling services
- 33% offer academic achievement programs
- 28% provide work experience and school-to-work opportunities
- 54% offer more than one category of youth services

## Academic achievement services

Number of service providers = 19

### Specific types of academic achievement services

(% of organizations that offer service)

*Most common services:*

community service learning (46%), tutoring (34%), GED (34%)

*Least common service:*

homeschooling (8%), alternative secondary education (20%), scholarships (21%)

### Target youth populations served by academic achievement providers

(% of organizations that serve specific youth subgroups)

*Most common population:*

secondary school students (58%), out of school youth (58%), low-income (58%)

*Least common population:*

post-secondary students (26%), juvenile offenders (37%)

### Referral sources for organizations that offer academic achievement services

(% of organizations that receive referrals from source)

*Most common referral source:*

schools (65%), community organizations (29%)

*Least common referral source:*

parents (6%), tribes (6%)

### Referral sources for organizations that offer academic achievement services

(% of organizations that receive referrals from source)

*Most common services:*

secondary school students (58%), out of school youth (58%), low-income (58%)

*Least common service:*

post-secondary students (26%), juvenile offenders (37%)

### Importance and availability of academic achievement services

(based on average service provider opinion using scale of 1 to 10 from least important/available to most important/available)

*Most important service:*

GED/high school diploma (7.3), dropout prevention (6.9)

*Least important service:*

homeschooling (3.6), Internet access (5.4)

*Most available service:*

GED/high school diploma (6.5), Internet access (6.1)

*Least available service:*

homeschooling (4.0), scholarships and grants (4.8)

**Academic achievement service gaps** (services found to be above average in importance and below average in availability based on service provider opinion)

- Dropout prevention services
- Scholarships and grants
- Homework support

## Leadership and mentoring services

**Number of service providers = 28**

**Specific types of leadership and mentoring services** (% of organizations that offer service)

*Most common services:*

decision making (59%),  
self-esteem building (51%),  
positive attitude development (50%)

*Least common service:*

delinquency prevention (33%),  
individual living skills (35%),  
adult mentoring (35%)

**Target youth populations served by leadership and mentoring providers** (% of organizations that serve specific youth subgroups)

*Most common population:*

all youth (60%),  
low-income (57%),  
secondary school students (53%)

*Least common population:*

post-secondary students (23%),  
disabled (27%),  
juvenile offenders (27%)

**Referral sources for organizations that offer leadership and mentoring services** (% of organizations that receive referrals from source)

*Most common referral source:*

schools (63%),  
community organizations (35%),  
counseling centers (30%)

*Least common referral source:*

medical centers (4%),  
tribes (4%)

**Importance and availability of leadership and mentoring services** (based on average service provider opinion using scale of 1 to 10 from least important/available to most important/available)

*Most important service:*

decision making (8.2),  
self-esteem building (7.9),  
positive attitude development (7.8)

*Least important service:*

peer-centered activities (7.1),  
independent living skills (7.2)

*Most available service:*

peer-centered activities (6.6),  
self-esteem building (6.2),  
teamwork (6.0)

*Least available service:*

delinquency prevention (5.1),  
adult mentoring (5.4),  
independent living skills (5.4)

**Leadership and mentoring service gaps** (services found to be above average in importance and below average in availability based on service provider opinion)

- Decision making

## Counseling services

**Number of service providers = 27**

**Specific types of counseling services** (% of organizations that offer service)

*Most common services:*

guidance (46%),  
drug and alcohol (34%)

*Least common service:*

postponed and responsible  
parenting (18%)

**Target youth populations served by counseling providers**

(% of organizations that serve specific youth subgroups)

*Most common population:*

all youth (64%),  
secondary school students (48%),  
out of school youth (48%)

*Least common population:*

post-secondary students (28%),  
disabled (28%)

**Referral sources for organizations that offer counseling services**

(% of organizations that receive referrals from source)

*Most common referral source:*

schools (57%),  
juvenile rehabilitation (43%)

*Least common referral source:*

job and career organizations (5%),  
tribes (5%),  
county health department (5%)

Importance and availability of counseling services (based on average service provider opinion using scale of 1 to 10 from least important/available to most important/available)

*Most important service:*

guidance (7.9),  
drug and alcohol (7.7)

*Least important service:*

postponed and responsible  
parenting (6.8)

*Most available service:*

guidance (6.5)

*Least available service:*

postponed and responsible  
parenting (4.7)

**Counseling service gaps** (services found to be above average in importance and below average in availability based on service provider opinion)

- Vocational counseling

## Work experience and school-to-work services

**Number of service providers = 16**

**Specific types of work experience and school-to-work services**

(% of organizations that offer service)

*Most common services:*

career exploration (31%),  
internships (28%),  
job shadowing (26%)

*Least common service:*

summer employment (15%),  
apprenticeships (15%),  
occupational training (13%)

**Target youth populations served by work experience and school-to-work providers** (% of organizations that serve specific youth subgroups)

*Most common population:*

out of school youth (65%),  
secondary school students (59%)

*Least common population:*

post-secondary students (24%),  
parents (24%)

**Referral sources for organizations that offer work experience and school-to-work services** (% of organizations that receive referrals from source)

*Most common referral source:*

schools (62%),  
community organizations (31%)

*Least common referral source:*

parents (8%),  
tribes (8%)

**Importance and availability of work experience and school-to-work services** (based on average service provider opinion using scale of 1 to 10 from least important/available to most important/available)

*Most important service:*

summer employment (7.8),  
career exploration (7.0)

*Least important service:*

unpaid work experience (5.6),  
apprenticeships (6.0)

*Most available service:*

unpaid work experience (5.3),  
career exploration (5.0)

*Least available service:*

apprenticeships (3.3),  
paid work experience (3.7),  
occupational training (3.7)

**Work experience and school-to-work service gaps** (services found to be above average in importance and below average in availability based on service provider opinion)

- Occupational training
- Paid work experience
- Job placement

## Other supportive services

**Number of service providers = 33**

### Specific types of supportive services

(% of organizations that offer service)

*Most common services:*

transportation assistance (28%),  
school clothing (25%),  
housing assistance (21%)

*Least common service:*

childcare assistance (13%),  
clothes and tools for work (19%),  
medical assistance (19%)

### Target youth populations served by supportive services providers

(% of organizations that serve specific youth subgroups)

*Most common population:*

low-income (55%),  
secondary school students (52%)

*Least common population:*

post-secondary students (26%),  
disabled (29%)

### Referral sources for organizations that offer supportive services

(% of organizations that receive referrals from source)

*Most common referral source:*

schools (65%),  
community organizations (29%)

*Least common referral source:*

parents (6%),  
tribes (6%)

### Importance and availability of supportive services (based on

average service provider opinion using scale of 1 to 10 from least important/available to most important/available)

*Most important service:*

transportation assistance (6.6),  
medical assistance (6.3)

*Least important service:*

clothes, tools, and equipment (5.7),  
child care assistance (5.7),  
school clothing (5.7)

*Most available service:*

medical assistance (4.6),  
transportation assistance (4.6)

*Least available service:*

housing assistance (3.5)

**Supportive services service gaps** (services found to be above average in importance and below average in availability based on service provider opinion)

- Housing assistance



## Acknowledgements

NWDC gratefully acknowledges the following organizations and individuals for their assistance during this project:

- Survey respondents from youth service organizations and high schools in Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom counties
- Youth focus group participants at Options High School in Bellingham, State Street School in Sedro Woolley, and participants from Best Self and other youth programs at NWDC
- Members of the Youth Council:
  - Nancy Brown, Director, Skagit County Family & Youth Services
  - John Harmon, Director, Whatcom/Bellingham Housing Authority
  - Alerd Johnson, Policy Advisor
  - Dale Kinsley, Superintendent, Bellingham School District
  - Mark Nilson, Director, Prepwork Consortium
  - Tammie O'Dell, Cascades Job Corps Center
  - Cynthia Shelton, Director, Career/Tech Ed, Oak Harbor School District
  - Kim Shillinger, Center Director, Cascades Job Corps Center
- Funding for this project was provided by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
- This document designed by Chris Coffin Design

*The full report is available at <http://www.youthworksnm.org>*