

## **A Western Consortium Application Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE)**

The PROMISE Initiative (Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income) is a joint federal initiative that will design and implement interventions for youth ages 14 to 16 who receive Social Security SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and their families. Through an experimental design, this five year, multi-million dollar initiative will identify interventions which can be implemented across federal agencies to positively impact the youths' education and employment, and the families' overall household income thereby reducing a household's dependence upon public benefits. The federal agencies are: Department of Education, Department of Labor, Health and Human Services and Social Security Administration. A complete description can be found at [www.ed.gov/promise](http://www.ed.gov/promise). PROMISE is funded under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-74).

The families of youth receiving SSI must live in poverty in order to receive these benefits. If there is to be a significant and positive impact in employment and economic outcomes for youth and their families, there must be new innovative supports and interventions. Participants will be assigned either to a treatment or control group. Interventions will be provided to the treatment group which will be in addition to the typical services and supports provided to the control group. These treatments must include: case management, a paid work experience prior to leaving high school, benefits planning and financial capability, and parent information and training.

Six states have aligned to form a Western Consortium to apply for the PROMISE Initiative – Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Utah. The six states have formed in order to achieve the US Department of Education's minimum required sample size of 2,000 enrollees between the ages of 14-16. The combined total population of child SSI recipients of eligible age in the six states is approximately 10,000. 1,000 youth are needed in each of the treatment and control groups. Each state will have a facilitator to oversee recruitment, enrollment, intervention implementation, data collection, and case management services to coordinate and deliver interventions to the treatment group.

PROMISE requires commitment by each state's Governor and participation by specific agencies within each state, including: Education, Medicaid, Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities.

The PROMISE initiative offers a unique opportunity for the Western states, with its diverse demographic and geographic composition, to inform federal policymakers. This

type of demonstration across the six Consortium states will ensure that the unique characteristics and needs of our urban, rural, frontier and tribal populations are represented within this national initiative.

As the grant applicant and lead agency The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation will contract with an agency in each of the consortium states to operate the project. The amount requested is \$32.5 million over five years; there is NO state match required. The initiative evaluation will be conducted by the University of Utah in collaboration with a yet-to-determined national evaluator.

*Letters of Support should be addressed to Donald R. Uchida. Letters may be in electronic format and emailed to [cruddell@utah.gov](mailto:cruddell@utah.gov). Please ensure delivery by August 9, 2013.*

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