

East County One Stop Project Summary – Annual Report - January 2009

ECOS MISSION STATEMENT:

ECOS is an alliance of over 35 workforce and community partners convened to foster a systemic and holistic approach to workforce and community development through information and data sharing, prioritization of service need, encouraging efficient delivery of services, joint resource development and fund procurement, and collaborative problem solving.

Vision statement:

It is this system approach that utilizes the expertise of ECOS partner agencies to:

- Increase the skill and ability levels of the East Multnomah County workforce that enhances business operations for employers.
- Reduce the number of East County families living in poverty through the development of individual skills and removal of barriers that prevent greater employment opportunities.
- Jointly identify solutions to gaps in the workforce and community development systems and cultivate a greater understanding of complex community problems that require a holistic approach.

ECOS Primary goals and activity areas:

ECOS is an alliance of organizations that address issues impacting the employment of persons with barriers to getting and keeping a job. These agencies comprise the service providers for the East County One Stop Career System. The ECOS 501 c3 was created in order to generate non-Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding for community and workforce development projects in East Multnomah County.

ECOS has successfully procured (or assisted with) over \$2.4 million in revenue since 2000. These resources have generated innovative programs to serve distressed communities, ex-offenders, small businesses, disabled persons, and non-native English speakers, giving these populations more opportunity for income producing enterprise and living wage career paths.

Since inception in 1996, ECOS has accomplished an impressive array of creative and valuable work: collaborations, partner networks, on-line communication capacity for small non-profits, base-line research and evaluative benchmarks, compilation of data bases, professional development and networking for partner agency staff, community planning research, high demand occupational studies, transferable skill set matrixes, and much more – with a limited budget and cooperative support from partner funds, abilities and staff. This is an organization that works smart, leverages resources, and uses its strength and associations to accomplish large-scale projects on a limited budget.

ECOS operational funds come from voluntary partner support and a 10% indirect fee from grants received.

Projects funded through ECOS efforts:

Ex-offenders:

- Career modeling tools for ex-offenders
- Assistance with setting aside arrests and convictions
- Connections to employers that do not do background checks
- Employer training workshops

- National re-entry Best Practices and advice on state and federal laws
- Convening of the regional ROAR consortium of Re-Entry Resource Organizations
- Providing support to the Governor's Re-Entry Policy Council
- Addressing strategies to create enterprise to hire ex-felons

Training and education:

- Development of Nurse Educator curriculum and training
- Job Coach Institute/Intercultural Coaching Institute
- Advanced training for cosmetologists
- Senior Safety Pin educational opportunities for Linfield nursing students
- Support of the Easter Seals Senior Community Work Employment Project and Projects with Industry "Learning a Living"
- Job Developer's Network

Small business development:

- Market Vendor Incubation Project – training for market vendors
- CEO – Creative Earning Options – micro-enterprise training for low income persons
- DBA – Business Association for persons with disabilities
- MIPO – Micro-Enterprise Inventors Program
- META – Micro-Enterprise Technical Assistance funded by OECDD

Community Development and Health Care:

- East County Health Care Forum
- Rockwood Weed and Seed
- Rockwood International Marketplace
- Senior Safety Pin Project

Support for partner agencies:

- Assistance with finding resources for clients
- Connections with regional partners
- Maintaining the workforce SYSTEM in East County
- Referrals to services for clients
- Problem solving and trouble shooting
- Networking and collaboration
- Advocacy for East County issues