**ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT**

PROGRAM YEAR 2023

(JULY 01, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024)

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**INTRODUCTION**

Nestled among the seven stunning regions of the Pacific—Tutuila, Ofu, Olosega, Ta’u, Aunu’u, Rose Island, and Swains Island—American Samoa is a vibrant tapestry woven from rich religious and cultural traditions. As an unincorporated territory of the United States, it boasts a dynamic population fluctuating between 60,000 and 55,000 over the past decade. In the face of this ebb and flow, American Samoa is steadfast in its commitment to building, expanding, and nurturing a robust workforce.

The American Samoa Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (AS WIOA) embodies this vision. It seeks to enhance access to education, economic opportunities, and employment for our community of job seekers. Through the collective goals and strategies outlined in the WIOA Title I programs—serving Adults, Youth, and Dislocated Workers—significant strides have been made in advancing our workforce development during the 2023 Program Year.

While we have celebrated successes, we have also encountered challenges, particularly as we navigate substantial changes in both internal and external operations. It is crucial to emphasize that AS WIOA operates under the auspices of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) of the American Samoa Government (ASG), empowering DHR to make final decisions regarding all operational and activity requests. In compliance with Department of Labor (DOL) requirements, the American Samoa Workforce Development Board (ASWDB) plays an instrumental role, offering support and strategic guidance for all initiatives and programs. The ASWDB has been invaluable in fulfilling WIOA program requirements, including the development of the State Plan and the establishment of the American Job Center/One-Stop Center, which is set to open its doors soon. While the journey to launch this center has presented challenges, the progress made in recent months has been encouraging.

As American Samoa looks to the future, we are eager to strengthen our infrastructure by collaborating with Effective Training Providers (ETPs) across emerging businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community entities beyond the ASG. Nonetheless, the ASG remains a cornerstone of support, providing hands-on paid work experience for participants facing barriers to employment and education. Together, we are cultivating a thriving environment where opportunity and innovation flourish, empowering our residents to achieve their fullest potential.

**PROGRAM GOALS and UPDATES**

**Build Infrastructure with Core Partners:**To strengthen our collaborative efforts, we are actively engaging with key partners, including the American Samoa Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)/American Samoa Community College (ASCC), the American Samoa Division of Career and Technical Education (AS DOE), and the American Samoa Job Corps Program/The Governor's Office of American Samoa.

**WIOA Partnership Goal:**  
Our objective is to enhance capacity building through ongoing planning and the initiation of programs and activities, fostering a collaborative environment with our core partners.

Strategy 1: Develop and Update Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)  
We are in the process of formalizing partnerships by reviewing and updating MOUs between the WIOA agency and our core partners, specifically with AEFLA and OVR.  
Strategy 2: Initiate Policies and Procedures  
Establishing clear internal and external policies will ensure an effective service provision system while aligning with the goals and objectives of all involved parties.

Strategy 3: Engage in Outreach Programs  
We will participate in outreach initiatives led by our core partners that are associated with Workforce Education and Training, deepening our understanding of the services they offer.  
*Strategy 1 Update:*  
The Memoranda of Understanding are currently under review by our partner agencies. We are pleased to report that additional partner agencies are now collaborating with the WIOA Agency. These include:

**American Samoa Division of Career and Technical Education (ASDCTE), American Samoa Department of Education:** This division acts as a conduit to workforce training centers at public technical and community colleges.  
**ASDCTE, American Samoa Community College:** Responsible for administering essential programs within the American Samoa American Job Center Network, including postsecondary career and technical education under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act, as well as adult education and literacy activities authorized under Title II of WIOA.

**Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), American Samoa Department of Commerce:** Administers additional programs in the American Samoa American Job Center Network, focused on employment and training initiatives to enhance economic self-sufficiency for low-income individuals.

Together, we are committed to uplifting the most vulnerable youth populations in American Samoa. By creating meaningful opportunities and providing essential resources, we empower our young people and enhance their overall well-being. Your partnership is vital to our mission, enabling us to make a profound and lasting impact in our community."

**Job Corps Program, American Samoa Government:** Oversees access and eligibility for job training, mentoring, and career pathways toward job placement through the Job Corps system.

**Community Service Employment Program (CSEP), American Samoa Territorial Agency of Aging:** Manages the Senior Community Service Employment Program authorized under Title V.

Through these collaborative efforts, we are committed to building a well-integrated workforce development system that serves the diverse needs of our community.

**The Older Americans Act of 1965:**

A Vision for Empowerment and Opportunity in American Samoa. At the heart of our mission lies a shared vision, guided by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and propelled by our core partners. We aspire to enhance access to education and economic opportunity for all job seekers in American Samoa, with a special focus on those who face significant barriers to employment. Our goal is not just to build a skilled and competitive workforce that meets the demands of local employers, but to invigorate our communities and cultivate a territorial economy that thrives on the global stage.

We have identified four key priorities that will drive us toward this vision:

* Raising Public Awareness and Access: We aim to ensure that every individual in American Samoa knows about and can access our workforce system.
* Streamlining Business Services: By coordinating services across our partners, we will deliver seamless and high-quality solutions that better meet the needs of our community.
* Empowering Remote and Rural Communities: We are committed to reaching those in the farthest corners of our territory, bringing resources and opportunities directly to them.
* Establishing Career Pathways and Sector Partnerships: We will foster connections that create clear pathways for advancement and collaboration within key sectors.

In recognition of the unique demographic landscape of American Samoa—with its small, dispersed population—we are developing a modified one-stop system. This approach will not only provide quality services across diverse locations but also optimize our limited resources to better serve our community.

**Expansion of Training Services for All:**

We are committed to expanding training services for applicants and participants, whether they are just beginning their journey, transitioning, or already engaged in WIOA programs. Our offerings include support for adults, dislocated workers, and youth. During the program year 2023, our Work-Based Learning (WBL) and On-the-Job Training (OJT) services have opened doors to invaluable paid work experiences. Participants, based on eligibility criteria, benefit from a range of personalized services including basic support, individualized training, and ongoing follow-up—all while gaining hands-on experience in a real workplace. WIOA is dedicated to supporting those who face the greatest obstacles to employment, including single parents, low-income individuals, those with limited English language skills, ex-offenders, school dropouts, and teen parents. In partnership with the Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) team, we are expanding opportunities for participants to enhance their skills and education, ultimately helping them attain certificates of completion. In our collaborative efforts with partner agencies, we are focused on referral services that ensure every individual receives the appropriate support. For those assessed with special needs, we engage with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide comprehensive assessments and services. Together, let us pave the way for a brighter future for American Samoa, where every individual has the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

1. Build infrastructure with core partners to include American Samoa Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and Adult Education Literacy Act (AEFLA)/American Samoa Community College (ASCC), American Samoa Division of Career Technical Education/American Samo Department of Education (AS DOE), and the American Samoa Job Corps Program/American Samoa Governor’s Office
   1. WIOA Partnership GOAL – Ensure capacity building through continuous planning and initiating programs and activities through working hand-in-hand with core partners -

*Strategy 1:* Develop/Update Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between WIOA agency and its core partners – Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).

*Strategy 2:* Initiate Policies and Procedures for internal and external processes to ensure an effective service provision system as well as meet all involved parties Goals and Objectives

*Strategy 3:* Engage in outreach programs initiated by core partners that are in affiliation with Workforce Education and Training to grasp a more comprehensive understanding of the services that are provided by them.

Strategy 1 Update: Memorandum of Understanding are currently under review by the partner agencies. As of date, more partner agencies are now collaborating with the WIOA Agency. Additional Department agencies include:

* The American Samoa Division of Career Technical Education, American Samoa Department of Education serves as liaison to workforce training centers at public technical and community colleges.
* The American Samoa Division of Career Technical Education (ASDCTE), American Samoa Community College is responsible for the administration of ***required*** programs in the American Samoa American Job Center Network: postsecondary career and technical educational activities under Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act; adult education and literacy activities authorized under Title II of WIOA.
* Community Service Block Grant (CSBG), American Samoa Department of Commerce is responsible for the administration of additional programs offered in the American Samoa American Job Center Network: employment and training programs to increase economic self-sufficiency of low-income individuals and Community Services Block Grant.
* The Job Corps Program, American Samoa Government responsibility to access and eligibility for job training, job mentoring and a career pathway toward job placement through the Job Corps system.
* Community Service Employment Program (CSEP), American Samoa Territorial Agency of Aging is responsible for the administration of the ***required*** Senior Community Service Employment Program activities authorized under Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965.

The Shared Vision of WIOA and its Core Partners is as follows: To Improve Access to Education, Economic Opportunity, and Employment for all of American Samoa's job seekers - especially those with significant barriers to employment; develop a skilled and competitive workforce that meets the needs of American Samoa's employers; stimulate the vitality of our local communities; and promote a territorial economy that is competitive in the global economy. The four priorities of this Shared Vision include:

1) Improving public awareness and access to the workforce system;

2) Coordinating business services across partners to ensure delivery of streamlined and high-quality solutions;

3) Serving rural and remote communities

4) Career pathways/Sector partnerships. American Samoa's American Job Center Network is designed to support these priorities within its capacity under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. American Samoa has an uncommon composition of a small population spread across remote geographic areas. Its very uniqueness necessitates the development of a modified one-stop system that provides quality services in diverse locations and maximizes scarce resources.

1. Expansion of Training Services for the applicants, current, and transitioning participants of WIOA. Programs include Adult, Dislocated Workers, and Youth

The Work-Base Learning (WBL)/On-the-Job (OJT) Training Services have afforded great lengths of opportunities through paid work experience throughout the PY 2023. Based on eligibility criteria, participants receive BASIC, Individualized, Training, and Follow-up services while working/hand-on experience in a workplace/worksite. WIOA's target population include - single parents, low-income, lack of English Language Literacy, ex-offender, drop-out, and teen parenting. Prioritizing the individuals with barriers to employment, WIOA works closely with the Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) team to expand on opportunities for the participants to elevate skills and education that would eventually lead to earning a certificate of completion. In collaborative efforts with partner agencies, WIOA hones in on referral services. For instance, applicants or participants that are assessed as individuals with Special Needs are recommended to be referred over to the OVR agency for proper assessments and services.

**Update (WBL/OJT)**

Program Year 2023 (July 01, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

Work-Based Learning (WBL)/On-the-Job Training (OJT)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Training Service** | **Number of Participants** | **Eligibilities** | **Status** |
| Work-Based Learning | 51 | Barriers to Employment – Single parent, NO work experience, School Drop-out, English Language Proficiency, Low income, Low poverty housing, and ex-offender | Converted to Career Service |
| On-the-Job Training | 3 | Converted to Career Service |

**Applicants/Intake**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DATE – MONTH/YEAR** | **# OF APPLICATIONS** |
| **JULY/2023** | 32 |
| AUGUST | 71 |
| SEPTEMBER | 52 |
| OCTOBER | 35 |
| NOVEMBER | 14 |
| DECEMBER | 13 |
| **JANUARY/2024** | 26 |
| FEBRUARY | 30 |
| MARCH | 22 |
| APRIL | 41 |
| MAY | 81 |
| JUNE | 7 |

QUARTERLY REPORTING ANALYSIS (Q4) RESULTS - YOUTH



QUARTERLY REPORTING ANALYSIS (Q4) RESULTS – DISLOCATED WORKER



QUARTERLY REPORTING ANALYSIS (Q4) RESULTS - ADULT



**Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) 2023**

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is not merely a job placement initiative or source of summer income; it is a comprehensive framework designed to promote successful youth development. SYEP focuses on facilitating eligible youth in their transition to healthy adulthood and economic independence through the following principles:

* Engagement: Tapping into the talents and interests of youth.
* Skill Development: Enhancing skills and competencies necessary for the workforce.
* Workplace Introduction: Familiarizing participants with the professional environment.
* Support System: Providing guidance and positive role models from adult mentors.

Each year, the SYEP forges partnerships with government agencies, organizations, and private sectors, enabling them to build capacity within their operations without lengthy hiring procedures. This year, a total of 933 participants were registered, selected, and placed in temporary summer jobs.

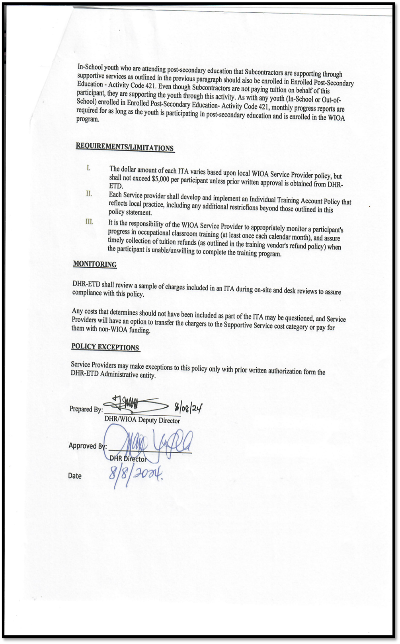
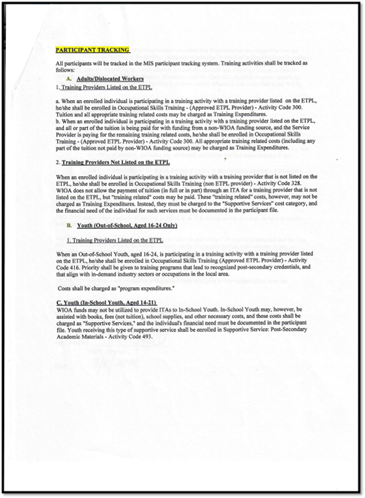
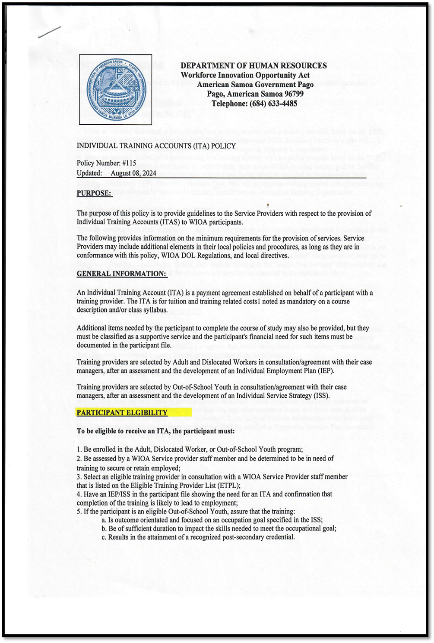
- Funding Support: Under the WIOA Consolidated Youth Funding, 130 positions were allocated through a formula grant.

- Resource Leveraging: The Governor’s Office facilitated the expansion of SYEP, allowing for the employment of 800 participants.

All eligible youth had the opportunity to earn income and gain valuable work experiences, cultivating essential skills and attitudes for success in the modern job market. Participants were exposed to diverse career fields and engaged with professionals in stimulating and supportive environments.

In terms of sustaining WIOA programs and services, American Samoa is committed to initiating the necessary policies and procedures both internally and externally. The Enhanced Desk Monitoring Review (EDMR) conducted in August 2024 provided invaluable insights and tools to enhance program services and refine operational frameworks. Key components of the EDMR focused on the development of policies and procedures for program performance and fiscal operations.

Update: Policies and Procedures for Program and Fiscal Management are in place. Examples of P&P are as follows:



1. **Economic Opportunity GOALS**
2. Develop and sustain an effective Workforce Community through WIOA core partners utilizing its Effective Training Providers (ETP)

* *Strategy 1*: Establish an atmosphere that attracts, retains, and grows Employers (government, public/personal business sectors)
* *Strategy 2*: Create and maintain our economic infrastructure in order to generate employment
* *Strategy 3*: Encourage new markets and encourage innovation.
* *Strategy 4*: Improve partnership with core agencies for the betterment of programs and services
* *Strategy 5:* Develop collaboration with the American Samoa Workforce Development Board (ASWDB) in order to establish COMPLIANCE with the Department of Labor.
* *Strategy 6*: Expand or elevate the awareness of WIOA programs through Education and Training utilizing advanced technology.

Update: As an integral plan of action and ultimate goal for PY 23 and 24, the integration of developing and expanding the Economic Goals for American Samoa, final plans for the opening of the first every American Job Center or the American Samoa One-Stop Center is underway. As of date, December 2024 is the launching of the OSC and the official implementation of the collaborative effort of all Core Partner Agencies towards catering to the Needs of the Workforce of American Samoa. WIOA agency is networking with not only the core partners but as well as outreaching to the private sectors, semi-autonomous, and non-profit organizations in efforts to build infrastructure. Below is a chart of the American Job Center/One-Stop Center Programs and Services

| Existing Partner Agency | ASCC Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) | Access to Adult Education and Training for eligible participants including vocational and trades training available through the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) Access to development English and Math coursework needed as pre-requisites to certifications and/or professional endorsements Access to courses needed to complete GED or equivalency of high school diploma for those who did not earn a high school diploma. |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Existing Partner Agency | Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) | Access to services for individuals with disabilities including but not limited to home medication, technology devices, and/other resources to help accommodated the special needs of the disabled community-including job coaching, job shadowing and subsidized and unsubsidized employment opportunities. |
| Existing Partner Agency | American Samoa Government (ASG) Department of Commerce Community State Block Grant (CSBG) ETA | Access to computer IT networking training, computer user training and other skills development programs sponsored by DOC |
| Potential Partner Agency | American Samoa Government (ASG) Department of Education Career Technical Education | Access to career exploration and pathway programs in the vocations and trades; maximize on partnership with ACC Trades and Industry; in-class lectures and hands-on learning experience using vocational and trades classrooms resources at Nu’uuli Vocational Technical High School |
| Potential Partner Agency | Empowering Pacific Island Communities (EPIC) (PYCD) | Access to soft skills training using evidence-based Botvins’ Life Skills Training curriculum and Rosilee Trotta’s Tracking Touch Skills- teaches conflict resolution, anger management, interpersonal communication, job preparation, resume writing and interviewing skills; access to coordinated case management; behavioral health services; and crisis intervention as needed  Access to a high need and vulnerable population of youth offenders; out of school youth; pregnant teens; runaway and homeless youth; juvenile delinquents and high-risk youth referred to chronic absenteeism, disciplinary action and academic failure. |
| Potential Partner Agency | American Samoa Governor’s Office-Job Corps | Access and eligibility for job training, job mentoring and a career pathway toward job placement through the Job Corps system. |

Improve Access to Education GOAL – Improve collaboration activities with the Adult Learning programs – AEFLA- to ensure a more diverse certification program that caters to the Employers/Businesses of American Samoa.

* *Strategy 1:* Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between WIOA and AEFLA to reflect the transition of participant to the Employer; list certification programs afforded to applicants; timeline of program completion; and Outcome Goal for participant.
* *Strategy 2:* Establish partnership with AEFLA partner programs that deal directly with Employment/Workforce training to better equip participants in their educational venture.

Update: The Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are currently under review and ready for signatories from the Adult Education Family Literacy Act, American Samoa Community College (ASCC)/Title II). The MOU is specific to the roles and responsibilities in which Title II covers in efforts to meet the requirements of Department of Labor (DOL) as well as the inclusion of an effective and efficient workflow of WIOA programs and services. The adult education program targets the individuals who are high school drop-outs, individuals who lack basic skills and English learning, and are 18 years and older. Based on the AEFLA Workforce Preparation Activities (Sec. 203 (17)) - activities, programs, and services are designed to help individuals acquire basic academic skills, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, and other competencies offered for the purpose of improving the productivity of workforce through the improvement of literacy skills. AEFLA will work with WIOA agency, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and other government agencies that will request special assistance with basic writing skills, reading skills, and other workplace skills that will enhance the employability of employees.

American Samoa Workforce Development Board (ASWDB) One-Stop Center:

Currently the American Samoa Workforce Development Board (ASWD) and WIOA agency are finalizing the set-up plans of the OSC slated to open in December 2024. The following list are representatives of the core partnership of the WIOA agency that will be housed in the One-Stop Center.

**Comprehensive One-Stop Center**

1. WIOA Rep (Adults, Dislocated Workers, Youth, Job Corps, Youth Build)

2. Wagner Peyser Act WIOA III employment service program

3. AEFLA WIOA II

4. VR

5. Title V Older Americans Act - Sr Community Service Employment Program

6. ASG DOE Career Technical Education Program

7. Jobs for Vet State Grants

8. ASG DOC CSBG ETA

9. ASG DBAS HUD Employment Training

10. ASG GO – Job Corps

11. TANF

12. Second Chance Act

**Education and Training Providers**

1. ASCC Adult Basic Education

2. ASCC Trades and Industry

3. PYCD Life Skills Training program – Tackling Tough Skills

4. Financial Literacy

5. Computer word processing

The American Samoa One-Stop Center set up, the American Samoa Workforce Development Board (ASWDB) and the WIOA agency are planning strategically towards gathering the potential training providers to be housed in the AS OSC to enable easy access towards developing policies and procedures that aim at synchronizing the different programs, services, and activities and then officially highlight and include in the State Plan. The current procedures to include the eligibility criteria and information requirements to determine training provider initial and continued eligibility is performed by the WIOA agency as it serves the purpose of the One-stop center. Since the inception of the WIOA grant and its services in American Samoa, the primary Training Providers have been the American Samoa Government (ASG) department agencies and the public sectors. The Work-Based Learning (WBL) and the On-the-Job (OJT) training services are the 2 most sought-out programs from ASG and private sectors as they have enabled capacity building (personnel and funding opportunities), secure job positions, expansion of service and programs of their respective divisions/programs. The official Policies and Procedures for the Effective Training Provider (ETP) is being revised by WIOA agency and then forwarded to the American Samoa Workforce Development Board (ASWDB) for review and approval.

**Update:** Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) – American Samoa One-Stop Center:

Background: WIOA mandates the one-stop system of service delivery in the local areas. The one-stop system combines separate workforce investment, education and other human resource programs and funding streams to create a seamless system of service delivery for individuals receiving assistance. WIOA Sec. 121 requires that an MOU be developed and executed between the Local Workforce Investment Board, with agreement of the chief elected official and the one-stop partners relating to the operation of the one-stop system in the local area. The American Samoa Workforce Development Council (ASWDB) serves as the required State Workforce Development Board and as a Local Workforce Development Board for the entire Territory of American Samoa. The Governor serves as the chief elected official for all areas within the territory of American Samoa.

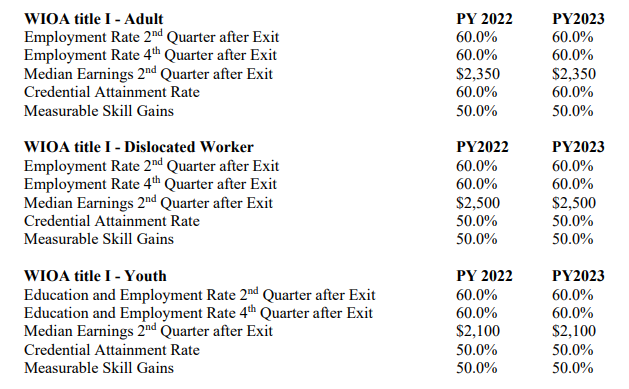
WIOA agency core partners that will be utilizing the One-Stop Center have received copies of the MOUs and are in process of review, approval, and signatures. A timeline has been mandated by WIOA agency as well as the ASWDB. The American Samoa American Job Center Network MOU outlines the framework for the operation of the American Samoa American Job Center Network as the one-stop delivery system. This will be reviewed at least once every three years. Per 20 CFR § 678.500, both parts of the MOU will contain the following provisions:

* Parties to the MOU
* Design of the one-stop delivery network
* Description of services to be provided through the one-stop delivery system
* Methods of referral
* In person, warm phone transfer, email, and other methods of engagement
* Methods to ensure that needs of special population groups are met including access to services and access to technology and materials available through the one-stop delivery system
* Duration and assurances
* Signatures

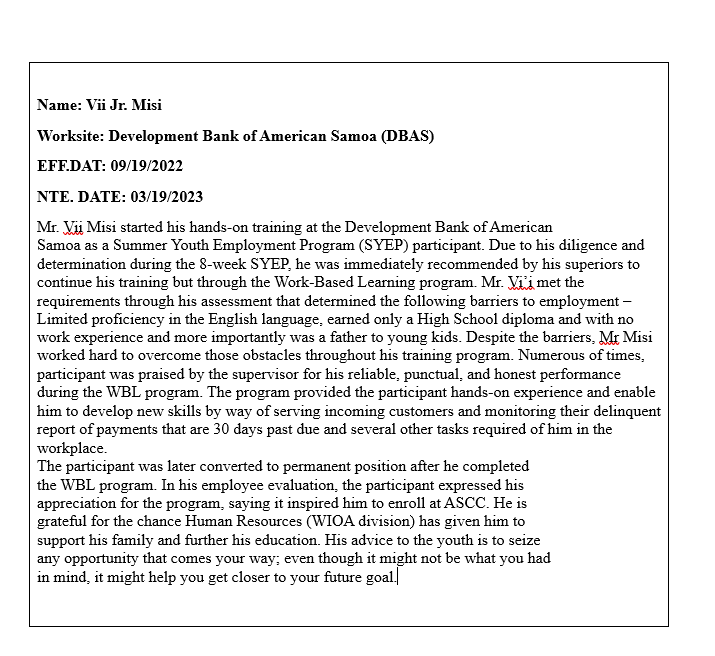
**State Plan:**

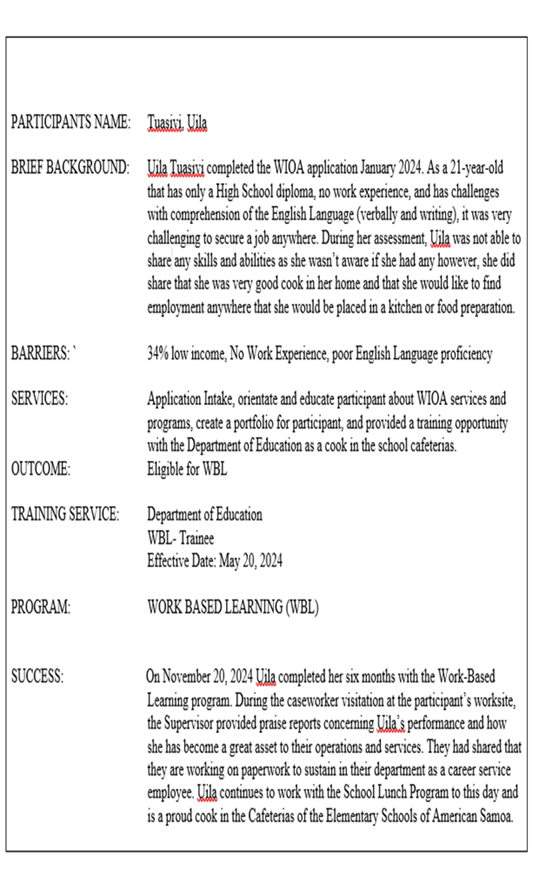
American Samoa’s State Plan is identified as a Unified Plan as it combines the narratives of operations and activities of the WIOA agency, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), American Samoa Community College.

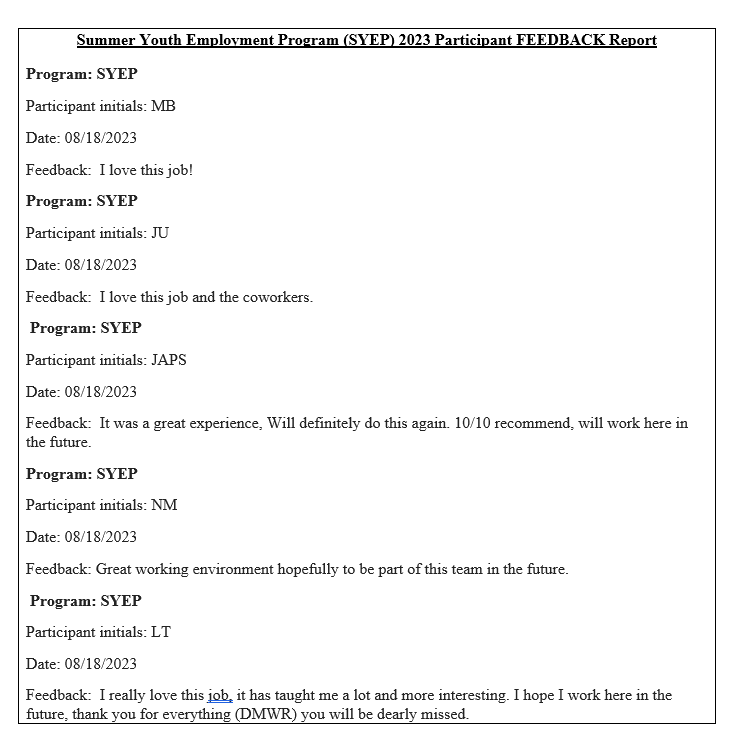
Update: As of May 2024, American Samoa’s Unified State Plan was Conditionally Approved by the Department of Labor as it is still under Revisions Status. The WIOA agency as well as it’s core partners – OVR and AEFLA with the inputs of the ASWDB have been working diligently to provide the edits and modifications deemed by the State Plan Reviewers. As of date, a meeting is scheduled for December 2024 by the State Plan Reviewers Panel as well as the American Samoa WIOA Federal Project Officer to discuss last set of revisions mandated. It is the ultimate Goal for American Samoa to procure an APPROVED State Plan for Program Year 2024 – 2027 in efforts to solidify the set plans for operations, training opportunities, and expansion activities for the identified target population.

**Program Indicators**

**Success Stories**

The following stories were submitted by the Caseworkers and Managers of the WIOA training programs – Work-based Learning/On-the-Job Training; also provided are feedbacks from 5 participants of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) 2023





**Accomplishments**

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) concluded in August, marking a remarkable journey for 933 eligible participants who gained invaluable hands-on paid training experience over an enriching 8-week period. Out of these participants, 130 were part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), showcasing the program's commitment to empowering youth through practical learning opportunities.

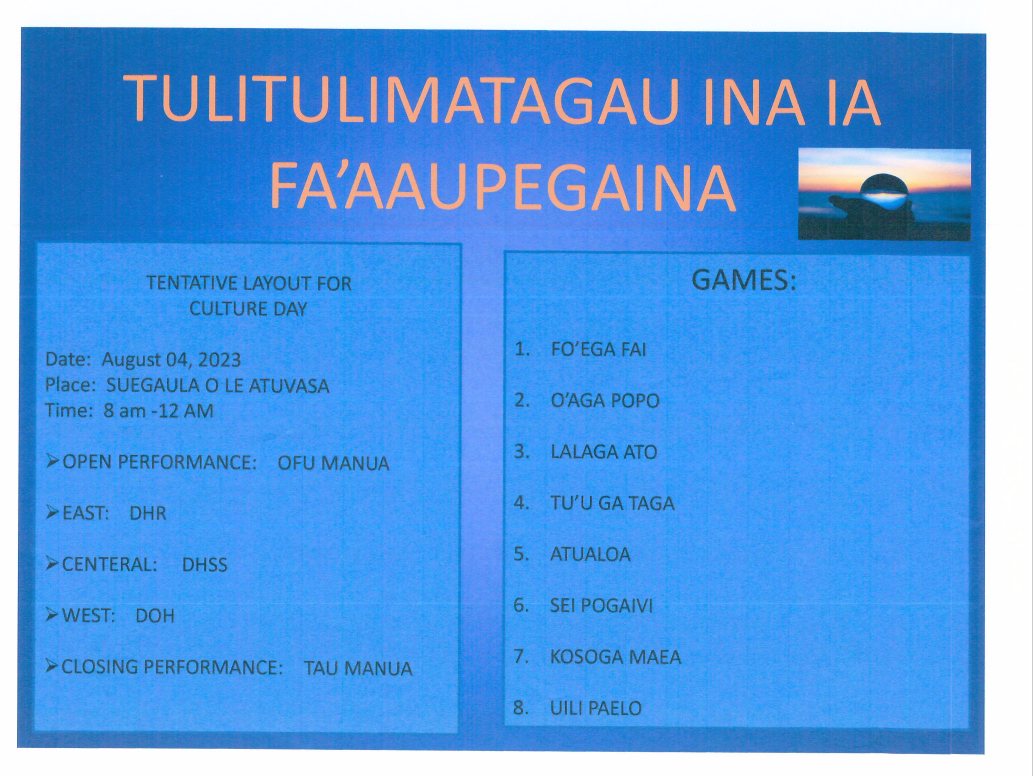
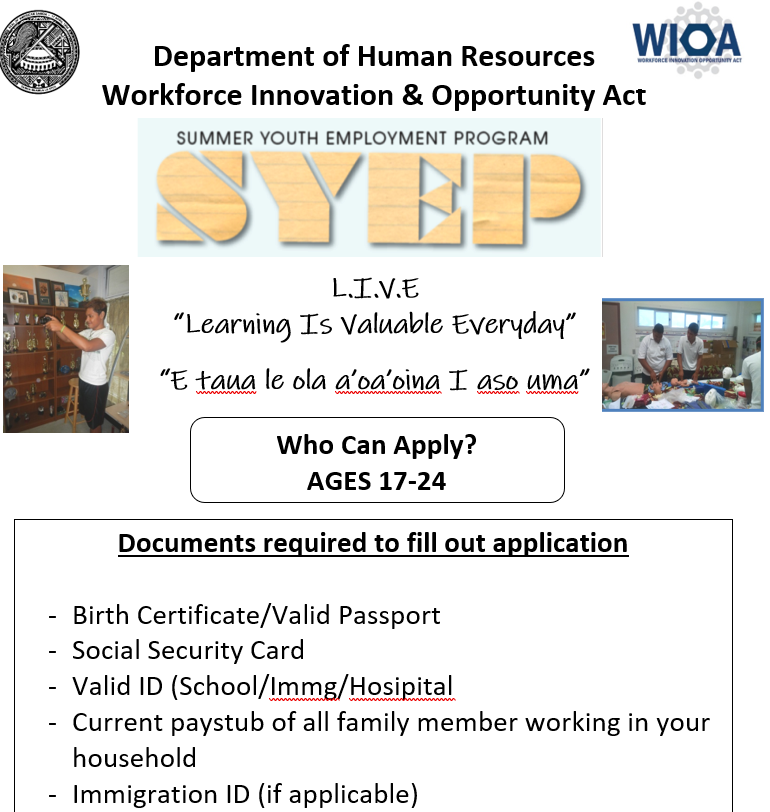
The benefits of this program extended far beyond the training sessions. Participants engaged in robust activities and networking opportunities, fostering invaluable connections that will serve them well into the future. Over the years, we have seen a significant enhancement in the engagement between participants and various departments, leading to a transparent and open dialogue with employers. This improved communication also streamlined interactions with the WIOA office, ensuring a more efficient and supportive experience for everyone involved.

Two major events from SYEP 2023 captured the essence of our mission: the Job Fair and Culture Day. These events allowed participants to exchange experiences and insights about the workforce, further enriching their understanding and preparation for future careers. The resounding success of these gatherings has inspired participants to advocate for their continuation in the coming years, highlighting their importance in bridging connections and fostering a sense of community.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, let us celebrate the growth and resilience of our participants and look forward to building on this foundation in the years to come. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for our youth!

With a new government administration set to assume office in January, we are excited about the fresh perspectives and renewed energy they will bring. Together with the support of the Department of Labor, we can build on the momentum generated at the convening, advocating for and uplifting our youth and the most underserved populations in American Samoa. Let us channel this collaborative spirit to drive meaningful change, inspire hope, and create pathways to success for our future. The journey ahead may be challenging, but united in purpose—alongside the Department of Labor—we are poised to achieve extraordinary outcomes for our territory.

**SYEP 2023 Events – Opening, Job Fair, Lunch with Mentor, & Closing**



In conclusion, the recent Workforce Convening in Honolulu has been a transformative experience for the American Samoa WIOA team. This gathering not only offered a vital platform for learning and collaboration but also shone a light on the shared challenges our territory faces in navigating limited resources amid a rapidly evolving economic landscape. Engaging in open dialogue with our Pacific counterparts has enabled us to identify innovative solutions and strategies that empower our caseworkers and intake specialists to excel in their crucial roles.

As we turn our focus toward the upcoming changes within our internal operations, we are invigorated by the positive impact of the Department of Labor's guidance and insights. The anticipated responses to our State Plan 2024-2027 and the Enhanced Desk Monitoring Review present us with exceptional opportunities for growth and improvement, allowing us to refine our services in alignment with our community's needs.