

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. TEN 27-08
	DATE January 30, 2009

TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM: THOMAS M. DOWD /s/
Administrator
Office of Policy Development and Research

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of *An Evaluation of the Latino Coalition's Reclamando Nuestro Futuro (Reclaiming our Future) Program*

1. Purpose. To announce the release and availability of the report titled *An Evaluation of the Latino Coalition's Reclamando Nuestro Futuro (Reclaiming our Future) Program*.

2. Background. In 2004, the Department of Labor awarded a \$10 million grant to the Latino Coalition to develop and deliver education and workforce development services to at-risk and adjudicated Latino youth. The Latino Coalition developed a program titled *Reclamando Nuestro Futuro* (Reclaiming our Future), and, acting as an intermediary organization, awarded 28 grants over three years to faith and community-based organizations in Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix, Denver, Dallas, and Houston to implement the program. This study relays the key challenges faced by Latino youth, describes the role of the Latino Coalition as an intermediary organization, documents the services offered by the program, and examines the outcomes of the program participants. The final report is based on analysis of the management information system data, interviews with Latino Coalition staff, and site visits, including staff interviews and youth focus groups.

3. Report Findings. Following are some of the report's highlights:

- The youths participating in the program had very low recidivism rates. In fact, 91 percent of the program participants avoided recidivism.
- About 28 percent of the program participants experienced positive employment, job training, or educational achievement outcomes. Nearly 40 percent of out-of-school youth achieved at least one of these positive outcomes.
- Several factors contributed to the program's ability to reach out to minority youth, including location in the communities where participants lived and staff members whose ethnic backgrounds and previous experiences were similar to the youths'.
- Sites that sought to provide social contacts and activities above and beyond program classes had better participant outcomes than sites that offered classes with fixed start and end dates after which the participant would be exited from the program.

The report concludes that intermediary organizations, such as the Latino Coalition, can enhance the capacity of small faith and community-based organizations to provide comprehensive youth development services and to incorporate the standards and accountability systems necessary to receive government funding.

4. Availability. To download the full report, visit the Employment and Training Administration's publications Web site at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>.