

Youth Initiative Incentive Funding – Descriptions, Criteria, and Requirements

The purpose of the Youth Initiative Incentive Funding is to enable State and Field Offices to introduce and provide careers pathways to young people by involving them in programs or projects that engage youth in the outdoors, educate them about natural and cultural resources, and promote stewardship. The BLM already has several national programs that meet these objectives. In order to institutionalize these programs throughout the agency and with the public, BLM is strongly encouraging offices to apply for funding from one of these programs:

- **Take It Outside (TIO)** – This program promotes and supports partnerships and outdoor programs for children and families. TIO projects provide direct, hands-on outdoor experiences that introduce children to recreational opportunities, natural and cultural resource management, and careers in the BLM.
- **Hands on the Land (HOL)** – This program promotes and supports partnerships with schools in order to provide students with hands-on educational experiences at field classrooms. In addition, HOL member sites benefit from sharing best practices through the interactive website. HOL programs must align with local school education standards and must be offered on an ongoing basis. HOL funding will be provided to **new and existing** members of the HOL network. For more information on joining HOL, see www.handsontheland.org.
- **Interpretation** – This program promotes and supports partnerships and the development of exhibits, displays, and other materials at Interpretive Centers, sites, and other facilities. Youth Initiative Incentive Funding will be provided for youth and family-oriented exhibits, displays, and materials with an emphasis on long-term enhancements for sites and centers.

While offices are strongly encouraged to apply for funding from these three programs, all proposals that meet the general selection criteria below will be considered.

Proposals should address the following selection criteria:

- **Scope and Objectives**
 - Describe ways in which young people will be introduced to career pathways in BLM; specify how they will be involved in projects, programs, or the development of products that engage youth in the outdoors, educate them about natural and cultural resources, and promote stewardship.
- **Partnership Involvement**
 - Outline how BLM funds will be leveraged through the involvement of Federal or non-Federal partners. (Partners may contribute time, materials, and/or funds.)
- **Audience Reach**
 - Include estimate of how many youth are or will be employed and engaged. Identify any target audience (e.g., under-served youth, including women, minorities, tribal, and other under-served youth).
- **Audience Impact**
 - Describe how much time will be spent with youth, and the anticipated impact on the youth and the surrounding community. If applicable,

describe how funding will build on the success of an existing program, project, or product

- **Additional guidelines:**
- It is strongly recommended that proposals include funding requests for FY 2010 and FY 2011 to allow for out-year planning of this new program.
- Proposals must show management approval in the form of a letter of support. A proposal submitted by email from a State or Field Office manager constitutes management approval.
- Proposals from BLM employees are preferred, and a BLM staff person must be assigned as a point of contact. Partners may submit proposals provided that there is a formal, working agreement in place and that a BLM representative is the main point of contact. (No Youth Initiative Incentive Funds can be distributed directly from the WO to a partner group.)
- All offices that receive Youth Initiative Incentive Funds will be required to submit an accomplishments report by the end of calendar year 2010. More details will be provided when funding is awarded.
- Hands on the Land (HOL) only: To be eligible for HOL funding, BLM-school partnership programs must be members of the HOL network or must join the network. See www.handsontheland.org to review program criteria and to apply for membership. Funding will not be distributed until an application is received and approved.

Funding can be used for:

- Seasonal, Youth Corps, Intern, or Contract staffing (highest priority)
- Supplies and equipment for youth engagement and education programs, especially in the outdoors
- Youth transportation
- Expanding partnerships that benefit youth (e.g., with schools or youth-serving organizations, especially those that work with under-served youth)
- Training for providers of educational programs for youth
- Development of products and materials that engage youth in the outdoors and/or educate them about natural and cultural resource management

Funding cannot be used for:

- Permanent or term staffing
- Supplies and equipment that become the property of a partner organization
- Products or materials that are not youth and family-oriented
- Facility maintenance projects
- Improvements at non-BLM sites
- Food