

**PROJECT COORDINATOR WORKFORCE
ACCELERATOR FUND RFP**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS-8/15/14

Question 1: What metrics currently exist about the program: i.e., how many clients have been served, how many employers are involved?

Answer 1: So far, our participants are employed with about 30 employer's county wide.

Question 2: How long has the program been in effect?

Answer 2: The program started in September of 2012. It has been operating almost 2 years.

Question 3: What are the top demand jobs that are being addressed by the program so far; or what types of jobs are the clients filling right now?

Answer 3: The industry sectors that our participants have secured employment/on-the-job training opportunities in are as follows:

Accommodation and Food Services

Agricultural, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting

Automotive Repair and maintenance

Construction

Landscaping Services

Manufacturing

Professional Services

Public Administration

Restaurants

Retail Trade

Transportation and Warehousing

Waste Management

Question 4: Who identifies the program participants?

Answer 4: The Ventura County Probation Agency identifies the participants.

Question 5: Is there a screening process?

Answer 5: Yes, the candidates are screened by probation for program suitability

Question 6: What is the average period of employment so far?

Answer 6: The participants that secure employment are not tracked. However, the participants placed in an on-the-job training assignment are there for 6-12 months.

Question 7: Is there an employment period identified as a measured goal?

Answer 7: Not at this time, the program is focused on providing employment/on-the-job training opportunities for the participants.

Question 8: Is there a client profile of those served?

Answer 8: Yes, the participant profile is post-release offenders. The participants have various barriers to employment, gaps in employment history, and a stigma due to their criminal record. They may also lack stable housing, have a history of substance abuse and mental health issues, exhibit low literacy and child support arrearages.

Question 9: Is it possible to see something about the STEPS program?

Answer 9: To view a nine minute video of the STEPS Program please follow the instructions below.

1. Enter the following website in your internet browser or click www.youtube.com.
2. In the search field, enter "Smart Justice in Ventura County" and click search.
3. Click on the video starring Juan Alaniz.