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**Commissioners:**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, April 15, 2016**

**County Administrator**  
Carri L. Brown

**Workforce Development Area 20 Issues RFP for  
Youth Employment and Training Programs for Program Year 2016**

**Clerk**  
Rachel A. Elsea

**Lancaster, Ohio-** The Fairfield County Economic Development Department, acting as the administrative agent for the Workforce Development Area 20 under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for youth employment and training programs for program year 2016. The RFP can be downloaded at <http://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/dev/RFP>.

Area 20 is comprised of Fairfield, Hocking, Pickaway, Ross and Vinton counties. The entities selected for these RFPs will provide training in areas such as: study skills; occupational skills; financial literacy; and entrepreneurial skills. They will also provide services such as tutoring, work experiences, leadership development, mentoring and counseling.

“The average age of the workforce in our counties continues to grow,” Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic Development Director and administrator for WIOA Area 20, said. “It is critical for us to train our youth and get them into local companies to replace the large portions of our workforce that will retire in the next decade.”

The intent to bid notice is due by April 27 at 4 p.m. This will be followed by a question and answer period through May 9 with proposals due on May 11. Contracts will be awarded the week of June 6 with the programs starting on July 1.

The program targets 14-to-21 year olds that are in school and 16-to-24 year olds who are out of school. A major change from previous programs is that more than 80% of funding will be used toward the out-of-school youth.

“Our local schools do a great job of preparing students for the real world,” Szabrak said. “These programs will be more focused on those youth that have left our educational system. It’s a hard segment of the population to reach but if we want to be successful as communities, these are the people we need to help by giving them the structure these programs provide.”

Another change from previous years is a more concentrated effort toward work experiences. More than 20% of funds must be used for these experiences which include summer and year-round employment, pre-apprenticeship, on-the-job training, or internships and job shadowing.

Questions regarding the RFP can be sent to [AREA20RFP@co.fairfield.oh.us](mailto:AREA20RFP@co.fairfield.oh.us).

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