

Ohio State University Extension

An Overview of Workforce Development Programs

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Ohio State University Extension

An Overview of Workforce Development Programs

Introduction:

Ohio State University Extension is an outreach unit of The Ohio State University. Our Mission is to help people improve their lives through an educational process using scientific knowledge focused on identified issues and needs.

We have long been involved in workplace skill development and other training programs related to workforce development through our four program areas: Community Development, Family and Consumer Sciences, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and 4-H Youth Development.

A partial list of current Extension workforce development programs is given here with brief profiles of each program according to the following outline:

- ***Program Title:***
- ***Program Purpose:***
- ***Program Description:***
- ***Time Frame:***
- ***Potential Audience:***
- ***Outcome and Evaluation***

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Job Skills and Job Readiness Skills

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**CAN THEY HEAR YOU SMILE?
PROVIDING GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE!**

Program Title:

Can They Hear You Smile? Providing Great Customer Service!

Program Purpose:

Objectives:

1. Know who your internal and external customers are and what they need from you.
2. Have a “customer service plan” and tools for handling unhappy customers.
3. Be able to use positive communication skills to provide great customer service.

Program Description:

Components include: Identify your customers, determine customer needs, make and carry out a plan to meet needs, have the right attitude, follow up and measure attitude, be a good customer yourself, handle customer complaints, communication skills, telephone basics

Time Frame:

Approximately 60 to 90 minutes

Potential Audience:

Any company/department/agency that works with customers in person or on the phone

Outcome and Evaluation:

No program evaluation included. Handouts include worksheets for personal assessment of skill level and an “Attitude Evaluation”.

Provided by Shannon Carter, FCS Agent, Fairfield County who obtained the program
from Nancy Messerly, Office of Human Resources,
Organization and Human Resource Development, OSU.

CAREER QUEST

Program Title:

Career Quest

Program Purpose:

The program model promotes engagement of youth in the learning process through a series of school based and community based hands-on group sessions; teen-parent activity nights; and a Career Institute mini-camp including a field trip to the Ohio State University.

Through *Career Quest*, teens connect with positive adult role models (the staff and volunteers); increase their mastery of skills and information related to career readiness; and exercise self-determination in applying information to personal career goals.

Program Description:

The Career Quest program uses agribusiness as a starting point to help youth develop personal career planning skills.

Adult leaders and teachers receive training in using personal career planning resources with middle school age youth. The activities help youth increase their awareness of career opportunities, assess their personal strengths and interests, set goals, develop career action plans, and become familiar with resources such as a career planning simulation game, computer data bases and web sites.

Career Quest Program outline:

Cycle 1:

Overview and Get-Acquainted Activities
Growing and Protecting our Food:
 How Science and Business Meet
Managing Our Environment:
 Putting Engineering & Technology to Work
Pet Care and Vet Care
Using Information to Develop Personal Career Plans
Developing a Support Team:
 Peers, Parents, and Community Helpers
Evaluation and Wrap-Up
Summer Activity: Career Institute

Cycle 2:

Overview and Get-Acquainted Activities
Getting Food on the Table & Keeping it Safe: Science
 & Business Working Together
Cleveland Green: How Technology Helps Beautify
 Our Community
Health Issues: Nutrition, Life Style, Pest Management
Using Information to Develop Personal Career Plans
Using Your Support Team: Peers, Parents, and
 Community Helpers
Evaluation and Wrap-Up

Time Frame:

This is a nine-month program. Components can be used apart from the complete program.

Potential Audience:

Junior High youth

Outcome and Evaluation:

Contact Information:

Greg Siek, Cuyahoga County OSU Extension 4-H Agent, 2490 Lee Blvd, Suite 108, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118-1255 EM: siek.1@osu.edu

DEVELOPING BACKBONE FOR CAREER CHOICES

Program Title:

Developing Backbone for Career Choices

Program Purpose:

Youth are encouraged to research job outlooks, career clustering is addressed, and shadowing is described and encouraged.

Program Description:

This multi-session program is for elementary and older youth. Sessions include: Developing Decision-Making Skills. Setting Goals. Self Esteem. Leadership. Money Management. Entrepreneurship. Conflict Management. Work Ethics. Values. Time Management. Assertiveness. Job Interviews. Teen Employment. Agriculture Careers.

Time Frame:

Single sessions may be conducted in as little as 30 minutes. The notebook contains enough lessons and resources to be used in multiple program sessions over several months.

Potential Audience:

Youth age 9 to 19.

Outcome and Evaluation:

Lessons from Developing Backbone for Career Choices have been shared at statewide agent in-services, and successfully conducted in several counties.

Contact Information:

Becky Cropper, Brown County OSU Extension, 740 Mt. Orab Pike , Georgetown OH 45121-1124
EM: cropper.1@osu.edu

LEADERSHIP SKILLS YOU NEVER OUTGROW

Program Title:

Leadership Skills You Never Outgrow

Program Purpose:

The purpose of the *Leadership Skills You Never Outgrow* (LSYNO) series is to enable participants to develop leadership knowledge, skills, attitudes and aspirations in seven key dimensions:

- understanding self,
- communicating,
- getting along with others,
- learning to learn,
- making decisions,
- managing, and
- working with groups.

Program Description:

The focus of the LSYNO I (for youth age 9-11) and LSYNO II (for teens) is the development of individual leadership skills. Participants in LSYNO III develop skills for working in groups, and the overall objective of LSYNO IV is to enable participants to develop skills for leading groups.

Participants identify specific personal learning objectives related to the project content, and select several learning experiences to complete over a three month to one year time frame to achieve their objectives. Each level of the project offers a wide range of learning experience activities related to each of the seven key leadership dimensions.

The project may be completed by individual youth working with a helper or volunteer, or by groups of youth working with an advisor.

Time Frame:

Each of the four levels is designed to be completed with a helper or volunteer over a period of one to three years.

Potential Audience:

Level I is designed for pre-teens, and Levels II – IV are designed for teens. Level III (Skills for Working In Groups) and Level IV (Skills for Leading Groups) have also successfully been used with adult audiences, and are especially appropriate resources for the orientation of new advisory groups, program development groups, and committees.

Outcome and Evaluation:

Approximately 1,000 Ohio 4-H'ers enroll in one of the projects each year.

Contact Information:

Kathryn J. Cox, State 4-H Office, 2120 Fyffe Rd., Columbus, OH 43210-1084 EM: cox.5@osu.edu

MOCK INTERVIEWS

Program Title:

Mock Interviews

Program Purpose:

To prepare participants for job interviews

Program Description:

Local schools routinely enlist community volunteers to perform mock interviews with high school students. The students present a cover sheet with resume and dress for the interview as they would for a particular entry-level position. The interviewers critique the resume and interviewee and offer constructive criticism for improving the student's position as an candidate for the workforce.

Time Frame:

Interviews can be performed in 15 – 20 minutes with evaluation discussion following.

Potential Audience:

Youth and/or adults preparing for a job interview

Outcome and Evaluation:

Participants may be video- or audio-taped for referral at a later time. A constructive critique following the interview assists the participant in further preparation.

Contact Information:

Larry Hall, Knox County OSU Extension 4-H Agent, 1025 Harcourt Rd, P.O. Box 1268,
Mt. Vernon, OH 43050-1268 EM: hall.392@osu.edu

NUTRITION EDUCATION

Program Titles:

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

Family Nutrition Education Program (FNP)

Program Purpose:

The primary scope of the **EFNEP** program is for participants to learn to make food choices to improve the nutritional quality of the meals they serve to their families. They gain new skills in food production, preparation, storage, safety, and they learn to better manage their food budgets.

The primary scope of the **FNP** Program is to provide nutrition education programs that increase, the likelihood of a food stamps program participants with making healthy choices consistent with the most recent dietary advice as reflected in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Food Guide Pyramid.

Program Description:

Classes are presented by trained nutrition educator and /or program assistants and feature interesting class sessions designed to encourage self-sufficiency skills and lifelong healthy eating habits. Program components include:

- basic nutrition
- food shopping
- meal management
- food safety
- food resource management

Time Frame:

EFNEP and FNP are taught in groups with a series of lessons. Programs can be adapted according to local needs. Both programs use the *Eating Right is Basic* curriculum.

Potential Audience:

Nutrition education activities provided through **EFNEP** are for low- income audiences with children.

Nutrition education activities provided through **FNP** are for people who are adult food stamp program participants and eligible non-participants who are elderly and/or adults without young children in EFNEP counties.

Programs are appropriate for job training centers.

Outcome and Evaluation:

Both programs have participant evaluations that include pre- and post-test, 24-hour food recalls, the Logic Model and the stages of change evaluation models to include inputs, outputs, outcomes and indicators. Success stories related to program objectives are also reported.

Contact Information:

Contact the local county Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent. Contact information is available on line at: <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/distcoun.php>

ON TARGET FOR SUCCESS

Program Title:

On Target For Success

Program Purpose:

Going from welfare to work creates a systemic change for the family. Just one member of the family cannot overcome the new challenges the family faces.

The main purpose of the *On Target for Success* curriculum is to help limited resource families adjust positively at home to the added demands placed upon a person working outside of the home; and to encourage home organization with the intention of relieving stress that affects job retention and family well-being. The premise of this module is that if participants experience less stress at home, they can have a more positive and successful experience at work.

Program Description:

Whenever possible, the *On Target for Success* instructor makes use of teachable moments to encourage the formation of a family team. The challenges that participants face in the home on a daily basis are anticipated, and an atmosphere is created which allows participants to find their own solutions to the challenges they face.

It is the aim of this curriculum to help reduce the tension accompanying this major change in the family structure by helping the participant to better organize and plan for self, family, time, home, and finances.

Those working with this audience have experienced difficulty in motivating attendance beyond four sessions. This program is flexible enough for the instructor to format as many teaching modules as time permits. The instructor will have to decide, based on the amount of time given, what to present in the individual sessions. The four topics presented in this curriculum are:

- **First Impressions...**Choosing appropriate clothing for work and clothing care
- **A Game Plan for the Home Team...**getting organized at home
- **Creating Winning Records ...**money management
- **Fast Food at Home...**quick and nutritious meal preparation

Time Frame:

The individual teaching modules may be divided up into a minimum of four, 90-minute lessons. Since each lesson stands alone, they can be presented in any order, or can be divided into additional lessons.

Potential Audience:

On Target for Success is designed to address the changing needs of limited resource families transitioning from Welfare to Work.

Contact Information:

Contact the local county Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent. Contact information is available on line at: <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/distcoun.php>

SELF-DIRECTED SEARCH WITH OHIO CAREER INFORMATION SYSTEM

Program Title:

Self -Directed Search With Ohio Career Information System

Program Purpose:

Assist limited resource adults to learn a process of searching for job matches using the Ohio Career Information System

Program Description:

This program provides hands-on training in a computer lab to assist the participants to search the Ohio Career Information System for appropriate job matches. Participants identify potential work areas suited to their personalities.

Time Frame:

Approximately two hours

Potential Audience:

Limited Resource Adults. Has been used with women with mental health challenges

Outcome and Evaluation:

1 of 3 participants completed self-directed searches that pointed them to job possibilities suited to their skills and personalities.

Outcome and Evaluation:

Contact Edrice Robinson-Wyatt, Extension Agent, Ohio State University Extension, Summit County: EM: robinson-wyatt.525@osu.edu

TACKLING THE TOUGH SKILLS

Program Title:

Tackling the Tough Skills

Program Purpose:

To help people transition smoothly to work, retain employment, and successfully cope with work and family issues. *Tackling the Tough Skills* is about people; about whom they are and where they want to go; about recognizing strengths and realizing potential.

Program Description:

University of Missouri Outreach and Extension developed the program in 1997 in response to the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (TANF). It was based on the findings from focus groups, research, literature reviews and numerous community meetings. The curriculum addresses the “soft” skills needed by workers in the workplace and at home. Topics covered include: Attitude, change, humor, self-talk, stress, respect, responsibility, communication skills, conflict resolution, anger management, decision-making and problem-solving, time management, preparing for the workplace, the job interview, writing a resume. Includes hand-outs/overheads.

Time Frame:

5 to 6 hours for each of the 5 sections; can easily use parts of the curriculum instead of the entirety.

Potential Audience:

Has primarily been used with those making the transition from welfare to work, but can be used with youth groups, school-to-work programs, in-service training, pregnant teens, immigrant populations and with others who may be entering the workplace.

Outcome and Evaluation:

The curriculum was piloted with the *WorkWays*TM program in November 1998 in St. Louis, Missouri. Evaluation is ongoing and uses both qualitative and quantitative techniques. In July 1999, 52 participants were randomly chosen and interviewed. Minimal information on outcomes was included with the curriculum.

Contact Information:

For curriculum information, contact: Joan Reid, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent. Coshocton County, 740-622-2265, reid.1@osu.edu

TEAM CHALLENGE

Program Title:

Team Challenge

Program Purpose:

To exhibit ways to demonstrate and experience communication methods, cooperative activities and workforce skills in an informal atmosphere.

Program Description:

Team challenge initiatives may be utilized for many objectives - including workforce preparation efforts. Ice-breakers, communication skills, self-awareness, teamwork and team-play are some of the activities which provide a hands-on approach for participants. Simple materials are used to present challenges to varying sizes of groups, followed by processing.

Time Frame:

Activities can range from 15 minutes to two (or more) hours.

Potential Audience:

Youth and/or adults

Outcome and Evaluation:

Informal evaluation may be processed at the time of the activity. Follow-up evaluation may be performed to determine if techniques are utilized in daily life.

Contact Information:

Larry Hall, Knox County OSU Extension 4-H Agent, 1025 Harcourt Rd, Mt. Vernon, OH 43050-1268 EM: hall.392@osu.edu

TEEN LEADERSHIP ON THE JOB

Program Title:

Teen Leadership On The Job

Program Purpose:

The *Teen Leadership On The Job* project is for teens who are employed and want to develop leadership to "make the best better" on the job

Program Description:

The project consists of a series of real-life learning experiences which teens complete "on the job" in cooperation with their employer related to the real world of work, attaining goals and objectives, developing a work ethic, stress management, money management, time management, and performance assessment.

Time Frame:

Participants identify specific personal learning objectives related to the project content, and select several learning experiences to complete over a three month to one year time frame to achieve their objectives. The project offers participants a wide range of learning experiences from which to choose. Teen participants who wish to complete all of the learning experiences provided are advised to plan to do so over two or three years of project work.

Potential Audience:

Teens or older entry-level, first-time employees

Outcome and Evaluation:

Approximately 100 Ohio 4-H teens enroll each year in the 4-H *Teen Leadership On The Job* project, and the curriculum is used as a resource in other workforce preparation programs.

Contact Information:

Christy Leeds, Union County OSU Extension 4-H Agent, 246 W Fifth St, Marysville, OH 43040-1195
EM: leeds.1@osu.edu

Jim Elder, Logan County OSU Extension 4-H Agent, 120 E Sandusky Ave., Suite 1, Bellefontaine, OH 43311 EM: elder.2@osu.edu

Kathryn J. Cox, State 4-H Office, 2120 Fyffe Rd., Columbus, OH 43210-1084 EM: cox.5@osu.edu

WHEN YOU WORK

Program Title:

When You Work

Program Purpose:

When You Work is organized into the three main areas of money, food and family for working families who have little time and few resources. Its goal is to teach low-income working families the skills needed to balance work and family needs.

Program Description:

Using simple, engaging activities, the program is oriented to “learn by doing”. The concepts of goal setting, decision-making and problem solving are integrated into the units. The Money unit covers Wants/needs, Spending Plans, Making Ends Meet. The Food unit covers Food Choices, Meal Planning, Shopping, Food Safety, and Preparing Quick, Healthy Food. The Family unit covers Time Management, Stress Management, Child Care and Parenting Resources. It includes lesson plans and activity sheets. *When You Work* was developed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension, September, 1997.

Time Frame:

Activities/lessons can be adapted to suit facilitator’s needs.

Potential Audience:

Any low-income audience.

Outcome and Evaluation:

None included with curriculum.

Contact Information:

For curriculum information, contact: Joan Reid, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent. Coshocton County, 740-622-2265 EM: reid.1@osu.edu

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GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

Program Title:

Getting Down to Business

Program Purpose:

Getting Down To Business is a curriculum for introducing youth to entrepreneurship.

Through *Getting Down to Business*, youth develop knowledge, attitudes, skills, and aspirations needed for success, not only in self-employment and entrepreneurship, but also in contributing to society and the economy of the 21st century.

The major objective of the program is for participants to develop an understanding that entrepreneurship and self-employment are achievable occupational objectives, which they may or may not wish to choose. The enhancement of creativity, adaptability, the development of self-confidence, and the determination to achieve personal goals is the focus of this program.

Program Description:

The *Getting Down To Business* curriculum includes ten lessons:

- Entrepreneurship Basics
- Idea Generation and Product Creation
- Work Ethic and Attitude
- The Business Plan
- Market Research
- Advertising and Public Relations
- Banking and Record Keeping
- Legal Issues and Technical Stuff
- Managing Time Wisely
- Creating and Maintaining Your Image

Each lesson is built around specific objectives and includes information about the topic, experiential learning activities and exercises, and masters for handout materials and other resources. Pre- and post-testing instruments related to the National Education Goals: Goals 2000 and Secretary of Education's Initiatives are also included.

Time Frame:

All ten lessons can be completed in ten two-hour sessions, but can be adapted according to need.

Potential Audience:

The curriculum is designed to be appropriate for use with middle school aged youth, and has also been used successfully with older teen and adult audiences.

Outcome and Evaluation:

As a result of this program, participants realize that although not everyone may wish to be an entrepreneur, the potential for professional and personal success is enhanced through the use of entrepreneurial knowledge, attitudes, skills, and aspirations.

Contact Information:

Kathryn J. Cox, State 4-H Office, 2120 Fyffe Rd., Columbus, OH 43210-1084 EM: cox.5@osu.edu

SMALL BUSINESS EXCEL

Program Title:

Small Business Excel

Program Purpose:

The *Small Business Management Excel* helps small business owners/managers strengthen their management skills.

Program Description:

Participants in the *Small Business Management Excel* program are taught the five basic functions of management in a problem solving context: 1) *planning*--determining goals and how to accomplish them, 2) *organizing*--fitting people, their jobs and their work together to accomplish business goals, 3) *staffing*--learning how to hire and train employees, 4) *directing*--helping people to accomplish the objectives through better motivation and communication and 5) *controlling*--learning to identify problems, measure performance and establish standards.

Participants learn how they can balance work with management responsibilities; how to provide constructive criticism to an employee who thinks any criticism is a personal attack; and how to get everyone working from "the same page."

This course reflects real world experiences and provides valuable tools a manager can utilize immediately. Evaluations reflect improvements in the productivity and confidence of managers who have completed the course.

Time Frame:

Normally given in five 4-6 hour sessions but can be modified according to local needs

Potential Audience:

Small business owners/managers and those interested in this process

Outcome and Evaluation:

The Small Business Excel team has conducted 14 statewide programs since 1998.

Contact Information:

Walter Williams, Chair, Small Business Excel Team, Extension Agent, Community Development and Sea Grant, Cuyahoga County, 216-592-2223 EM: williams.960@osu.edu

SMALL BUSINESS SERIES OF EXTENSION FACT SHEETS

Program Title:

Small Business Series of Extension Fact Sheets (on Ohioline)

Program Purpose:

- To increase knowledge of basic business principles needed for a successful business plan.
- To increase the business-related decision-making skills for the small business owner.
- To increase awareness of licenses, permits, etc. associated with the small or home-based business.

Program Description:

Fact sheets are available on-line and include these topic areas: basic information on starting a business, record-keeping, taxes, permits, licenses & zoning, financing, marketing, advertising, merchandising, pricing, human resource management.

Time Frame:

Available as needed

Potential Audience:

Small business owners, prospective entrepreneurs

Outcome and Evaluation:

Contact Information:

These fact sheets are available through the local county office of Ohio State University Extension or online at: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/lines/busi.html#BCDEV>

STARTING AND OPERATING A NEW BUSINESS

Program Title:

Starting and Operating a New Business

Program Purpose:

Microenterprise Business Development Program

Program Description:

Starting and Operating a New Business is a five session, 15-hour training program which includes the following topics:

- Development of the Business Plan a business plan is written to determine feasibility, serve as a basis for financing, and to be an operating guide once the business is open.
- Developing a Cash Flow Projection: Assists in compiling a cash flow projection which serves as an operating budget and measures feasibility and liquidity.
- Financing the Business: Reviews credit analysis, sources of capital, and the loan application process. It reviews both private and public sources of financing.
- Business Record Keeping: Reviews both paper/pencil and electronic record keeping systems as well as the compilation and interpretation of basic business reports.
- Marketing and advertising: Assists in the evaluation of the competition, selection of advertising methods, presentation to the customer, and the budget formation for these activities. Nothing good happens until somebody sells something.

Time Frame:

Starting and Operating a New Business is a five-session, 15-hour training program

Potential Audience:

Small Business owners and those interested

Outcome and Evaluation:

In conjunction with the Wright State University Small Business Development Center, is offered in Van Wert County.

Contact Information:

Nancy Bowen, Ohio State University Extension Agent, Van Wert County, 419-238-2999
EM: bowen-ellzey.1@osu.edu

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BECOMING MONEY WISE

Program Title:

Becoming Money Wise

Program Purpose:

The purpose of this 4-H money management project is to help pre-teen youth develop knowledge, skills, positive attitudes, and personal goals & plans related to money management.

Program Description:

Youth who participate in the project monitor their personal cash flow and track where their money goes by developing a budget and good records to become a responsible consumer.

Time Frame:

Participants are encouraged to track their personal cash flow over several months, and to devote enough time to the other learning experiences to gain the knowledge and skills for which they are designed. This project is designed as a beginner-level book and may be taken one or two years.

Potential Audience:

Pre-teens and youth with little financial management experience.

Outcome and Evaluation:

Approximately 500 Ohio 4-H youth develop knowledge, skills, positive attitudes, and personal goals & plans related to money management through participation in this project each year.

Contact Information:

Mary Forster, FCS Admin., 1787 Neil Ave, Columbus, OH 43210-1295 EM: forster.2@osu.edu

MONEY FOR FOOD

Program Title:

Money For Food

Program Purpose:

To help families with limited resources become more food secure.

Program Description:

Lessons focus on planning meals, shopping with a list, buying on sale, developing a spending plan for food purchases, and identifying and using community food resources. It was developed by University of Wisconsin-Extension (2000) and is currently being used in Ohio by the Family Nutrition Program. Much of the content is from the *When You Work* curriculum. It contains a teaching guide, worksheets/handouts, activities/games, and evaluation questions and tools.

Time Frame:

Most of the short, interactive lessons were designed to be taught in 20 minutes or less.

Potential Audience:

Lessons were designed for use with food stamp eligible families, but are usable with all limited resource audiences. Designed for small group settings, but can be adapted for teaching individuals.

Outcome and Evaluation:

During the first two years of use in Wisconsin, Money for Food lessons were taught 568 times for a total of 2,484 educational contacts. With nine counties contributing evaluation data in 2000, over 81% of the learners reported that they had learned something or would do something differently after the lessons. Participants enjoyed the hands-on nature of the activities that generated interest and discussion.

Contact Information:

For curriculum information, contact: Joan Reid, Ohio State University Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences, Coshocton County, 740-622-2265 EM: reid.1@osu.edu

PATHWAYS TO MONEY 2000+

Program Title:

Pathways to Money 2000+

Program Purpose:

Pathways to Money 2000+ is a financial literacy program objectives are to encourage participants to set financial goals to save and/or reduce debt appropriate to their financial situation, and to adopt sound financial practices to increase financial stability.

Program Description:

The curriculum covers topics such as basic budgeting, wise use of credit, using financial institutions, time and value of money, and setting financial goals. The emphasis on Pathways is to provide a group educational session that helps build relationships and improves financial literacy.

Time Frame:

Participants must complete a six-week educational course.

Potential Audience:

Pathways to Money 2000+ is targeted to limited resource adults and families enrolled in programs such as GED, Welfare to Work, employee sponsored work site sessions, WIC, Ohio Family and Children First participants and Head Start Parent Associations.

Contact Information:

Sharon Seiling, Ohio State University Extension Specialist, Consumer and Textile Sciences
EM: seiling.1@osu.edu

REALITY STORE

Program Title:

Reality Store

Program Purpose:

To illustrate to the participants the reality of real world expenses and the need to plan for the future.

Program Description:

Local schools utilize community volunteers to staff stations at the Reality Store. Students are assigned a "job", a marital status (single, married, separated, divorced), a given number of children and a monthly paycheck total. Participants must make various decisions at the stations (after paying taxes) regarding housing, transportation, insurance, education, food, clothing, personal care, entertainment, etc.. A unique station is titled "Life's Little Surprises" where a spin of a roulette wheel or roll of the dice may add or subtract from their available funds. Depending on their individual situations participants may revisit stations to modify their choices or apply for loans.

Time Frame:

Depending on the size of the group and the amount of preparation, the activity can be accomplished in one hour.

Potential Audience: Teens preparing to enter the job market.

Outcome and Evaluation:

Reality Store programs were conducted in Belmont, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Darke, Highland, Lawrence, and other Ohio counties in 2002 and 2003. Evaluations indicated that participation in Reality Store results in teens becoming more likely to continue their education after high school, to delay having children, and to be more knowledgeable in making financial and career decisions.

Contact Information:

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Becky Cropper, Dave Dugan & Amanda Hargett, Brown County OSU Extension, 740 Mt. Orab Pike, Georgetown Ohio 45121-1124 Phone: (937) 378-6716

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TEENS...ON THE ROAD TO FINANCIAL SUCCESS

Program Title:

Teens...On the Road To Financial Success

Program Purpose:

The purpose of this 4-H money management project is to help teens develop knowledge, skills, positive attitudes, and personal goals & plans related to personal financial management.

Program Description:

Participants organize their financial life by analyzing spending, obtaining and managing banking services, making consumer decisions and exploring financial careers. This project is designed to be taken for one or two years.

Time Frame:

Participants are encouraged to track their personal cash flow over several months, and to devote enough time to the other learning experiences to gain the knowledge and skills for which they are designed. This project is designed as a beginner-level book and may be taken one or two years.

Potential Audience:

Teens ages 14-19

Outcome and Evaluation:

Each year approximately 400 Ohio 4-H teens develop knowledge, skills, positive attitudes, and personal goals & plans related to personal financial management through experiences completed in this project.

Contact Information:

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