

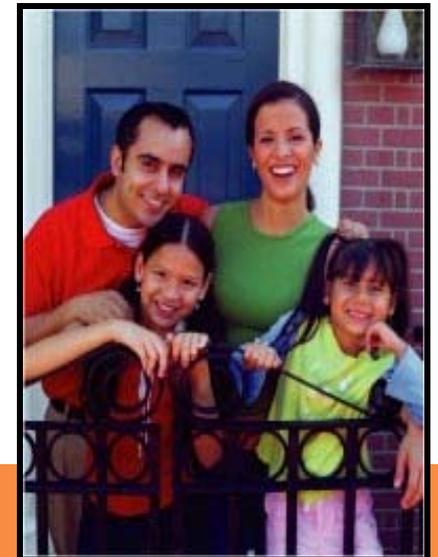
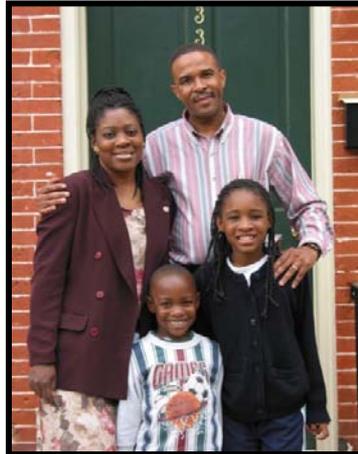
Workforce Development from a Grassroots Perspective



February 28, 2012

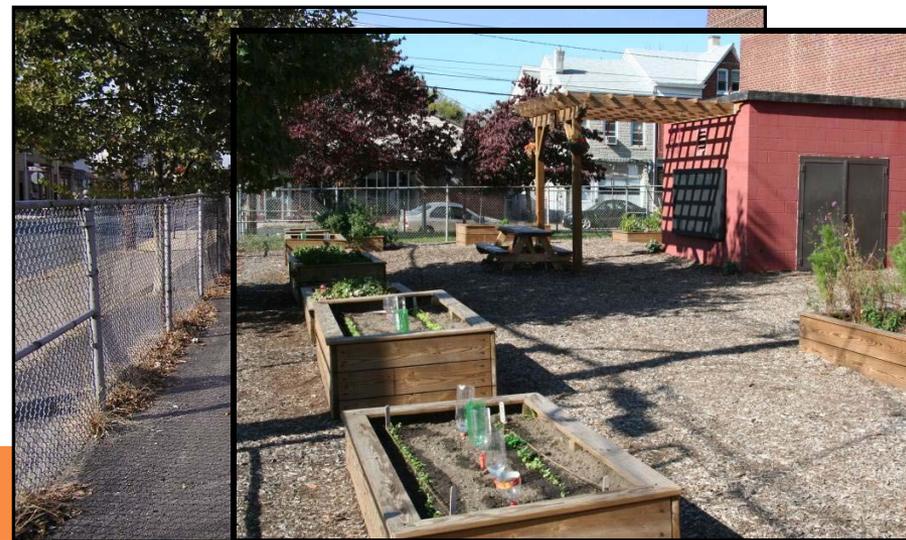
Isles' mission...

Self-reliant families



Isles' mission...

Healthy, sustainable communities



Isles 4 Core Business Lines

Not a typical workforce development organization



- Revitalize communities
- Train and educate
- Build wealth
- Stimulate green, healthy living



Why Workforce Development?

After seeking best ways to foster self-reliant families in healthy, sustainable communities...

We couldn't NOT get involved!



We are not alone.

Other community-based organizations (CBOs) are moving into workforce development.

Why?

- Underperforming schools
- CBOs recognize and make the links between jobs and barriers to success
- Government-led efforts struggle to creatively respond

CBOs Opportunity

- Know the communities and individuals
- Question the limits of jobs (vs. careers and/or self-sufficiency)
- Understand the range of services needed
 - Vocational
 - Life Skills
 - Academic
 - Beyond the job –
Distressed workers
- ROI



The Grassroots Perspective

- Looks to break through typical political boundaries and funding silos
- Connects neighborhoods to the broader region
- Freedom to re-think the system
- Humility – What we can't do?