

# News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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## DOLE: JOB CORPS CENTER COMING TO KANSAS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole announced today that Kansas has been selected to be the site of a new multi-million dollar Federal Job Corps Center.

"I am delighted that the Administration has agreed with me that Kansas should be the site of this important training center. It presents not only an economic opportunity for the Kansas community that eventually gets the site, but also extends a helping hand to hundreds of disadvantaged young Kansans who are looking for job skills," Dole said. "My staff and I have worked long and hard for more than a year to secure this project so it's particularly pleasing to make this announcement. I believe we made a convincing case for U.S. Secretary of Labor Ray Donovan. However, there is more work to be done. We are ready to cooperate with any Kansas community that has an interest in the Job Corps Center."

Kansas communities will have the option of competing for the Center. According to Dole, a Site Selection Task Force will be announced within ten days. The task force will include labor leaders, city planners, corrections and criminal justice experts and civic leaders and will work directly with the U.S. Department of Labor to make sure the best possible site is selected. The site selection process will take approximately 4 to 6 months. Once the selection has occurred, about 12 to 14 months are required to complete the remaining steps and open the Center.

"It is my preference that we find an existing Kansas facility that can be donated by a community or perhaps by private interests in order that we may keep the acquisition cost to the government as low as possible," Dole said.

The cost of establishing and opening such a center will be anywhere from \$3 to \$9 million, depending on whether an existing facility can be utilized, and depending on how much rehabilitation work may be necessary to refurbish any existing facility.

(MORE)

## BACKGROUND ON JOB CORPS CENTER

A Job Corps Center is designed to house and provide a full range of services (food, basic education, vocational training, medical care, counseling and related support services) for disadvantaged young people ages 16 to 21. The goal of the program is to help Corps members to become responsible adults, prepared to obtain and hold productive jobs, return to school or further training, or satisfy the Armed Forces entrance requirements.

- There are 107 Job Corps Centers located throughout the nation, but Kansas has never had one. Disadvantaged youth in Kansas selected to participate in the Job Corps program are currently being transferred to Utah.
- The characteristics of Job Corps enrollees can be summarized as follows:
  - Age range 15-21 (average 18); entry reading level is that of a sixth grader; 75% of enrollees have never been employed full-time; the average annual family income of enrollees is \$5,389 (excluding families receiving public assistance).
- The effects of Job Corps participation can be summarized as follows (this is a comparison between Job Corps graduates and comparable persons who did not participate in the Job Corps program):
  - Job Corps enrollees are twice as likely to attend college; they are five times as likely to obtain a high school diploma or equivalent degree; the net increase in employment is almost four weeks per year.
- In addition, there are significant social benefits which stem from reduction in criminal activities among Corps members, the value of output produced by Corps members, and an intangible positive attitude towards society. Of the approximately 1 million youth that have participated in the Job Corps program since its inception in 1964, positive outcomes are reported for approximately 75%.