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## **Chile: Government Program For Young People**

*by Erika Harding*

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On Oct. 24, President Patricio Aylwin told reporters that the government has launched a four-year initiative called PROJOVEN (Opportunities Program for Young People). The program will focus on job training, expanded education with an emphasis on technical and professional disciplines, and the creative use of free time. A total of 100,000 youths are to be enrolled in the job training program: 15,000 in 1991, and 28,000 in each of the following years. Participants will receive a subsistence allowance while working as interns in private job training centers, educational institutions, state technical schools and non-governmental organizations. The primary objective of the educational program is to reduce the school drop-out rate among students from low-income homes via the provision of free meals and grants. Next, sex education, human rights, and ecology will be added to curriculums next year. Regarding the creative use of free time, the program includes special funds for cultural activities, support for volunteer work, developing environmental conservation efforts in the schools, opening a tourism enterprise for young people, and the expansion of sports activities. At present, almost 20% of the Chilean population 2.5 million are between the ages of 15 and 24. [Sources: La Nacion, El Mercurio (Chile), 10/25/91]

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