



## New Ways to Work

**In our complex and changing world, youth face a future full of unknown challenges and unique opportunities.** Our young people will confront the shifting global economy, accelerating environmental change, and dizzying technological advances, all in an increasingly multi-cultural context.

**For too many young people, success is out of reach.** While our nation’s youth have inherited the sweet promise of all that our country has to offer, they also are living with the bitter reality of racial, economic, and social inequality. Many are struggling just to get by – disconnected from school, shut out of the labor market, and running out of options.

**New Ways to Work helps communities prepare youth for success in the changing world.** By bringing key partners together and creating common goals and shared language, we assist organizations, agencies, and communities as they seek to increase their capacity and effectiveness to ensure positive outcomes for youth.

**The Mission** of New Ways is to build community connections that prepare youth for success. New Ways helps create powerful partnerships among government and community partners - including schools, community organizations, philanthropy and the private sector - to ensure better access to quality career and educational opportunities for youth, particularly our nation’s most vulnerable young people. These partnerships at the local and state levels provide the means to use public resources more effectively across funding streams to improve services to young people.

For the past twenty-five years, New Ways has been at the center of efforts to improve the way our public systems and local programs prepare youth for the future. Young people need better opportunities, both in and out of school, to gain the knowledge and skills critical for success in college and career. New Ways helps communities work together to build comprehensive youth-serving systems, and supports professional networks of leaders, policy makers, and practitioners engaged in its initiatives to maximize impacts and accelerate learning.

### New Ways focuses its efforts in five key areas

- Connecting Youth to the Workplace
- Re-inventing High Schools
- Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Youth
- Building Collaborative Systems
- Improving Program Practice



For more information about New Ways to Work, including our current projects and initiatives, visit [www.newwaystowork.org](http://www.newwaystowork.org) or contact [info@newwaystowork.org](mailto:info@newwaystowork.org)

## **New Ways to Work 2008 Initiatives and Activities**

### **The Intermediary Network**

New Ways serves as the facilitating partner for this national association of 50 leading education, workforce, and youth development organizations working in local communities to ensure youth success. Network members connect schools, communities, government agencies, workplace partners, and youth organizations to improve outcomes for youth and help build a future workforce. A group of National Affiliate Members support local organizations in their efforts to improve the lives of our nation's youth. Members also convene local, regional, and state-wide organizations doing similar work to maximize resources and effort. In 2008, Practice Communities within the network are focusing on issues of diversity in leadership, evaluation, public policy, serving out-of-school youth, youth development and after-school initiatives, engaging workplace partners, and improving high schools.

### **The Youth Council Institute**

New Ways provides strategic support to assist Youth Councils (formed under the Workforce Investment Act) with institutionalizing their capacity to provide age-appropriate, developmental services to young people. New Ways has developed and implemented a capacity-building and technical assistance plan for local Youth Councils and their partners that includes strategic planning activities, workshop trainings, topical content conference calls, and dissemination of quality practices through both printed and web-based media. In 2008, New Ways is providing direct assistance to the City of Chicago in program quality improvements and the transition of youth programs from the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development to the Office of Children and Youth Services, as well as direct support to local workforce areas, including the Napa and Merced Youth Councils. With pending reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act, New Ways plans to launch a national Youth Council initiative later this year.

### **Youth Transition Action Team Initiative**

New Ways supports cross-disciplinary teams in counties across California in their efforts to create a comprehensive, integrated, and sequenced set of services and supports to ensure that foster youth will be prepared to achieve success as adults. Teams composed of representatives from Child Welfare, Workforce, Education, Probation, youth and others

bring together and leverage the approaches, strategies, and resources of multiple efforts concerned with the issue of successful youth transition. In 2008, counties are focusing their work on strategies to improve youth outcomes in education, employment, and permanence. Systems outcomes include measures of efficiency in cross program collaboration, resource leveraging, evidence of effective partnering, the creation of common evaluation frameworks, and supportive policy development. New Ways will also provide a series of regional forums promoting the recommendations of the NGA Policy Academy on Transitioning Foster Youth, and work closely with the Child and Family Policy Institute on the Breakthrough Series Collaborative on ILP re-design.

### **Diploma Plus California**

New Ways to Work is supporting the expansion of the successful Diploma Plus® small schools model to four new schools in California. The DP formula for success combines high expectations for every student, a competency-based approach (in which students progress at their own pace), and a personalized learning environment. DP provides opportunities to make connections between what is learned in school and the world outside the classroom, and challenging postsecondary experiences while still in high school. In 2008, New Ways will support new school development in Woodland, Stockton, Pasadena and Los Angeles. As part of the initiative, New Ways also assists schools throughout California with the application of a performance-based system aligned with the UC/CSU A-G requirements.

### **Targeted Technical Assistance and Support**

New Ways also provides technical assistance and facilitation to numerous communities throughout the country. In 2008, New Ways is: supporting intermediary development in New York City to connect an estimated 200,000 out of school youth to educational opportunities and employment; the Sonoma County Office of Education to develop a comprehensive, K-16 Career Development System; the Riverside Workforce Investment Board to build an intermediary infra-structure to make and manage employer connections through its youth one-stops; and the State of Pennsylvania to effectively implement Regional Career Educational Partnerships in 18 communities in the state.

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