

New Ways to Work 2009 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, philanthropy, workplace partners, and youth organizations to improve outcomes for youth and help build the future workforce. Practice Communities within the network are focused on serving out-of-school youth, youth development and after-school initiatives, engaging workplace partners, and improving high schools.

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 related to successful youth transition. Counties are currently focused on strategies to improve youth outcomes in education, employment, and permanence.

Foster Youth Access and Success

Through a grant from the San Francisco Foundation, New Ways to Work is working with county teams in the San Francisco Bay Area including County Office of Education staff, District Career/Technical Education leaders, Social Workers, Independent Living Skills Program staff, and others from Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties to improve foster youth access to career development opportunities in high school.

Foster Youth Summer Jobs Plus

Through a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles, New Ways to Work, in partnership with the LA YTAT, will assist 100 foster youth in connecting their 2009 summer jobs experience to their career and educational goals as part of Foster Youth Summer Jobs Plus.

Foster Youth Transitions Resource Network

As a component of the 2009 strategy, New Ways is developing a Foster Youth Transitions Resource Network, focusing on sharing quality practices uncovered through the YTAT initiative. Of particular interest is building a replication base for youth-run, youth-led transition centers.

The Youth Council Institute

New Ways provides strategic support to assist Youth Councils (formed under the Workforce Investment Act) with building 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, workshop trainings, content conference calls, and the collection and dissemination of quality practices. New Ways is currently providing assistance to the City of Chicago in developing program quality improvements in the Department of Family Support Services Out of School Time Initiatives and the implementation of a city-wide, coordinated summer jobs effort. New Ways is also conducting an impact assessment and analysis of the city's Youth Career Development Center and Regional Consortia Coordinators initiatives.

Summer Youth Ecology Corps

The Sonoma County Summer Youth Ecology Corps is a partnership between the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and Youth Council, and a number of governmental and private non-profit organizations with an educational or environmental mission. SCWA has engaged New Ways to Work to support the project planning and implementation and identify quality conservation-related work projects for youth to complete this summer as a part of the ARRA-funded summer jobs program.

California Independent Living Program Transformation Breakthrough Series Collaborative

This BSC is assisting nine California county teams in putting the new ILP vision of Permanence, Education, and Employment for transitioning foster youth into action. This BSC is sponsored by the California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership and is being coordinated and implemented by partners New Ways and the Child & Family Policy Institute of CA. Counties selected to participate in this 18 month Collaborative will devise and test approaches to improve ILP services in order to make rapid changes in the CA ILP system.

Targeted Technical Assistance and Support

New Ways provides direct technical assistance supporting high-quality summer jobs programs, intermediary development, comprehensive systems-building, quality work-based learning, and employer engagement in communities around the county.