



## **Foster Youth Summer Jobs *Plus* Los Angeles Youth Transition Action Team Summer 2009**

---

### **The Los Angeles Youth Transition Action Team**

The Los Angeles Youth Transition Action Team (LA YTAT) was initially established in 2005 as part of the state-wide Youth Transition Action Team initiative conducted by New Ways to Work and Casey Family Programs. The LA YTAT, using tools and materials along with direct coaching from New Ways, established its priorities and goals to work together across systems to ensure better outcomes for transitioning foster youth – particularly in the area of career development and employment preparation.

### **The Challenges**

A report released in the fall of 2004 titled “One in Five” found that one out of every five Los Angeles youth aged 16-24 was both out-of-school and out-of-work based on U.S. Census data from 2000. Early work experience is considered necessary to gain early development of the “soft skills” needed to compete and succeed in the workplace. This disconnection from work compounds the problem of low completion rates for high school for this population.

### **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*. Currently, summer jobs participants are supported for the six weeks of the summer job experience, and while valuable, the work-based learning components of the program will be greatly strengthened through this project.

Emancipating foster youth who live in the city of Los Angeles will augment their summer employment experience through the development of work-based learning contracts that clearly identify the skills they will develop during their summer employment experience. Youth and their supervisors will also document the skills acquired through the experience with a goal of preparing youth for future career and educational options. New Ways and the LA YTAT partners will design and implement the work-based learning contract, develop training materials, and work with case managers, youth, and worksite supervisors to ensure that the summer experiences are learning rich, and connected to the next step in the workplace or school. New Ways and the LA YTAT will also engage youth in the months following the summer experience to track progress against their career and educational goals.

By conducting follow-up activities, the summer experience will be better connected to the participant’s post-program experiences – whether it is in the workplace, a school setting, or a combination of both. Upon completion, the youth will receive positive evaluations from their worksite supervisors, be prepared to garner a Work-Ready Certification, sharpen their career and educational plans, and be working or enrolled in school (or both) after program completion.

**For more information please contact Kellie Noe, New Ways to Work Project Coordinator at [knoe@newwaystowork.org](mailto:knoe@newwaystowork.org) or 707-824-4000 x 33.**