



YTAT NEWSBLAST

Youth Transition Action Teams Initiative Leveraging Community Resources to Ensure Successful Transitions for Foster Youth

August 24th, 2007

Welcome to the YTAT Newsblast, a timely update on events, legislation, and resources for Youth Transition Action Teams and your partners working with youth in the child welfare system. Click on the links in the table of contents for more information.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Casey to Fund Employment Programs for Youth in Foster Care

Casey Family Programs has made a new commitment to support youth employment programs that serve over 800 youth currently or formerly in foster care. Initially funded by the Department of Labor, the five programs are located in Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, and New York City. The sites will receive \$675,000 of Casey Family Programs' investment this year. To learn more about Casey's increased involvement in these employment initiatives, read Casey's [press release](#).

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2. Call for Proposals-Creating a Blueprint: Building Support for Students from Foster Care on Higher Education Campuses

This conference, held at the Marriott Hotel in Santa Clara on November 7-9th, will be directly applicable to community college and university staff from Financial Aid, Academic Advising, Housing, EOPS, Career Counseling, and Student Affairs. Higher education administrators, policymakers and advocates are also invited to attend and submit presentation proposals. Please send completed applications by August 31, 2007 to Connie Hernandez Robbins, CME Society Director at (408) 924-1089 or Connie.Hernandez-Robbins@sjsu.edu.

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3. 2008-09 THP-Plus Letters of Intent Due October 1

Planning is already underway for THP-Plus in the 2008-09 fiscal year, which starts July 1, 2008. Counties who are interested in providing THP-Plus housing and supportive services in FY 08-09 must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) by October 1, 2007. For additional information, please contact Michele Byrnes at Michele@johnburtonfoundation.org or (415) 693-1323.

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4. Extending Mentoring Services to Reach Juvenile Justice and Foster Care Youth

Very few mentoring organizations are equipped to help connect youth in foster care or the juvenile justice system with adults who can provide ongoing support and who understand the challenges these youth face. The organization Health and Human Development Programs recently undertook the first-ever federally funded training program to help mentoring organizations reach these youth; [here's a look at what they're doing](#).

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5. Making an Impact Through Youth Media

Helping young people express themselves through media -- including new technologies -- can be a powerful strategy for youth development. The latest [Youth Worker News](#) from the National Youth Development Information Center offers case studies of programs using youth media, curricula and guides, and funding tools for programs.

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6. Ready by 21™ Strategies Can Help Improve City and School District Collaboration

Many of California's Urban Mayors Education Advisors gathered in San Francisco, California for a roundtable discussion on improving youth outcomes in their cities. Forum Program Manager Elizabeth Gaines presented Ready by 21™ strategies to deal with city and school district collaborative issues such as gang violence, the lack of out-of-school time programs and the joint use of school buildings. [Learn more about Ready by 21](#)

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7. Q&A with Casey Family Programs: Improving Education for Children in Foster Care

Chronic instability and a lack of family support can hinder educational achievement for youth in foster care. They are more likely to drop out of high school than their counterparts who are not in the system, and less likely to attend college when they do graduate. Child Advocacy 360 talked with the Casey Family Programs' Allison Kogut to find out what works and what's being done on the education front. The [interview](#) is posted on the homepage.

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8. Successful Alternative School Helps Dropouts Earn Diplomas

Despite a full-time job and pregnancy, Iris Ventura finally earned her high school diploma as part of a

Maryland alternative high school with a dropout rate of just 2%. The Community Based Classroom targets young high school dropouts who realize they've made a mistake, and most show rare fortitude, principal Tammy Williams said. Read more about this at [The Washington Post](#)
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9. New Web Site to Provide Information About Legal Issues Concerning Youth in Care

A new Web site, www.abanet.org/child/education provides users with a searchable database of legal and policy resources and houses announcements of events and newly developed information. Initially created through the support of the National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues, the Web site has been substantially revised and expanded through this collaboration with Casey Family Programs. The Web site contains three significant components to assist anyone who is interested in legal issues surrounding education of children and youth in care:

- **Resource Clearinghouse**
Find current and new legal and policy resources and documents related to the educational needs of children in foster care—by state and by topic.
- **National Foster Care/Education Listserv**
Members of the listserv can read and respond to inquiries from other members, receive important announcements regarding events and new resources, and confer with other experts and advocates on a variety of issues.
- **Topical Conference Calls**
A full schedule of conference calls for the year will be listed. Each call will focus on a relevant topic and callers will be able to share information with others members from around the country.

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10. National Association of Youth Courts

The National Association of Youth Courts hosts the world's largest and most comprehensive [website](#) on youth courts, teen courts, peer courts and student courts. Additionally, The National Association of Youth Courts has a planning guide for Youth Court Month in September.

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11. Talking About Youth Transitions: Making the Case

What's the best way to reach policymakers, parents, law enforcement and others with a message about what young people need to transition to adulthood? The Youth Transition Funders Group and Fenton Communications have created a [toolkit](#) to help advocates develop strong core messages.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

12. Career Development Facilitator Training

Dates: Sept 4-Dec 7, 2007 online and 2 face-to-face meetings in Madison, WI Oct 11-12 and Nov 15-16
More information: <http://www.cew.wisc.edu/cdf> or contact Judy Ettinger at jettinger@education.wisc.edu
Description: Online hybrid format class through the Center on Education and Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Career Development Facilitator (CDF) Training is designed to provide practical career development knowledge and resources, as well as to enhance the skills of those who work in the field.

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13. It's My Life Conference

Date(s): September 30 - Oct. 2, 2007

Location: Atlanta, GA

More Information: [Registration and details](#)

Description: Sponsored by Casey Family Programs, the It's My Life conference brings together youth in foster care, alumni, caregivers, practitioners, and advocates. This year's theme is "Unleash Your Genius!"

[Conference highlights](#) include open mic night with poet Divine Essence and movie night featuring a film directed by Chris Eyre. An early registration discount is available until Sept. 10.

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14. Getting Beyond the System: Philosophy and Approaches Training Workshop

Dates: October 1-2, 2007

More information: [Registration and Details](#)

Description: The Youth Advocacy Center in New York advocates for teenagers who are or may become involved with the foster care system. Its [fall workshop](#) is designed to give professionals tools to help teens in foster care transition to independence. Participants can experiment with these approaches during the training workshop.

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15. Collaborating and Putting Positive Youth Development Concepts to Work

Date: February 2008

More Information: Karen Hoffman Tepper at karenht@ag.arizona.edu or visit www.bpy.n4h.org

Description: State-level leaders can apply for a year-long professional development program from Building Partnerships for Youth. Teams of four to six youth and adults will network with peers from across the country and access a range of helpful resources. Applications are now online.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

16. Grants to Support Youth-led Service Projects by Youth in Foster Care

Funder: Youth Service America and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Deadline: October 1, 2007

Weblink: <http://ysa.org/AwardsGrants/tabid/58/Default.aspx>

Description: YouthPower grants support youth-led service projects by youth in foster care (ages 5-18) and youth who have recently transitioned out of foster care (ages 19-25) who will plan and implement service projects in their community. Service projects will take place as part of Global Youth Service Day on April 25-27, 2008. Projects can address themes such as the environment, disaster relief, public health and awareness, community education, hunger, literacy, or any issue that youth identify as a community need. Maximum award is \$1000.

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17. Assets for Independence

Funder: U.S. Administration on Children and Families

Deadline: Three times a year on June 15, Nov. 1 and March 15

Weblink: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/assetbuilding>

Description: \$18 million for 50 to 60 awards to help low-income people become economically self-sufficient by teaching them about economic and consumer issues and establishing matched individual development accounts. A broad range of public and private organizations are eligible, including those that provide services to youth who are saving to attend higher education.

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18. Comcast Foundation Awards

Funder: Comcast Foundation

Weblink: <http://www.comcast.com/corporate/about/inthecommunity/foundation/comcastfoundation.html>

Description: Comcast provides financial support to the organizations that make our communities stronger, and to outstanding youth. Comcast also funds organizations and programs that can show that they really do make a difference.

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