



YTAT NEWSBLAST

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

August 7th, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. [Highlights Available from Cross-System Collaboration & Partnerships Content Conference Call](#)
2. [Careers Conference 2008 Call for Proposals](#)

RESOURCES

3. [Chapin Hall Research on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Presented to Legislators](#)
4. [Web Conference Recording - Partners in Youth Workforce Development](#)
5. [The Casey Family Programs 20/20 Initiative](#)
6. [Beyond City Limits: Cross-System Collaboration to Reengage Disconnected Youth](#)
7. [Negotiating the Curves Toward Employment: A Guide About Youth Involved in the Foster Care System](#)
8. [Educational Terms in Everyday Language](#)
9. [THP-Plus News](#)
10. [Young Families Initiative](#)
11. [Audio Recording - Making the Child Welfare System Work for Older Children](#)
12. [Foster Care: A Response to No One Ever Asked Us: A Review of Children's Experiences in Out-of-Home Care](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIZATIONS

13. [Disney Minnie Grants Support Youth-led Service Projects](#)
14. [Community Colleges Helping First-Generation College Students](#)
15. [Open Society Institute Seeks Letters of Inquiry for Sentencing & Incarceration Alternatives](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

16. [Weekly Grants for Young Social Entrepreneurs](#)
17. [Youth Service America Venture Program Offers Micro-Grants for Young People to Start Social Ventures](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Highlights Available from Cross-System Collaboration & Partnerships Content Conference Call**

New Ways to Work partnered with the [California Institute of Mental Health](#) (CIMH) on March 27th to host a content conference call on the topic of [Cross-System Collaboration and Partnerships](#). The call was part of the CIMH Transition Age Youth Collaborative and the Youth Transition Action Team Initiative at New Ways to Work. For more information call Kellie Noe at (707) 824-4000 ext. 33.

Using the nationally-recognized framework, [Elements of a Comprehensive Youth-Serving System](#), New Ways to Work discussed how organizations and communities across the country have used this

framework and other tools to guide their cross-system collaborative work and to support partnerships. Also featured was a facilitated discussion with practitioners from the following counties who shared information about their successful partnerships and the programs or products they created as a result.

- Orange County Partnership between Workforce & Mental Health
- Los Angeles Cross-System City & County Partnerships
- Shasta County Cross-System Partnerships & Youth Resource Fair

[Return to Announcements](#)

2. Careers Conference 2008 Call for Proposals

The Careers Conference is a national event for educators, counselors, and practitioners. Its focus is innovative ideas, best practices, quality programs and practical information pertinent to career development, careers education, and workforce development. Proposals are being accepted now for concurrent and roundtable sessions on any related topic appropriate for practitioners at levels from K-12 through adult.

[Return to Announcements](#)

RESOURCES

3. Chapin Hall Research on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Presented to Legislators

On July 12, the Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, part of the Committee on Ways and Means in the U.S. House of Representatives, held a hearing to discuss services and outcomes for children who age out of the foster care system. Chapin Hall Faculty Associate Mark E. Courtney shared the findings of a report that showed that young people who are forced to leave the foster care system at age 18 face formidable challenges and often struggle to stay in school, find stable housing, and support themselves financially. Read [Courtney's testimony](#). Read the related report, [Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth](#), by Mark E. Courtney, Amy Dworsky, Gretchen Ruth Cusick, Thomas Keller, Judy Havlicek, and Noel Bost.

[Return to Resources](#)

4. Web Conference Recording - Partners in Youth Workforce Development

This web conference explored how employers, service providers, and policymakers can better collaborate to prepare at-risk youth for the workforce. Chapin Hall Researcher Jan DeCoursey discussed research that analyzed the effect of misalignments between employers and youth program providers on expanding employer involvement. Other panelists, including Steve Trippe, President of New Ways to Work, discussed state and local initiatives that address youth workforce development and strategies for creating community partnerships among various stakeholders in the field. You can contact New Ways to Work for more information by calling (707) 824-4000, or visiting www.newwaystowork.org.

[Listen to the web conference recording and download related materials.](#)

[Return to Resources](#)

5. The Casey Family Programs 20/20 Initiative

The Casey Family Programs [20/20 Initiative](#) aims to cut the number of children in foster care by 50 percent by 2020, improve education, mental health and employment support for children in care. Also: Casey Family Programs President William Bell describes the initiative in a May 11 *Philanthropy News Digest* commentary, "[Beyond Optimism: Success in Our Lifetime](#)."

[Return to Resources](#)

6. Beyond City Limits: Cross-System Collaboration to Reengage Disconnected Youth

It takes more than a single agency or public system to meet the needs of disconnected youth and help them reconnect to school, work and the right supports and opportunities. Collaboration among city, school, county and state agencies is essential. This National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families [report](#) has eight case studies exploring how city leaders can launch these collaborative efforts -- and what makes them work in the long run.

[Return to Resources](#)

7. Negotiating the Curves Toward Employment: A Guide About Youth Involved in the Foster Care System

Building upon the [National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability/Youth organizing framework](#), Guideposts for Success, which details what research says all youth, including youth with disabilities, need to successfully transition to adulthood, this publication applies the Guideposts to meeting the needs of youth in foster care with and without disabilities. NCWD/Youth will soon be posting on its website a companion piece to the Guide, [A Guide for Partnership Development: Blending and Braiding Funds to Serve Transition-Age Youth in Foster Care](#), which shows how the Guideposts for Success for Youth in Foster Care can be addressed under several pieces of legislation affecting youth in the foster care system. Order this guide. Download the entire guide in MS Word (45 pages, 336 KB).

[Return to Resources](#)

8. Educational Terms in Everyday Language

Education, like all professions, has a specialized vocabulary that parents and others may have a difficult time understanding. ASCD's online glossary, A Lexicon of Learning, provides clear definitions of educational terms in everyday language. View the [Lexicon of Learning](#).

[Return to Resources](#)

9. THP-Plus News

The THP-Plus Implementation Project has a quarterly news bulletin which provides timely information about THP-Plus, California's only housing program targeting former foster youth. To sign up for this free bulletin, email Michele Byrnes at Michele@johnburtonfoundation.org.

[Return to Resources](#)

10. Young Families Initiative

Healthy Teen Network has launched a [Young Families Initiative](#) to promote the educational, financial, and professional success of young families and their children by targeting improvements in policy, research, and effective programming.

[Return to Resources](#)

11. Audio Recording - Making the Child Welfare System Work for Older Children

Chapin Hall Senior Researcher Britany Orlebeke revealed data on the likelihood that older children in foster care will be reunited with families, adopted, or leave the system another way. Other panelists discussed youth perspectives on placements and permanency, preparing youth for adulthood regardless of their permanency goals, and the benefits of post-adoption services for children and families.

[Listen to the 90-minute audio recording.](#)

[Return to Resources](#)

12. Foster Care: A Response to No One Ever Asked Us: A Review of Children's Experiences in Out-of-Home Care

Foster children have a lot to contribute to the development of child welfare practice, planning and policy. To understand foster children's own take on the elements necessary for an effective system, researchers reviewed 22 studies and analyzed children's experiences and feedback. Some of the results were surprising, and support the author's recommendation that social workers and caregivers use children's feedback in both everyday practice and policy advocacy. The [article](#) appears in the Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, no 24.

[Return to Resources](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIZATIONS

13. Disney Minnie Grants Support Youth-led Service Projects

Organization: Walt Disney Company and Youth Service America

Deadline: August 30, 2007

Link: www.YSA.org/awards

Description: Disney Minnie Grants support youth-led service projects that are planned and implemented in communities. Projects can address the environment, disaster relief, public health and awareness, community education, hunger, literacy, or any issue that youth identify as a community need. Maximum Award: \$500. Eligibility: teachers, older youth (15-25), youth-leaders, and youth-serving organizations that engage younger youth (5-14) in planning and implementation.

[Return to Funding Opportunities for Organizations](#)

14. Community Colleges Helping First-Generation College Students

Organization: Met Life Foundation and Jobs for the Future

Deadline: August 31, 2007

Link: http://www.jff.org/%7Ejff/JFF_Pages.php?WhichLevel=3&lv1_id=3&lv2_id=32&lv3_id=39&ShowProject=2

Description: The 2008 MetLife Community College Excellence Award will honor two community colleges for their institution-wide commitment to helping low-income students, first-generation college-goers, and working adults enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Maximum Award: \$30,000.

Eligibility: community colleges across the United States.

[Return to Funding Opportunities for Organizations](#)

15. Open Society Institute Seeks Letters of Inquiry for Sentencing & Incarceration Alternatives

Organization: Open Society Institute

Deadline: Rolling

Link: http://www.soros.org/initiatives/justice/focus_areas/sentencing/guidelines

Description: The Alternatives Project provides funding for policy reform to counter radical increases in rates of incarceration and increasingly severe criminal punishments in the United States. The Alternatives Project will consider Letters of Inquiry from advocacy groups, community groups, scholarly or research institutions, government agencies, associations of elected officials, and nonprofit business associations or initiatives.

[Return to Funding Opportunities for Organizations](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

16. Weekly Grants for Young Social Entrepreneurs

Organization: Do Something

Deadline: Rolling

Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10007660/dosomething>

Description: Do Something and GameStop (<http://www.gamestop.com/>) are offering grants of \$500 each to young people, age 25 and younger who have a great idea for a community action project and need support to turn their idea into reality. GameStop grants are given out weekly.

[Return to Funding Opportunities for Youth](#)

Do Something and Plum TV (<http://www.plumtv.com/>) are offering grants of \$500 each to social entrepreneurs, age 25 and younger, in the U.S. who have recently created a sustainable project, program, or organization and need funding to further the growth and success of their program. Plum TV grants are given out weekly.

[Return to Funding Opportunities for Youth](#)

17. Youth Service America Venture Program Offers Micro-Grants for Young People to Start Social Ventures

Organization: Youth Service America and Youth Venture

Deadline: Rolling

Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10007661/ysa>

Description: The YSA Youth Venture Program provides a variety of resources, and grants up to \$1,000 each for start-up expenses.

[Return to Funding Opportunities for Youth](#)