



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

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**October, 2008**

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.

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### **Upcoming Events**

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- **YOUNG WORKER LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES TO BE HELD IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY OF 2009**

The University of California at Los Angeles and Berkeley, along with the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers Compensation, are once again sponsoring two 3-day all-expense-paid Young Worker Leadership Academies: January 29-31, 2009 (Berkeley) and February 26-28, 2009 (Los Angeles). *These Academies offer a unique opportunity for young adults to become leaders and advocates for teen labor rights and health and safety.*

"Please encourage students you want to support for the Academy to form a team, and then complete and send in the application by November 14, 2008. Each team must also have an adult sponsor who will attend the Academy and provide support to the team in planning and conducting their local activity. The application must also include the Adult Recommendation and Commitment form."

Go to [www.youngworkers.org](http://www.youngworkers.org) or to [www.losh.ucla.edu](http://www.losh.ucla.edu) to download the application materials. For more information, please contact Diane Bush at (510) 643-2424 or [dbush@berkeley.edu](mailto:dbush@berkeley.edu) or Nancy Morales at (310) 794-5996 or [moralesn@ucla.edu](mailto:moralesn@ucla.edu)

- **Young Parents Demonstration Grant Competition — Open to Faith Based and Community Organizations**

Young Parents Demonstration programs provide training in educational and occupational skills aiming to achieve economic self sufficiency within families. The program targets high risk young mothers and fathers as well as expectant mothers ages 16-24. This solicitation is open to various entities--including non-profit providers of workforce system services. See the solicitation for further details on eligibility.

**Solicitation is available at:** <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-23319.pdf>.

**Due By:** Applications are due by **November 17th, 2008 at 4:30pm**. Information on a Webinar for prospective applicants will be posted on <http://www.workforce3one.org>.

**Contact:** Eileen Banks, Grants Management Specialist at (202) 693-3403

- **Breakthrough Series Collaborative on ILP Transformation**

The Breakthrough Series Collaborative on ILP Transformation, a project of the California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership has selected its first cohort of county teams

- Butte
- Fresno
- Los Angeles
- Monterey
- Napa
- Orange
- Sacramento
- San Francisco
- Santa Clara
- Solano

There is still room to join this initiative. If your county would like to join this Breakthrough Series Collaborative sponsored by the California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership, please contact Karen Lofts Jarboe: [Karen.loftsjarboe@cfpic.org](mailto:Karen.loftsjarboe@cfpic.org). The 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of county applications for this Breakthrough Series Collaborative on ILP Transformation in CA, will be accepted up until **December 1, 2008**.

- **[Child Welfare Policy Briefing Series](#)**  
The John Burton Foundation is hosting its second annual Child Welfare Policy Briefing Series. Each briefing will address a child welfare topic, followed by a moderated conversation. The goal of the lunchtime series is to bring advocates, academics, practitioners and policy makers together for a discussion about some of the most pressing issues facing California's child welfare system, informed by current research and in the context of federal and state policy developments.
- **Content Conference Call Hosted by New Ways to Work  
November 5, 2008, 11:00-12:00 PDT  
Connecting Foster Youth to Career Development Programs in High School  
(Pathways, Academies, TPP, Workability, ROP, CTE)**  
This call will focus on providing information about the range of career development programs that are offered within high schools and how foster youth can gain access to these opportunities. If you would like to participate as a panelist, please contact Lisa Elliott at [lelliott@newwaystowork.org](mailto:lelliott@newwaystowork.org). If you would like to register for this call, please mark your calendar and watch for the official call announcement.
- **Next Foster Youth Career Development and Employment Taskforce Meeting  
December 17, 2008  
10a.m. to 12p.m.  
Location and Agenda to be Determined**

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#### **INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS**

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- **First Focus has released an exciting new publication entitled [Big Ideas for Children: Investing in Our Nation's Future](#).** This journal is a compilation of twenty-two large-scale policy proposals from respected thought leaders from across the country, in an effort to find innovative solutions for dramatically improving the lives of America's children.
- **New Website: The California College Pathways Project: [www.cacollegepathways.org](http://www.cacollegepathways.org).**

The California College Pathways Project is partnership of the California State University Chancellor's Office and the John Burton Foundation with the support of the Stuart Foundation and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation. The goal of the California College Pathways Project is to increase the number of foster youth in California who enter higher education and achieve an academic outcome by expanding access to campus support programs, such as the Guardian Scholars Program, the Renaissance Scholars Program and other successful approaches to supporting former foster youth on campus.

- **From Foster Care to College: Making the transition**  
For foster-care youth, the road to higher education is often the road less traveled. Seven percent to 13 percent of foster-care students enroll in college; about 2 percent obtain bachelor's degrees, compared to 24 percent of adults in the general population. [Supporting Success: Improving Higher Education Outcomes for Students from Foster Care](#) by the [Casey Family Programs](#) provides a framework to develop programs and practices that encourage foster-care students to prepare for, attend, and complete college.
- [California Foster Youth Education Task Force: Fact Sheets](#)  
Fact sheets include information on AB490, Education Rights, Special Education, Nonpublic Schools, AB 3632, Functional Behavioral Assessments, Behavioral Intervention Plans, School Discipline, and Special Education Discipline.
- **John Burton Foundation Policy Brief: [Outcomes for Former Foster Youth in California's THP-Plus Program: Are Youth in THP-Plus Faring Better?](#)**  
This policy brief includes findings from a cross-sectional survey of 458 youth in THP-Plus, conducted by the John Burton Foundation in the Spring of 2008. The analysis found that youth had made gains in several areas since entering THP-Plus: significantly more were working, their average hourly wage had increased substantially, more were enrolled in school, and a third fewer were "disconnected" from both work and school.
- [A Guide to Implementing the Host Family Model in THP-Plus](#)  
This document is based on extensive interviews with experienced practitioners who provide housing and supportive services to former foster youth and have implemented, or are in the process of implementing, the host family model of THP-Plus. It is also based on interviews with individuals who have done permanency work with current and former foster youth, and from feedback provided by THP-Plus participants during the THP-Plus Institute in July 2007.

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### **Legislative Updates on Youth Issues**

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- **Fostering Connections to Success & Increasing Adoptions Act-HR 6893-Signed into law on October 7, 2008!**  
[One page brief outline](#)  
[Final draft of the bill](#)  
[Press release on H.R. 6893](#)  
[Letter of support signed by 580 national and state organizations.](#)

- **California State Assembly Select Committee on Foster Care, [2008 Foster Care-Related Legislative Efforts](#)**