



YTAT Newsblast

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

If you have difficulty viewing this page, please visit:

http://www.newwaystowork.org/initiatives/ytat/newsblasts/newsblast03_08.pdf

March 1, 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAININGS/DEADLINES

- **[Scholarships for Former Foster Youth](#)**
The Orphan Foundation of America, which administers the Casey Family Scholars program, is now accepting applications for scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year. Eligible former foster youth who are pursuing postsecondary education can receive up to \$10,000 per year. **Deadline for applications is: March 31, 2008.**
- **[Staples Foundation Education Programs for Disadvantaged Youth](#)**
The Staples Foundation for Learning funds programs that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. For the first two funding cycles in 2008, the **deadlines for proposal are: March 14 and June 16.**
- **[American Humane/Casey Breakthrough Series Collaborative on Safety and Risk Assessments: RFA](#)**
Casey Family Programs and the American Humane Association are sponsoring a 33-month effort to use the Breakthrough Series Collaborative methodology (adapted from the health care field) to improve child welfare safety and risk assessments and decision making. The Request for Applications was released on February 11. For more information, contact Donna Parrish, Project Manager, at donnap@americanhumane.org.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

- **[Chafee National Youth in Transition Database \(NYTD\): Final Rule](#)**
This final rule adds new regulations to require States to collect and report data to Administration for Children and Families (ACF), on youth who are receiving independent living services and on the outcomes of certain youth who are in foster care or who age out of foster care.

States will report to NYTD four types of information about youth: services provided to youth, youth characteristics, outcomes, and basic demographics. In terms of services, States will identify the type of independent living services or financial assistance that the State provides to youth. **There are 11 broad service categories:**

- Independent living needs assessment.
- Academic support.
- Post-secondary educational support.
- Career preparation.
- Employment programs or vocational training.
- Budget and financial management.
- Housing education and home management training.
- Health education and risk prevention.
- Family support and healthy marriage education.
- Mentoring.
- Supervised independent living.

The State also will identify the characteristics of each youth receiving independent living services, such as their education level and tribal membership. In terms of outcomes, States will collect and report information on youth who are or were in foster care that can be used to measure the collective outcomes of these youth and potentially assess the State's performance in this area. **Data will be collected on six general outcomes:**

- Increase youth financial self sufficiency.
 - Improve youth educational (academic or vocational) attainment.
 - Increase youth connections with adults.
 - Reduce homelessness among youth.
 - Reduce high-risk behavior among youth.
 - Improve youth access to health insurance.
- **The Finance Project** is pleased to announce the next installment in a series of [monthly funding tips](#) for youth programs. These tips cover different financing strategies to help programs finance and sustain their work. **February's funding tip: [Partner to Access Funding to Address Transportation Issues in Rural Areas](#)**
 - **[From Youth Communication: New Comprehensive Site for Youth in Foster Care](#)** **A model for making resources available to teens, foster parents and staff.** Teens leaving or aging out of foster care in New York have a new one-stop hub for information, inspiration and real resources to help them transition to adulthood. The site -- developed by New York City Administration for Children's Services; New Yorkers For Children; and Youth Communication -- houses teen-written stories, legal and educational information and links to programs and services.
 - **[A "Ticket to Work" for Transitioning Youth – and Those Working With Them](#)** Since 2003, Ticket to Work program has worked to increase access to job preparation and placement services for Social Security disability beneficiaries. It is designed to provide beneficiaries a safety net for exploring work opportunities while retaining benefits. If you work with youth, you should know about the program—it is actively seeking grant applications from a range of organizations working with these young people.

- **[Terminated at 18: Bureaucrats call it “emancipation,” but for foster kids there’s no worse birthday](#)**

There are nearly 40,000 foster kids living under the auspices of the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) — and this year 1,400 of them will walk out of foster care forever. At the age of 18, most will have their cases “terminated,” and they will be forced out of homes where they have lived. Bureaucrats call it “emancipation.” The kids call it something else.

- **[Foster Youths' Views of Adoption and Permanency](#)**

The Urban Institute has released a report on Foster Youths' Views of Adoption and Permanency This exploratory study, conducted in Washington, D.C. and New York City, sought to examine foster youths' views of adoption, permanency, and adoption recruitment. The study raised three important findings: (1) foster care experiences influence youths' perceptions of adoption; (2) youth have concerns and fears about adoption; and (3) youth expect autonomy and want to feel empowered. The study's findings suggest that child welfare agencies and caseworkers may have more to do in terms of educating youth about adoption and other permanency options. [Click here](#) to be directed to the full report.

- **The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, or NASFAA, has a website with lots of information that can help students with their education.**

Each year, NASFAA updates the FAFSA Tips for Foster Youth Worksheet, a guide for financial aid administrators in helping foster youth complete financial aid forms.

This guide is now available on the NASFAA website:

<http://www.collegegoalsundayusa.org/support/FosterYouthFAFSATipSheet.PDF>

- **[What Works for Disconnected Youth -- Two New Studies](#)**

Two new reports from the Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse look at dropout prevention and what can help improve educational outcomes for struggling students:

- **[Intervention: New Chance](#)**. New Chance helps young mothers on welfare who have dropped out of school improve their employment readiness and parenting skills.
- **[Intervention: First Things First](#)**. This is a reform model designed to boost the academic achievement and labor market skills of young people in schools that serve a large number of economically disadvantaged students.

- **[Youth with Disabilities in the Foster Care System: Barriers to Success and Proposed Policy](#)**

This report, issued by the National Council on Disability (NCD), examines the unique challenges older youth with disabilities face as they negotiate the foster care system.