



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/newsblast04_08.pdf

April 8, 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

- **Foster Youth Success Initiative Regional Convening, Friday April 18th**
The CCC Chancellors Office has recognized that there is a significant deficit regarding youth from foster care attending higher education. Acknowledging this need, they are sponsoring a concerted effort called the Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI). The intent is to bring issues affecting these youth to the forefront and to improve the ability of these youth to access postsecondary education. **RSVP by April 11th.**
- **2008-2009 Application for the Cal State East Bay Renaissance Scholars program for former foster youth.** If you know of an eligible emancipating senior or transfer student who may be interested please share it with them. The application is also available at <http://wwwsa.csueastbay.edu/renaissance/>. **Deadline is May 1st, 2008**
- **National Foster Care Month California Kick-Off Event:**
Tuesday, May 6, 2008, California State Capitol
Save The Date!

Legislative Update

- **California Senate and Assembly place strong youth advocates in power**
Last month, two leading advocates of child welfare in California were selected to the top leadership posts in the State Legislature. The selection of Senator Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) as the next President Pro Tem of the California State Senate and Assembly Majority Leader Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) as the next Speaker of the California State Assembly, holds promise for increased attention and action on behalf of foster youth and families.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

- New Publication from the Finance Project**
Using CDBG to Support Community-Based Youth Programs
 This brief aims to provide policymakers, stakeholders, community leaders, and program developers working in or with community-based youth programs with a basic understanding of how the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is structured, how community-based youth programs fit into CDBG purposes and activities, and how communities nationwide are using CDBG to support youth initiatives. This publication is available at: <http://www.financeproject.org/publications/CDBGyouthprograms.pdf>
- Exploring Relationships of Youth Who Age Out of Foster Care**
 Gina Miranda Samuels, Chapin Hall faculty associate, interviewed 29 young adults who aged out of foster care to better understand their existing support networks and how they learned to cope with people coming in and out of their lives. All the young adults in the study reported having a network that included friends as well as biological, adoptive, and foster family members, but most said they lacked emotional support. The study recommends that child welfare policy and practice address the social-emotional health of youth aging out of foster care as well as their economic and physical well-being. Read the report, [A Reason, a Season, or a Lifetime: Relational Permanence Among Young Adults with Foster Care Backgrounds](#),
- [Apartment Hunting-10 Tips for Foster Youth](#)
Crib Sheet-How to Find Your Own Place
 Advice for teens on everything from who can help them in their apartment search to how to scope out an apartment and how to be a good tenant.
- Post-Secondary Education is Great, but Don't Forget Careers**
 There is great concern with ensuring high school graduates are college ready, but it appears the second part of the equation, being career ready, has fallen by the wayside. Educators, policymakers and the public have been too willing to define "success" as a four-year college degree and tend to concentrate most resources toward that single goal, according to a new report from the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB).
http://www.sreb.org/publications/2008/08V01_LostInTransition.pdf
- [Youth with Disabilities in the Foster Care System: Barriers to Success and Proposed Policy Solutions](#)**, a policy report by the [National Council on Disability](#) (NCD). The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) conducted the research for this report that examines this uniquely situated population in terms of the issues that affect them and the policy solutions that can be implemented to improve their outcomes.