



YTAT Newsblast

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

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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

- **Registration for the 2008 THP-Plus Institute is now open!**
The goal of the full-day conference is to bring THP-Plus to scale on a statewide basis. Following are the details for the 2008 THP-Plus Institute:
Date: Thursday, July 17th, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Location: The California Endowment, Los Angeles
Intended Participants: County THP-Plus representatives, THP-Plus providers, ILP Coordinators, and advocates
Registration: \$50 registration fee. Registration closes June 20th.
To register, please [click here](#). For additional information, please visit the [THP-Plus website](#).

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

- **[Foster Youth Career Development and Employment Summit Follow Up](#)**
A final draft of the policy paper, that includes the regulatory and legislative recommendations prioritized at the summit in January, is now available. If you attended the Summit, please let us know how it has impacted your efforts to better connect foster youth to career development and employment opportunities by taking 5 minutes to fill out this survey: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB227Q6AXXE5E>.
- **[A Changing Child Welfare System: A CFK Q&A](#)**
May marked the 20th annual celebration of Foster Care Month! To put the latest facts in context and to get the lowdown on emerging trends, Connect for Kids spoke with Candice Douglass, Communications Director with Casey Family Programs and Celeste Bodner, Executive Director of FosterClub.
- **[STATE SCHOOLS CHIEF JACK O'CONNELL ANNOUNCES NEW FEATURES ON WEB TOOL THAT HELPS STUDENTS PLAN FOR COLLEGE](#)**
State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell today announced that there are new features on the state's "one-stop online shop," <http://www.CaliforniaColleges.edu>, a Web-based resource that helps thousands of California students prepare for college.

- [Government Accountability Office \(GAO\) Announces Report on Programs Working with “Disconnected Youth”.](#)**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted a study to review 39 local programs directed towards reconnecting youth towards education and employment. To read the full report or abstract visit: <http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-08-313>.
- [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. 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, by Gina Miranda Samuels.
- [California College Pathways Project](#)**

The John Burton Foundation has received a two-year grant from the Stuart Foundation and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation to launch the California College Pathways Project. The goal of the project is to increase the number of foster youth in California who enter higher education and achieve an academic outcome by developing a state-funded program that provides social and financial supports for foster youth in higher education. For more information about the project, please contact Policy Director, Amy Lemley at amy@johnburtonfoundation.org or at 415-693-1322.
- [Report Urges a Sharper Focus on Education for Children in Foster Care.](#)**

The California Education Collaborative for Children in Foster Care released a new report calling for a sharper focus on educational outcomes for children in foster care and offering recommendations for strengthening the policies and systems that support them. A summary of the report and recommendations, as well as a full version of the report, are available online at www.cftl.org/fostercare.
- [Recommendations for Policy, Practice, and Research on Youth Permanence](#)**

Casey Family Services has released a report from the research roundtable held during the last National Convening on Youth Permanence in 2006. The report offers an overview from national experts of how to document and understand youth permanence strategies for children in foster care. (See the left sidebar of the Casey site.)