



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

- **2008 Foster Youth Career Development and Employment Summit [Summit Flyer](#)
January 8th and 9th
Sheraton Grand Sacramento**

California's first Foster Youth Career Development and Employment Summit will bring together representatives from all systems that touch the lives of foster youth. You are invited to join California foster youth, policy makers, and leaders from Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Education, Workforce Development, the Private Sector, Labor, and Philanthropy to develop integrated strategies that improve foster youth career development and employment outcomes.

This two-day, solution-focused summit will build on recent and innovative work at the national, state, and local levels that has demonstrated effective practices to ensure the following four outcomes:

- **Prioritize career development and employment for every foster youth**
- **Connect youth to education and workforce development programs**
- **Support emancipating and emancipated youth in their transition to adulthood**
- **Provide work experience and job opportunities that lead to economic success**

The Deadline for registration is December 14th. Click the following link to register:

www.regonline.com/FYCDEsummit08

Youth Scholarships are available. Click this link: [Youth Scholarships](#), for more information and an application.

INFORMATION TO SHARE

- **STATE SCHOOLS CHIEF JACK O'CONNELL AWARDS \$19 MILLION IN GRANTS TO HELP FOSTER CHILDREN SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY**
State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced 91 grantees will share nearly \$19 million in new funding for the Foster Youth Services (FYS) grant program. Click here to learn more:
<http://www.newwaystowork.org/documents/ytatdocuments/GrantsAwardedtoHelpFosterChildrenSucceedAcademically.pdf>

- **THP-Plus Annual Report Released**

The first-ever statewide Annual Report for THP-Plus has been released. The report highlights the substantial accomplishments the program has achieved in the last fiscal year. Key milestones for FY 2006/07 included: 650 young adults received housing and services through THP-Plus; 44 Counties had THP-Plus plans approved by the California Department of Social Services; and over 90 percent of surveyed THP-Plus participants rated the program as "excellent" or "good." The Annual Report has been mailed to Counties and providers that are currently implementing THP-Plus, and can also be downloaded from the THP-Plus website. Counties, providers, and advocates are encouraged to use the Annual Report to inform communities about the importance and effectiveness of THP-Plus, and to encourage continuing support for the program. www.thpplus.org

- **Report Shows Significant Over-Representation of African American Children in Foster Care System**

The Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles B. Rangel released a report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) which shows that African American children are twice as likely to enter foster care than White children, even though children of all races are equally as likely to suffer from abuse and neglect. The report also found that Black children remain in foster care longer than other children. To read a copy of the GAO report, [click here](#)

- **Report: Time for Reform: A Matter of Justice for American Indian and Alaskan Native Children**

The more than 500 federally-recognized tribes in the United States currently receive limited federal assistance to provide child welfare services to thousands of American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) children and families. Although some tribes receive limited support for child welfare services through the Indian Child Welfare Act and other federal programs, tribes cannot directly access the largest source of federal child welfare funding: Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, which authorizes federal foster care and adoption assistance. This has resulted in large numbers of AI/AN children under tribal jurisdiction not having the same access to child welfare resources as other children. Click the link below to download this report:

http://www.newwaystowork.org/documents/ytatdocuments/NICWA_KAWReport.pdf

- **Report: Alameda County CASA: Group Homes Project Advocating for Group Home Youth and Supporting Emancipating Youth**

In 2003, Alameda County CASA determined that it was imperative to advocate for and address the needs of group home youth and improve emancipation outcomes. A grant from *The California Endowment and Zellerback Family Foundation* funded the conception and implementation of the *Group Homes Project*. Click the link below to view this report:

http://www.newwaystowork.org/documents/ytatdocuments/CASA_GH_Report07.pdf

RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

- **Foster Club's Guide for Young People in Foster Care**

FosterClub's Hope for the Holidays. Attached is *Getting Through the Holidays: Tips for Youth*, the first installment in a series of guides to be released over the next few weeks.

For Youth: Getting Through the Holidays. Lots of people talk about how stressful the holidays can be. But we REALLY understand just how tough it can be for young people in foster care. How do we know? Because we've been there. So we've put together 10 tips for youth in foster care, developed by young people who know first-hand what it's like. >>> [Download Getting Through the Holidays](#)

An Open Letter to Youth in Foster Care by a foster care alumni. During the holidays, I often felt like an outsider because I was just a foster kid. I struggled emotionally when my foster family celebrated the holidays because I wanted to feel what I thought they were feeling. >>>[Read Daniel's Letter](#)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Transition Age Youth (TAY) Trainings**

Click the link below for information regarding upcoming TAY trainings

<http://www.newwaystowork.org/documents/ytatdocuments/TAYTRAININGS.pdf>