



YTAT NEWSBLAST

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

February 20, 2007

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. Click on the links in the table of contents for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [1. Foster Youth Employment Forums—A Huge Success!](#)
- [2. RFPS that Respond to the Shifting Nature of Workforce and Transitional Youth Funding](#)
- [3. Please Send Examples of Innovative Strategies that Connect Foster Youth to School Based, Career Related Opportunities](#)
- [4. America's Promise Announces *100 Best Communities for Young People*](#)
- [5. Help Older Foster Kids—Editorial](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [6. Pathways to Adulthood National Independent Living/Transitional Living 2007 Conference](#)
- [7. Save the Date—National Youth Service Day: April 20-22, 2007](#)
- [8. Youth Participation and Youth Leadership at the Congressional City Conference](#)
- [9. 14th Annual National Foster Care Conference](#)
- [10. Save the Date—National Foster Parent Association: May 23-May 27, 2007](#)

RESOURCES

- [11. Foster Care Alumni of America—Membership Drive](#)
- [12. Tips for High School Seniors](#)
- [13. California's Housing for Former Foster Youth Recognized in New York Times](#)
- [14. Making the Juvenile Justice-Workforce System Connection for Re-entering Young Offenders: A Guide for Local Practice](#)
- [15. Connect for Kids—Website and Online Resources](#)
- [16. American Opportunity: A Communications Toolkit](#)
- [17. New Book—*The Price of Independence: The Economics of Early Adulthood*](#)
- [18. Issue Brief—Foster Care Youth at Higher Risk for Criminal Behavior](#)

SCHOLRASHIPS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

- [19. Safe Jobs for Youth Month—Video PSA Contest Announced](#)
- [20. Orphan Foundation of America Casey Family Scholars Program](#)
- [21. Youth as City Leaders \(YACL\) Website and Name Voting](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Foster Youth Employment Forums—A Huge Success!

In the fall of 2006, with the generous support of Casey Family Programs, New Ways to Work partnered with the Child and Family Policy Institute of California to create cross-system awareness and improve local collaboration between county child welfare agencies and local workforce investment areas through a

series of forums conducted across the state. The intent of the forums was to better connect these two systems and to highlight and promote cross-agency approaches to better serve foster youth throughout California. The Foster Youth Employment Forums provided an opportunity for participants to learn about quality local programs, to develop a working knowledge of both the WIA workforce and child welfare systems, and to meet potential new partners and colleagues to collaborate with in the future.

To learn more about the forums or to access some of the resources that came out of the Forums, see the following documents or links to information on our website.

[Foster Youth Employment Forums Summary Report](#) (PDF 436 kb)

[Foster Youth Employment Forums Full Report](#) (with appendixes) (PDF 820 kb)

[Foster Youth Employment Forums PowerPoint Slide Show](#) (PDF 1.2 mb)

[Promising Practices Index \(25 New Promising Practices\)](#)

For more information about the forums or the Youth Transition Action Team initiative, contact Chandra Larsen at clarsen@newwaytowork.org.

[Return to announcements ↑](#)

2. RFPS that Respond to the Shifting Nature of Workforce and Transitional Youth Funding

On December 5, 2005 the National Youth Council Institute conducted an Infosearch seeking information about local areas that have developed Request for Proposals (RFPs) that respond to the shifting nature of workforce and transitional youth funding under the Workforce Investment Act or other funding streams. In response to many inquiries from practitioners and others, we collected information on RFPs that address and/or promote any of the following:

- Collaboration across organizations and systems
 - Among a network of CBO's
 - Among schools and CBO's, including Community Colleges
 - Among City or County Departments, schools, and CBO's
 - Other collaborations
- Serving special populations, especially foster youth
- Addressing DOL Common Measures:
 - Focus Alternative Education
 - Meeting the Demands of Business
 - Focus on Neediest Youth
 - Focus on Improved Performance
- Youth One –Stops

To view the seven RFPs we collected please visit:

www.newwaystowork.org/yci/YCinfosearchRFP.1.07.pdf.

[Return to announcements ↑](#)

3. Please Send Examples of Innovative Strategies that Connect Foster Youth to School Based Career Related Opportunities

On behalf of the Youth Transition Action Team initiative, New Ways to Work is conducting an Infosearch of local areas that are connecting foster youth to career-related programs within schools.

Many of your colleagues have been asking us for examples of programs and/or school districts that have created innovative strategies to connect foster youth to school based, career-related opportunities, like career-related academies, Regional Occupational Programs, and apprenticeship programs.

Please send the name of the program and/or school district, a link or brief description of the program, and contact information to Kellie Noe, knoe@newwaystowork.org.

[Return to announcements ↑](#)

4. America's Promise Announces *100 Best Communities for Young People*

America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth has announced the winners of its 2007 *100 Best Communities for Young People* competition. The winners were selected from a pool of more than 750 communities that applied based on their efforts to deliver Five Promises that are essential to the success of young people: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education, and opportunities to help others. Communities were chosen by a panel of top civic, business, and nonprofit leaders who looked at innovative partnerships across multiple sectors that use relevant data to foster awareness and action toward improving outcomes for children and youth. To view List of 100 Best Communities for Young People visit: www.americaspromise.org.

[Return to announcements ↑](#)

5. Help Older Foster Kids—Editorial

A new report by the Children's Advocacy Institute, run out of the University of San Diego Law School, provides more grim statistics for youth aging out of foster care. Among them, 65 percent of children leave foster care with no place to live, 51 percent are unemployed and just 3 percent attend college, while seven times that number end up serving time. Yet the study does more than lament this sorry state of affairs. Its authors make concrete suggestions for improving the lot of foster care children. The authors are calling for a new plan, the first of its kind in the nation, to establish guardians and financial support for foster children after they turn 18.

State Sen. Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, and Assemblyman Dave Jones, D-Sacramento, have pledged to sponsor the legislation in the hopes of getting money in the 2007-2008 budget.

We urge the Legislature and Gov. Schwarzenegger to give this important piece of legislation their support. For more information contact Robin Nixon Executive Director, National Foster Care Coalition robinnixon@msn.com or www.nationalfostercare.org

[Return to announcements ↑](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

6. Pathways to Adulthood National Independent Living/Transitional Living 2007 Conference

The Pathways to Adulthood National Independent Living/Transitional Living 2007 Conference will be held at the Minneapolis Hilton, Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 9-11, 2007. To view conference information visit: www.nrcys.ou.edu or www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/.

[Return to upcoming events ↑](#)

7. Save the Date – National Youth Service Day: April 20-22, 2007

National & Global Youth Service Day supports youth on a life-long path of service and civic engagement, and educates the public, the media, and elected officials about the role of youth as community leaders. For more information and to find an event in your area, please go to: www.ysa.org/nysd/.

[Return to upcoming events ↑](#)

8. Youth Participation and Youth Leadership at the Congressional City Conference

This year, Congress of Cities was held in Reno, Nevada from December 5-9, 2006. Over 165 youth delegates – from Alaska to Florida – came together to address important issues, learn from each other's experiences and share ideas about issues facing their cities. For more information about youth delegates' contributions at the conference, please visit:

www.nlc.org/Newsroom/Nation_s_Cities_Weekly/Weekly_NCW/2006/12/18/13077.cfm

This year's Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C., will be March 10-14, 2007. At the Congressional City Conference, approximately 100 youth delegates will have the opportunity to learn how federal policy and legislation affects their cities and towns. Last year's conference offered workshops that discussed important issues concerning youth, families, and the community. Youth delegates will have a great opportunity to learn about some of NLC's lobbying priorities for the year, to participate in important dialogue with elected officials from around the country, and to gain information they could use for discussion and action at home. For more information on the conference, or to register your youth delegation, please visit:

www.nlc.org/Conferences%5F%5F%5FEvents/Congressional%5FCity%5FConference or contact Rebecca Makar at makar@nlc.org.

[Return to upcoming events ↑](#)

9. 14th Annual National Foster Care Conference

The 14th annual National Foster Care Conference will be May 2-4, in St. Petersburg, Florida. For the past 14 years, Daniel has been sponsoring this highly informative and educational conference throughout the United States. This year's Foster Care Conference will address a wide variety of problems facing Foster Care Specialists, Foster Parents and various Social Service Professionals who desire to enhance their skills in order to create the best foster home environment. Each general session and workshop will present innovative ideas on how those of us working with youth can deal with these ever-changing situations. One of the main missions of Daniel is to help professionals, clients and their respective organizations establish and maintain an effective and comprehensive Foster Care Program.

For more information about the conference visit: www.danielkids.org.

[Return to upcoming events ↑](#)

10. Save the Date—National Foster Parent Association: May 23-May 27, 2007

Join the National Foster Parent Association for a fun-filled Memorial Weekend in our Nations' Capitol. For more details visit: www.NFPAinc.org.

[Return to upcoming events ↑](#)

RESOURCES

11. Foster Care Alumni of America—Membership Drive

Foster Care Alumni of America has just launched its national membership drive. Please take a moment to consider whether you and/or your organization would consider becoming a charter member of this organization. Your membership gives you valuable information, opportunities for individual development, and support for personal and professional growth.

For more information and to become a member visit: www.fostercarealumni.org/.

[Return to resources ↑](#)

12. Tips for High School Seniors

One of the best predictors of academic success among students, particularly those labeled "high risk" is having a special adult in their lives to encourage them. To view ten tips from the United Friends of the children that will help high school seniors get on track and college bound visit:

www.newwaystowork.org/documents/ytatdocuments/tentips.pdf.

[Return to resources ↑](#)

13. California's Housing for Former Foster Youth Recognized in New York Times

Many of you may have seen the article on the front page of the *New York Times* about the importance of providing support to transitioning foster youth, "Offering Help for Former Foster Care Youths," by Erik Eckholm. In the article, California's efforts to expand housing and supportive services to former foster youth were recognized, noting that California will be providing housing to 1,200 former foster youth. This housing will be funded by THP-Plus, which was recently expanded in the Governor's proposed budget, from \$4.8 million in FY 06-07 to \$15.5 million in FY 07-08, increasing the number of youth to be served from 200 to 1,200.

To view the entire article visit:

www.nytimes.com/2007/01/27/us/27foster.html?_r=2&pagewanted=2&oref=slogin

[Return to resources ↑](#)

14. Making the Juvenile Justice-Workforce System Connection for Re-entering Young Offenders: A Guide for Local Practice

This Center for Law and Social Policy guidebook is designed to provide advice from the field to communities interested in pursuing more formal connections—or strengthening existing connections—between the workforce and justice systems. It draws on experiences in eight communities and focuses on on-the-ground challenges and solutions related to blending the cultures, adapting programming, engaging employers, and meeting performance measures. To view the entire document visit:

www.clasp.org/publications/making_connection.pdf.

[Return to resources ↑](#)

15. Connect for Kids—Website and Online Resources

The Forum for Youth Investment has agreed to manage the Connect for Kids core communications vehicles, the website and the CFK weekly, as part of their ongoing efforts to build a strong, informed constituency for children and youth. Connect for Kids (CFK) will cease to exist as an independent organization, but the name and the work will go on thanks to Forum staff. The Forum is also the administrative home for the Youth Policy Action Center (YPAC), which is a collaborative effort by more than 100 national and regional organizations committed to influencing child and youth policy. For more information about Connect for Kids visit www.connectforkids.org, the Forum for Youth Investment visit www.forumforyouthinvestment.org and Youth Policy Action Center visit www.youthpolicyactioncenter.org.

[Return to resources ↑](#)

16. American Opportunity: A Communications Toolkit

Opportunity is the idea that everyone, regardless of who they are or where they come from, should have a fair chance at reaching their full potential. A new toolkit has been designed to help leaders and organizers working on a wide range of social justice issues begin to leverage the core American value of "Opportunity for All" in their outreach work. To view the entire toolkit visit:

www.opportunityagenda.org/site/c.mwL5KkNOLvH/b.1616947/k.A4CE/Advocates.

[Return to resources ↑](#)

17. New Book—*The Price of Independence: The Economics of Early Adulthood*

A new MacArthur Research Network book, *The Price of Independence: The Economics of Early Adulthood*, is in the works. Network members Sheldon Danziger and Cecilia Rouse have asked economists to examine the economic situation of today's young people. Check out their Network website to catch a sneak peak at the chapters: www.transad.pop.upenn.edu/news/priceofindependence.htm. More information about the MacArthur Network can be found at www.transad.pop.upenn.edu/index.htm.

[Return to resources ↑](#)

18. Issue Brief—Foster Care Youth at Higher Risk for Criminal Behavior

Youth aging out of foster care were more likely to have committed a crime than their peers of the same age, according to this Chapin Hall issue brief. Foster youth were more likely to report offenses such as damaging property, stealing something worth more than \$50, participating in a group fight, and pulling a knife or gun on someone. The researchers did find that the criminal behaviors of youth aging out of care decreased over time. To view the entire issue brief visit: www.chapinhall.org/home.aspx.

[Return to resources ↑](#)

SCHOLRASHIP AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

19. Safe Jobs for Youth Month—Video PSA Contest Announced

The California Partnership for Young Worker Health and Safety has announced its first Safe Jobs for Youth Month video PSA contest, open to all California youth between the ages of 14 and 18. Submissions are due by March 16, 2007. For more information and to download the flier and application materials visit: www.youngworkers.org or contact Diane Bush at (510) 643-2424 or dbush@berkeley.edu.

[Return to scholarships and other opportunities for youth ↑](#)

20. Orphan Foundation of America Casey Family Scholars Program

Orphan Foundation of America (OFA) in conjunction with Casey Family Programs and other generous sponsors offers approximately 100 new scholarships annually for young people out of foster care. These scholarships range in award amount from \$2500 to \$6000 and are renewable with continued eligibility for up to six years or until a student attains their Bachelor's Degree or technical certificate/diploma, whichever comes first. Applications will be accepted online at www.orphan.org (click the yellow scholarship box on the homepage) between now and March 31, 2007. Additional material as described in the application must be mailed to OFA with a postmark no later than April 16, 2007. Winners will be announced in early June, 2007 via email. For more information on this outstanding opportunity, please contact Tina Raheem, Scholarship Director, at scholarships@orphan.org.

[Return to scholarships and other opportunities for youth ↑](#)

21. Youth as City Leaders (YACL) Website and Name Voting

YACL is a place for youth leaders to meet up and speak up – an interactive virtual venue for youth council members, young community leaders, or any youth who aspire to impact their own cities and towns. Since the beginning of the year, youth leaders have begun voting on the web to choose a new name for the National League of Cities' youth website, currently referred to as "Youth as City Leaders." The "Call It Your Own" Naming Contest is the first step towards a website entirely created and run by youth. Youth can visit the naming contest on the web now to choose their favorite name. Three finalists in the web contest will travel to Washington, DC in March 2007 for NLC's Congressional City Conference, where youth delegates will vote on the winning name. To enter the contest visit: www.nlc.org/iyef/.

[Return to scholarships and other opportunities for youth ↑](#)