



YTAT NEWSBLAST

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

May 1st, 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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 2007 Foster Youth Focus Series Applications Available!

In partnership with Casey Family Programs, New Ways to Work is hosting a statewide focus series. The series will consist of two regional meetings and one statewide meeting. Teams will focus on systems collaboration, ILP redesign, and/or school and work-based learning activities. The final statewide Focus Session will result in policy priorities that will be delivered to California policymakers, and in promising practices that will be disseminated statewide. For more information contact Charlene Mouille at New Ways to Work at 707-824-4000 or cmouille@newwaystowork.org. To submit an application, go to <http://www.newwaystowork.org/documents/ytatdocuments/YTATFocusSeriesFlierSpring07.pdf>

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2. Legislative Alert: Help Increase Funding for Youth Development Programs!

The National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) is urging Congress to support funding for the Workforce Investment Act Youth Activities at \$1.4 billion and the Reintegration of Youthful Offenders at \$54 million. Click [here](#) to learn become involved in this issue, or for more information about policy affecting youth visit <http://www.youthpolicyactioncenter.org/>.

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3. New Clearinghouse for Sustaining and Expanding Youth Programs and Policies Launched

The Finance Project and The Forum for Youth Investment are excited to announce the launch of a major new information source: the Clearinghouse on Expanding and Sustaining Youth Programs and Policies. We encourage you to visit the clearinghouse both on the [Finance Project website](#), and on the [Forum website](#). The clearinghouse contains nearly 400 resources and is expanding daily. Design features allow users to search for data, tools, policies, practices, financing strategies, coordination efforts, and technical assistance resources.

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4. Healthy Teen Network Unveils National Blueprint to Support Pregnant and Parenting Teens in Transition

In their exciting new national blueprint [Helping Teens Help Themselves](#), [Healthy Teen Network](#) is a national membership organization that calls for increased awareness, funding, and collaboration to strengthen supportive housing options for pregnant and parenting teens exiting foster care. Healthy Teen Network challenges all organizations and individuals to identify action steps in their own communities and join them in making a difference in the lives of teens and young families.

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5. The Out of Home Youth Advocacy Council (OHYAC) Youth Training Program will be Transitioned from CYC to the Youth Offering Unique Tangible Help(YOUTH) Training Project.

The Y.O.U.T.H. Training Project has empowered more than 30 current and former foster youth to develop curricula and deliver professional trainings to approximately 3,000 child welfare workers throughout California and the greater United States. Longtime collaborators with CYC, we are confident that the Y.O.U.T.H. Training Project will continue this important work and bring an unprecedented level of expertise and experience to the program. For more information, read the [letter](#) from Jude Koski and Sandra Estafan.

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6. National Collaboration for Youth Issues NCLB Recommendations

The [National Collaboration for Youth](#) brings together almost 50 youth-serving nonprofits from across the country. Their [recommendations](#) for NCLB reauthorization include: considering social and emotional development along with academic performance; including community-based, faith-based and other public agency organizations in addition to schools; and providing a range of complementary services and supports, not just academic instruction.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

7. Sacramento Theatre Company and Casey Family Programs Partner for World Premiere

The Sacramento Theatre Company is partnering with Casey Family Programs to offer Someone's Somebody, based on [Regina Louise's](#) memoir, [Somebody's Someone](#). Regina Louise is an author, motivational speaker, and children's advocate. She will share her powerful story of self-determination, resilience, and redemptive love on stage for the first time. Performances run May 2nd through May 27th. For more information see the [Press Release](#) or visit the [Casey Family Programs](#) website.

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8. Community Network for Youth Development Speaker's Forum

Several times a year, the [Community Network for Youth Development](#) (CNYD) invites members of the youth development community to come together and hear a cutting-edge presentation. Following each presentation, lively dialogue ensues as the community analyzes challenges and learns about different approaches and perspectives on working with youth. Come learn more about an exciting movement to create a stronger professional support system for youth workers. A stronger workforce development system can offer youth workers training and professional development opportunities and credits, and begin to tackle issues of low compensation and advancing career opportunities. For more information, visit <http://www.cnyd.org/speakersforums/index.php>.

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9. MAKiN' iT Youth Seminar

The "[MAKiN' iT](#)" [Youth Development Series](#) is the [Youth Development and Research Fund's](#) comprehensive national effort to engage thousands of young people across the country around the importance of making good decisions about education, work, and career development. This series is focused around helping three groups: out-of-school youth seeking educational options and job skills; in-school youth in need of academic support and increased personal responsibility; and adjudicated youth seeking options for diversion.

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10. Building on Family Strengths Conference

The Research and Training Center's [national conference](#) May 31st-June 2nd will provide state of the science and best practice information addressing the question, "How can we best provide effective, culturally appropriate services and reduce access and quality disparities for underserved and/or poorly served children and youth with emotional and mental health challenges and their families?" These issues will be addressed throughout the conference – both by invited experts in plenary sessions, and through presentation of individual papers and symposia. In addition to the state of the science focus, the conference promotes programs and practices to increase family and youth participation and empowerment; family-centered, youth-guided, and culturally competent services; and building the capacity of communities to support children and families.

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11. Heads Up: Leadership for Change: A Nation without Dropouts Conference

One of the most daunting challenges facing our nation's public education system is the dropout rate of high school students — which runs as high as 50 percent among some student populations. This fall,

[Communities In Schools](#) will host a unique [conference](#) specifically for those engaged in youth development, education reform and community-strengthening efforts.

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RESOURCES

12. Intersection: Navigating the Road to Work

This electronic newsletter of the [National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth \(NCWD/Youth\)](#) offers information to improve services to youth and especially youth with disabilities. You can subscribe to this newsletter using an [online form](#).

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13. New Online Resource from the National High School Alliance

[Resource Guide for Action: Transforming High School for All Youth](#). The Resource Guide for Action, created by the [National High School Alliance](#), is designed to help policymakers and practitioners take action around the six core principles of A Call to Action: Transforming High School for All Youth. The National High School Alliance is a partnership of over 50 leading organizations that share a vision for a nationwide commitment to fostering high academic achievement, closing the achievement gap, and promoting civic and personal growth among all young people in our high schools and communities.

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14. New Executive Summary on Forum Program Quality Guides

The Forum for Youth Investment has released a new [executive summary](#) for, Building Quality Improvement Systems. It provides a preliminary framework for thinking about key questions when planning any kind of program quality improvement work in the youth serving sector. A [full report](#) is also available.

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15. Represent! Magazine for Youth in Foster Care

[Represent!](#) magazine provides a forum for teens and adults to explore important issues of life in care. It is published by Youth Communication, a nonprofit organization dedicated to giving a voice to teens and to providing them with the skills and information they need to succeed. Visit <http://www.youthcomm.org> for more information about Represent and their other publications dedicated to child welfare and youth voices.

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16. Understanding School Engagement for Youth Who Ran Away from Foster Care

To better understand the complex factors that influence school engagement for youth in care, [Chapin Hall](#) researchers interviewed Illinois youth who ran away from their foster placements and adults who care for or work with these youth. Findings reveal missed opportunities for foster parents and professionals, for the child welfare and education systems, and for the youth themselves. Read the complete report, [School Engagement and Youth Who Run Away from Care: The Need for Cross-System Collaboration](#), by Ada Skyles, Cheryl Smithgall, and Eboni Howard.

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17. Youth Development and Research Fund Newsletter

This newsletter is issued monthly by the [Youth Development and Research Fund](#). It is written for schools, workforce development programs, and youth centers interested in better reaching and engaging youth. You can [register](#) to receive this newsletter on a monthly basis.

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18. Changes in Traditional Models for Youth Workforce Development

The days of 8-track programs in a MP3 world are over. Recognizing this, many organizations are searching for a different approach- a relevant and engaging results-driven approach that is pertinent to

the needs of the target population and the times they live in. To answer this call, the [Youth Development Research Fund](#) has developed the [Youth Engagement Program Model](#). Though the model is designed to accomplish the same goals as a traditional program, the approach of a forward-thinking program model focuses on what is relevant to today's youth.

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19. Youth Speak Out on Sex, Love, and Teen Pregnancy

Teens get a lot of advice from adults, but they often aren't asked to offer their own. That's why the National Campaign asked teens growing up in foster care to tell us what they wanted to know about teen pregnancy prevention and what advice they would give to their peers. This handy, magazine-style brochure tells what teens have to say in their own words. You may download copies of [Our Story, Our Words: Youth Speak Out on Sex, Love, and Teen Pregnancy](#). Many other resources for preventing teen pregnancy are also available on <http://www.teenpregnancy.org>, such as [Fostering Hope: Preventing Teen Pregnancy Among Youth in Foster Care](#), and [10 Tips for Foster Parents](#).

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SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

20. Chafee Foster Youth Grant

The 2007-2008 Chafee Foster Youth Grant Application is now available on the Commission's Web site at <https://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov/default.asp>. Prospective Chafee applicants who cannot access the online application can download a paper application and mail or fax it to the Commission. Only new Chafee applicants need to complete the Chafee application. Please urge renewal students to complete a new FAFSA and not submit a new Chafee application.

New Applicants

To be considered for a Chafee award, a new applicant needs:

- To complete and file the Chafee application
- To complete and file a FAFSA for the 2007-2008 academic year
- Have a Financial Need Analysis Report (NAR) completed by their school
- A Foster Youth record from California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provided directly to the Commission

Renewal Applicants

To make this process as easy as possible for the renewal student, the student is not required to submit a new Chafee application every year. Renewal students must submit a new FAFSA each year and their school must complete a new NAR for each academic year. Students missing any required information will receive a Missing Information Status letter.

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21. YouthActionNet Social Change Projects Grant

For youth who are founding members of youth organizations that are promoting positive social change in their communities. YouthActionNet is the funder and youth aged 18 to 29 are eligible. 20 grants for \$500 each are available. The deadline for grant applications is May 15th. For more information visit

www.youthactionnet.org/yan_awards.

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22. United States Social Forum Scholarships

The [Third Wave Foundation](#)'s United States Social Forum Fund provides full scholarships for young women and transgender activists between the ages of 15 and 30 to attend the [United States Social Forum](#) June 27th-July 1st in Atlanta, Georgia. In particular, the foundation places a priority on individuals from the following communities: low-income; people of color; differently abled (mental, physical, or emotional); immigrant; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender; and/or those in rural areas. The foundation also encourages applications from people impacted by the sex trade or sex workers, young parents, and formerly incarcerated.

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23. Publication Opportunity

Here's your chance to see your name in print and shape public policy affecting foster youth. [Impact: A Multidisciplinary Journal Fusing Research, Practice, and Policy to Advance the Success of Urban Youth](#) attempts to answer the question, "How can municipalities and nonprofit organizations collaborate to facilitate success in transitional youth services?" Impact wants to hear what youth have to say and will work with youth to help them perfect their submissions. For more information, email Lynn Wu at impacturbanyouth@gmail.com.

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24. America's Promise Accepting Applications for Youth Partnership Team

The [America's Promise Alliance Youth Partnership Team](#) is now accepting applications for the 2007-2008 Youth Partnership Team. The team consists of 15 students between the ages of 14-22 from across the nation. Team members are a national sounding board and leadership body for the Alliance. Members represent the Alliance as spokespeople and trainers, and help to raise awareness nationally about the Five Promises. The team is also invited to attend two meetings each year in Washington D.C. Applications can be found [online](#).

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIZATIONS

25. YouthBuild Grants

The U. S. Department of Labor announces a \$47 million competition for YouthBuild grants to provide education, training, and leadership development to at-risk youth while preparing them for skilled positions in construction and other industries. The Solicitation for Grant Applications is located on line at www.doleta.gov/sqa/sqa.cfm or atwww.grants.gov. For more information on YouthBuild grants and other youth employment programs, please visitwww.doleta.gov/youth_services.

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26. Grants for Community, Education and Health Projects

The RGK Foundation is funding projects including human services, community improvement, abuse prevention and youthdevelopment/educational enrichment programs. Nonprofits must first submit letters of inquiry to determine eligibility. The deadline is open and each grant will be under \$25,000. For more information visit www.rgkfoundation.org.

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27. Training Principals in Urban Schools

For investments in training programs that develop strong, high-quality principals in urban schools. The Broad Foundation is funding an unspecified amount to 100 eligible school districts in 44 states and the District of Columbia. Concept papers are due June 15th for round two. Letters of inquiry describing the project, organization, the estimated total cost of the project and the funding request should be emailed to grants@broadfoundation.org. For more information visit www.broadfoundation.org/funding/rfp.shtml.

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28. Child Support Special Improvement Projects

Funds for three priority areas, including promoting healthy relationships for unwed couples to improve children's financial and medical security; improving child support by encouraging parents and child support enforcement agencies to work together for better case management and results; and expanding and improving child support enforcement/collection tools. The U.S. Administration for Children and Families is funding a total of \$800,000 across the three priority areas. The deadline is May 24th. Eligible organizations include: states; state IV-D agencies; tribes and tribal organizations; local public agencies; nonprofits; universities; and consortia of state and/or local public agencies. For more information visit www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2006-ACF-OCSE-FI-0005.html.

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29. CA Dept of Education Funding Foster Youth Services

Local educational agencies which are core FYS districts specified in Education Code I Section 42920, County Office of Education or consortium of County Offices of Education. The purpose of this program is to provide educational and support services to foster children residing in licensed foster homes or county operated juvenile detention facilities. There are three distinct components to this Request for Application (RFA): 1) Core District Foster Youth Services (FYS) programs provide advocacy and direct services to support the educational success of foster youths attending school in the respective school districts; 2) Countywide FYS programs collaborate with local agencies and service providers to ensure that foster youths living in licensed foster homes in their respective counties receive needed educational support services; and 3) Juvenile Detention FYS programs ensure that foster youths placed in county-operated juvenile detention facilities have the same access to comprehensive educational and support services available to students not in the juvenile justice system and assist foster youths in the transition from juvenile court school to an appropriate school placement within their community of residence. View at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/profile.asp?id=1045>

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