



YTAT Newsblast

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

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May, 2009

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May is National Foster Care Month

Tuesday, May 12th is California's statewide kick-off of National Foster Care Month — a series of activities in the state's capital culminating in the 5th annual Capitol Event on May 12th. This year's Capitol Event will honor individuals and partnerships that are fostering connections to success for the more than 75,000 foster youth in California today. [Click here](#) to view the FCM Capitol Event Announcement.

May is Safe Jobs for Youth Month

Having a job as a teenager can be great. Young workers earn money, learn responsibility, and get new skills. But is the work safe? Have they been trained? Do they know what to do if there is a problem? Visit www.youngworkers.org to find out what you can do to educate and protect working teens!

On the website you will find:

- An updated, **downloadable** Safe Jobs for Youth Month Resource Kit (teaching activity, community service suggestions, the winning poster, tips for parents, and more)
- 2009 Teen Poster Contest winners
- 2009 Teen Video Public Service Announcement Contest winners
- And lots more info for teens, parents, teachers and employers

June 10th Web Seminar: Funds Available through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

On March 19th, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development issued notice and guidance concerning the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's \$1.5 billion investment in the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP).

The California Coalition for Youth and the John Burton Foundation are holding a web seminar on Wednesday, June 10th from 10:00 to 11:30 to inform homeless youth providers in California about this important opportunity. To register [click here](#).

Information to be covered during the web seminar will include:

- How HPRP funds may be used;
- When HPRP funds will be available;

- How to access HPRP funding locally;
- How HPRP funds can be used by homeless youth programs;
- How to make the case that HPRP funds are used for homeless youth.
- Panelists will include representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National Alliance to End Homelessness. We hope you will join us for this web seminar.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

Connecting Foster Youth to Summer Employment

On April 1, 2009, New Ways to Work and the California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership hosted a conference call designed to inform individuals working with foster youth about the potential summer opportunities that will be available as a result of President Obama's new stimulus package. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocates 1.2 billion dollars to support youth workforce programs under the Workforce Investment Act, including summer employment. To view the Power Point for this call: [YTATApril09Slides](#)

To watch a recording of this webinar, please click:

<https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/playback.jnlp?psid=2009-04-01.1030.M.93BBB767175585BB84EF5FD8E0F230.vcr>

Please note that there is a about a 2 minute delay in the recording. Use the volume control on the screen.

Factsheet: "Federal Laws that Increase Educational Opportunities for Older Youth in Out-of-Home Care"

In 2008, three significant federal laws passed that impact the educational opportunities for older youth in the foster care system. [View the Factsheet](#) from the Legal Center for Foster Care and Education: "Federal Laws that Increase Educational Opportunities for Older Youth in Out-of-Home Care" for key provisions from the Fostering Connections Act, the College Cost Reduction Act and the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. You can also visit their website at www.abanet.org/child/education.

Extending Supports for Foster Youth Beyond Age 18

The aim of the chart developed by the ABA Bar Youth Empowerment Project is to help inform states about work that is moving forward nationally to implement the extension of support beyond 18 provisions in the Fostering Connections Act. The chart seeks to summarize key information in bills that have been proposed in the wake of enactment of the federal legislation. [Click here](#) to view the chart. Hopefully this summary will educate states that have yet to move forward. If there is legislation pending that is not listed on the chart, please send that information to Miriam Krinsky krinskym@yahoo.com. An ongoing updated version of the chart will be kept on the ABA website at: www.abanet.org/child/empowerment

Second Edition of the Blueprint for Change

The Legal Center for Foster Care and Education (www.abanet.org/child/education) has just released the Second Edition of the Blueprint for Change, an important framework of Goals and Benchmarks that can be used to guide education improvements for children in foster care. The Second Edition mirrors the Goals and Benchmarks from the first addition, but now provides over 100 new Examples as well as a new "All Goals" section. To download the newest version of the Blueprint, the corresponding insert card, and the tools developed for educators, judges, attorneys,

and caseworkers about Goals 1 and 2 of the Blueprint for Change, please click here <http://www.abanet.org/child/education/publications/blueprint.html>

From the Orphan Foundation of America

THE HUFFINGTON POST has published a compelling piece written by [Tamar Abrams](#) that is sure to boost national visibility for OFA and the young people they serve: [Mentoring Kids from Foster Care to Success](#). Tamar's post comes a day after President Obama signed the Serve America Act, which expands volunteer opportunities and incentives in the U.S. and includes a key amendment by Senator Mary Landrieu, ensuring that mentoring foster youth will be included among the national service programs eligible for assistance.

California's Fostering Connections to Success Act and the Costs and Benefits of Extending Foster Care to 21

A report analyzing the potential costs and benefits of allowing foster youth to remain in care until age 21, the policy encouraged by the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act and proposed in California's Assembly Bill 12, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act. [Click here](#) for the Final Report. [Click here](#) for a one page summary

Summary of the 2008 National Convening on Youth Permanence: From Inspiration to Action

Sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation/Casey Family Services and Casey Family Programs. This publication contains examples of promising state, county, and tribal initiatives that advance youth permanency practice; strengthen the courts' role in supporting youth permanence; realign agency structures and increase collaboration; address racial disproportionality and disparate permanency outcomes for youth of color; and build public will and promote policy change. [Click here](#) to view the summary.

Report of Proceedings: October, 2008 Convening

Fostering Connections After Age 18: Report of a convening to address housing, health care, education and other transition to adulthood issues. [Click here](#) to download Report. . This report will also be posted on both the Partners for Our Children (www.partnersforourchildren.org) and Juvenile Law Center (www.jlc.org) websites

Supporting Youth in Transition to Adulthood: Lessons Learned from Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

This paper discusses the successes and challenges that juvenile justice and child welfare agencies face in preparing the youth they serve for a successful adulthood. The paper describes assessment, case management, and other practices implemented in either system that have shown promise in improving outcomes for the transition age population. [Click here](#) to download this paper.