



YTAT NEWSBLAST

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

May 15th, 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. [2007 Foster Youth Focus Series Application Deadline Extended!](#)
2. [Additional Sessions Available for Federal Student Aid Training](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

3. [Audioconference Call on Youth Master Planning](#)
4. [Your City's Families Summit](#)
5. [Foundation Center Focuses on Health and Human Services](#)
6. [2007 THP-Plus Institute: Effective Practices to Successfully House Former Foster and Probation Youth](#)
7. [Financing and Sustaining Youth Programs and Initiatives Audioconference Series](#)

RESOURCES

8. [Action Kit on Youth Master Planning Youth Finance Project](#)
9. [Youth Finance Project: Creating Dedicated Revenue Sources for Youth Serving Programs](#)
10. [EdFund Lender Manual](#)
11. [Recommendations for Improving Education Outcomes for Children and Youth in Foster Care](#)
12. [National Governors Association Report on Transitioning Out of Foster Care](#)
13. [Helping Teens Help Themselves: Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Teens in Transition](#)
14. [Multiple Perspectives on Multiple Pathways: Preparing California's Youth for College, Career, and Civic Responsibility](#)
15. [Free Brochure on Stafford Loans](#)
16. [Next Generation Youth Work Coalition Bulletin #5](#)
17. [May and Summer Financial Aid Calendar Available](#)
18. [Briefing on Casey's approach to career-building for youth in care](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

19. [YouthScape](#)
20. [Residencies for Writers, Visual Artists, and Music Composers](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIZATIONS

21. [Richard Riley Award to Honor Schools That Serve as Centers of Community](#)
22. [Staples Foundation for Learning Offers Support for Education and Job Skills Programs](#)
23. [Youthful Offender Grants](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **2007 Foster Youth Focus Series Application Deadline Extended!**

There is still space left for your team to join the 2007 Foster Youth Focus Series and the deadline for applications has been extended to **May 15th**. 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 ext. 21, cmouille@newwaystowork.org or Alyssum Root at 707-824-4000 ext. 29, aroot@newwaystowork.org. To submit an application, go to <http://www.newwaystowork.org/documents/ytatdocuments/YTATFocusSeriesFlierSpring07.pdf>
[Return to Announcements](#)

2. Additional Sessions Available for Federal Student Aid Training

This letter announces Additional Sessions Available for the Federal Student Aid's 2007-08 online, instructor-led training sessions. The additional sessions will be available the afternoon of May 16 and May 17, 2007. All sessions will be conducted live through the Internet, which will allow you to participate without leaving your desk.

Select the link to read the Department letter:

http://www.edfund.org/dcl/dsp_LSSelectedResult.cfm?title=ANN-07-08&type=ANN

[Return to Announcements](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

3. Audioconference Call on Youth Master Planning

City leaders working with community leaders, such as youth and school leaders, to develop a long-term plan for youth, is the topic of an upcoming, free audioconference on Making Youth a High Priority: City-School Youth Master Planning Initiatives Thursday, May 24, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. (Eastern Time).

A youth master plan (YMP) allows city and school leaders to take stock of all the ways they serve youth, assess where attention should be focused in the various systems, and develop a master plan for addressing these high need areas while maintaining the services, supports, and opportunities for youth. To register for the audioconference, [email](#) or fax your name, title, organization, mailing address (including street, city, state and zip), telephone, fax and email. No telephone registrations can be accepted. You may e-mail miyef@nlc.org, or send a fax to (202) 626-3043.

[Return to Upcoming Events](#)

4. Your City's Families Summit

The [National League of Cities' Institute for Youth Education and Families](#) will host the biennial [Summit for Your City's Families](#) in San Antonio, Texas, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2007. All the topics will focus on issues related to children, youth and families. Please note: there are no youth only sessions at this conference, and no youth discount for registration.

[Return to Upcoming Events](#)

5. Foundation Center Focuses on Health and Human Services

Join The Foundation Center throughout May for the following events focused on health and human services organizations. Click on the program title for more details, including how to register.

- [Reality Grantmaking: Health and Human Services Special Edition](#). Tuesday, May 22, 9:30 am-12:30 pm
- [Introduction to Foundation Directory Online and Web Resources for Health and Human Services Organizations](#). Tuesday, May 22, 2:00-4:00 pm
- [Demystifying Outcomes: Designing Health and Human Services Programs for Fundraising Success](#). Wednesday, May 23, 1:00-3:00 pm
- [Big Fundraising Ideas for Small Health and Human Services Organizations](#). Tuesday, May 29, 2:00-4:00 pm
- [Introduction to Corporate Giving for Health and Human Services Organizations](#). Wednesday, May 30, 1:00-2:30 pm

[Return to Upcoming Events](#)

6. 2007 THP-Plus Institute: Effective Practices to Successfully House Former Foster and Probation Youth

The Institute is sponsored by the THP-Plus Statewide Implementation Project, a partnership between the John Burton Foundation, the California Department of Social Services, and the Corporation for Supportive Housing. We are pleased that Majority Leader Karen Bass is also co-sponsoring what promises to be a dynamic and educational conference. The Institute will be held on Monday, **July 16** (note the date change) at the Center for Healthy Communities at the California Endowment in Los Angeles. The Institute is designed for ILP Coordinators, county THP-Plus representatives, THP-Plus service providers, housing providers and advocates who are seeking information about effective practices for serving former foster and probation youth. Together, participants will learn from experienced practitioners, youth participants, county and state administrators and housing experts. Additional information will be posted at www.johnburtonfoundation.org/THP-Plus_Institute.htm. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Byrnes at (415) 693-1323 or michele@johnburtonfoundation.org.

[Return to Upcoming Events](#)

7. Financing and Sustaining Youth Programs and Initiatives Audioconference Series

Beginning this May, [The Finance Project](#) introduces a new series of audioconferences for program leaders, intermediaries, policymakers and funders to share their valuable ideas and experiences on financing and sustaining youth initiatives. The dates and topics for these audio conferences are listed below. Topics include

- Thinking Broadly: Financing Strategies for Youth Programs (May 23, 2007). Click here to [Register](#). The resource for this topic, [Thinking Broadly: Financing Strategies for Youth Programs](#) is available at The Finance Project's Website.
- Public-Private Partnerships for Youth Programs (July 2007). [A Guide to Successful Public-Private Partnerships for Youth Programs](#) is available at The Finance Project's website.
- Creating Dedicated Local and State Revenue Sources for Youth Programs in September. The resource for this topic, [Creating Dedicated Local and State Revenue Sources for Youth Programs](#), is available at The Finance Project's website.
- Community Fundraising for Expanding and Sustaining Youth Programs (November 2007). The resource for this topic, [Community Fundraising: A Guide for Youth Programs](#), is due to be published in Summer 2007

For more information on the audioconference series, please visit our [Youth Programs Resource Center](#) or contact Soumya Bhat at sbhat@financeproject.org.

[Return to Upcoming Events](#)

RESOURCES

8. Action Kit on Youth Master Planning

Thanks to the generous support of the [MetLife Foundation](#), the [Institute for Youth Education and Families](#) will soon be publishing an Action Kit on Youth Master Planning, based on our learning from the last two years of a technical assistance project working with six cities on their plans. A youth master plan (YMP) allows city and school leaders to take stock of all the ways they serve youth, assess where attention should be focused in the various systems, and develop a master plan for addressing these high need areas while maintaining the services, supports, and opportunities for youth. For more information, go to http://www.nlc.org/iyef/program_areas/youth_development/810.aspx or contact Rebecca Makar at mmakar@nlc.org.

[Return to Resources](#)

9. Youth Finance Project: Creating Dedicated Revenue Sources for Youth Serving Programs

[The Finance Project](#) has recently finished several new publications focused on financing and sustaining programs serving youth, including: [Creating Dedicated Local and State Revenue Sources for Youth Programs](#). This brief outlines strategies to create dedicated local and state revenue sources for youth programs, provides guidance and information on the capacity, funding, and community support required for these strategies, and profiles these strategies at work in different states and communities. The Finance Project also offers several [other publications](#).

[Return to Resources](#)

10. EdFund Lender Manual

[The EDFUND Lender Manual](#) gives valuable information on a wide range of EDFUND practices and policies, covering such areas as manual and online procedural guidelines, detailed information on the Financial Aid Processing System (FAPS™), reports and error messages, and complete contact information. The EDFUND Lender Manual is produced annually and updated each August.

[Return to Resources](#)

11. Recommendations for Improving Education Outcomes for Children and Youth in Foster Care

The reauthorization of Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act provides an opportunity for schools to better understand the unique situations and experiences of children in foster care and for child welfare agencies to focus more on the educational needs and outcomes of the children and youth they are serving. This set of [recommendations](#) is a joint publication by CLASP, the Child Welfare League of America, the Children's Defense Fund, Lutheran Services in America, and Voices for America's Children. 7 pages.

[Return to Resources](#)

12. National Governor's Association Report on Transitioning Out of Foster Care

Most youth who age out of foster care do not receive adequate support and preparation for their transition to independent living, says a new [report](#) from the National Governors Association. Here's a look at how several states are working to connect teens to more life skills, education, housing, employment, and other critical services -- including raising age limits and streamlining the shift from the child welfare system to the workforce development and mental health systems.

[Return to Resources](#)

13. Helping Teens Help Themselves: Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Teens in Transition

Each year 20,000 foster youth ages 16 and older exit the child welfare system and suddenly find themselves on their own -- responsible for finding housing, getting jobs, and becoming adults. This transition is especially challenging for pregnant and parenting teens. A [new blueprint](#) from the Healthy Teen Network has ideas to help organizations and communities raise awareness about the issue, and work together to increase housing options and supports for parenting teens.

[Return to Resources](#)

14. Multiple Perspectives on Multiple Pathways: Preparing California's Youth for College, Career, and Civic Responsibility

Under the [Multiple Pathways approach](#), high school students take both academic, college-required classes and those that teach technical 21st century job skills and "soft skills" needed in the workplace. New studies from the UCLA Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access examine the approach, its challenges, and policy implications. Among the findings:

- Most disaffected high school students surveyed (81 percent) said real-world skills could re-engage them;
- "Soft skills" were shown to boost not only workplace success but young people's community involvement;
- Courses that involve employers (for example, offering on-the-job training or job search help) are generally successful -- but some communities with the most vulnerable students have the least access to work opportunities.

[Return to Resources](#)

15. Free Brochure on Stafford Loans

EDFUND's quick-read [brochure](#) on Stafford loans is designed to help students learn about their borrowing options. This publication has been revised to include loan information that becomes effective July 1, 2007. Order numbers are: English I-45; Spanish I-45.1. Financial aid professionals may order the brochures, as well as other EDFUND publications and videos, by:

- Ordering [online](#)
- E-mailing orders to publications@edfund.org
- Faxing an order form to 916.526.8838
- Writing to the EDFUND Shipping Center at P.O. Box 419045, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9045
- Calling the shipping center telephone hotline at 916.526.7282

[Return to Resources](#)

16. Next Generation Youth Work Coalition Bulletin #5

Published by the National Collaboration for Youth, this month's [bulletin](#) has a round-up of promising practices and projects across the country, recent reports, and other news for people working with and on behalf of young people. It also contains information on joining the coalition.

[Return to Resources](#)

17. May and Summer Financial Aid Calendar Available

You will find the Financial Aid Calendar for May and Summer at http://www.edfund.org/pdfs/fa_tips_may_june.pdf to share with students. An exclusive right to copy the financial aid tips is granted to high school counselors and their respective schools. This right is granted with the understanding that EDFUND and California Student Aid Commission logos are maintained on the copied documents.

[Return to Resources](#)

18. Briefing on Casey's approach to career-building for youth in care

Casey Family Programs helps prepare youth in care across the country with tools and resources that include the It's My Life: Employment guide, the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment, research on promising and effective employment practices, and efforts to improve connections between America's child welfare and workforce development systems. To learn more about Casey's employment resources, read [Focus on Foster Care: Youth Employment](#).

[Return to Resources](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

19. YouthScape

Youth delegates voted "YouthScape" the winner among the three final names for the youth website at the Congressional City Conference last month. If any youth in your city are interested in serving as writers or photographers for [YouthScape](#), or as part of the Web Advisory Committee, please let us know. We are very interested in engaging youth to contribute to the website and advise NLC staff on these efforts. Any great ideas for engaging youth in your city? Holding a summit or another special event showcasing youth in city leadership roles? Please let us know! We'd love to share your story on the website. Encourage youth to visit the [website](#) and email news to Colleen McCarthy at fellow@nlc.org. Be sure to check back often for updates!

[Return to Scholarships and Other Opportunities for Youth](#)

20. Residencies for Writers, Visual Artists, and Music Composers

The [Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts](#) in Nebraska City, Nebraska, offers two to eight week residencies for year-round for writers, visual artists, and music composers. The program provides housing, studio space, and a \$100/week stipend. There is a \$25 application fee. Approximately thirty-eight residencies are awarded each year. Deadlines are as follows: September 1 for the following January through June 15; and March 1 for the following July through December 15. Visit the program's Web site for complete information, guidelines, and application instructions. RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10007257/khncenterforthearts>

[Return to Scholarships and Other Opportunities for Youth](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIZATIONS

21. Richard Riley Award to Honor Schools That Serve as Centers of Community

Deadline: July 9, 2007

The [KnowledgeWorks Foundation](#) in partnership with the [American Architectural Foundation](#) seeks submissions for the Richard Riley Award. The award recognizes design and educational excellence in "schools as centers of community." The winning school will receive a \$10,000 prize. Schools that serve as centers of community provide a rich array of social, civic, recreational, and artistic opportunities to the broader community and to students, often clustering educational and municipal buildings together. These additional services and opportunities often improve student achievement and help maximize local tax dollars. All public schools, new and old, including charter schools, are eligible to submit entries for the award. Individuals are not eligible to receive the award. For detailed information about criteria for the award and how to enter the competition, visit the program's Web site.

RFP Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10007174/richardrileyaward>

For additional RFPs in Education, visit: http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_education.jhtml

[Return to Funding Opportunities for Organizations](#)

22. Staples Foundation for Learning Offers Support for Education and Job Skills Programs

Deadline: August 3, 2007

The mission of [Staples Foundation for Learning, Inc.](#) is "to teach, train, and inspire." The foundation contributes funds to national and local charities that provide educational opportunities and job skills for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. To be eligible for consideration, the applicant organizations must have nonprofit, tax-exempt classification under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; offer programs aligned with the Staples Foundation for Learning's mission; and focus on job skills and education. The requested amount of each grant can be up to \$25,000. Most grants awarded by the foundation are in the \$5,000 to \$25,000 range. The foundation reviews grant proposals on a quarterly basis. Visit the foundation's [website](#) for complete program information and updates, instructions on submitting an online application, and an FAQ.

RFP Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10007175/staplesfoundation>

For additional RFPs in Education, visit: http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_education.jhtml

[Return to Funding Opportunities for Organizations](#)

23. Youthful Offender Grants

The U.S. Department of Labor is offering approximately \$20 million for [Youthful Offender Grants](#) for three categories of projects: registered apprenticeships, educational achievement, and efforts to expand effective programs.

[Return to Funding Opportunities for Organizations](#)