



# YTAT Newsblast

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

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**July 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.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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#### **Are the Foster Youth in your County Connected to Summer Jobs? Please Tell Us About It!**

New Ways is collecting information to assess whether foster youth in your community have been able to access summer jobs through the ARRA stimulus funding (through the local Workforce Boards). Several counties have already reported the numbers of foster youth who have been connected to the summer jobs program in their county. If you have not done so, please take a moment to send an email to Lisa Elliott at [lelliott@newwaystowork.org](mailto:lelliott@newwaystowork.org) stating the county you are in and the number of foster youth that have been able to take advantage of this opportunity. We would also like to know about the challenges that you have encountered in making this happen and/or success stories. Please help us to collect this information so that we can provide an accurate picture of the foster youth experience this summer, how it can be improved upon, and any promising practices that might be spread.

#### **Free Webinar!**

#### **Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act Older Youth Provisions**

The National Foster Care Coalition, in partnership with National CASA, is hosting a webinar entitled "Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act: FAQ on the Provisions Designed to Impact Older Youth." There will be two free sessions, one **August 5**, 12 pm Eastern/ 9 am Pacific and the other **August 19**, 4 pm Eastern/1 pm Pacific. Please see the attached [flyer](#) for more detail on how to attend the webinar.

Download the FAQ Report prepared by the NFCC on the older youth provisions of the Act  
<http://www.nationalfostercare.org/pdfs/NFCC-FAQ-olderyouth-2009.pdf>

#### **CYC Seeks Executive Director**

The executive position is an opportunity to lead a high-performing organization that promotes the participation of youth in policy development and legislative change to improve the foster care system. CYC is seeking a candidate who possesses a passion for empowering foster youth to be

active voices for their own well-being and brings proven experience in fundraising, fiscal management, and financial oversight. [Click here](#) to download the job announcement.

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## **INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Connecting Foster Youth to Career Development Opportunities in High School**

New Ways to Work has developed a guidebook for use by foster youth, caregivers, social workers, ILP coordinators, education liaisons, and others to assist foster youth in learning more about the career opportunities that exist in high schools. This guide is designed to be a useful tool to help foster youth identify what may exist, ask the right questions, and create a plan for getting the most out of their high school experience. The guide also provides checklists for caregivers and foster youth services professionals that outline the steps in getting connected.

Click here to access the guidebook: <http://www.newwaystowork.org/whatsnew.html>

### **California Independent Living Skills Program Transformation Breakthrough Series Collaborative**

Learning Session Two of the BSC on ILP took place in Sacramento on June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The content and format of Learning Session Two helped clarify individuals' roles, facilitated cross county collaborations, and aided in developing team strategies. Each BSC team returned to their own counties energized, prepared, and ready for action, planning for new ideas and strategies for spreading current practice improvements.

## **BUILDING A BRIDGE**

Build collaboration between parents and foster parents with this new resource.

### **Building a Bridge includes:**

- 10 stories by parents
- 5 stories by foster parents
- 5 stories by teens
- 2 interviews with child welfare experts
- 14 Leader's Guides that give you step-by-step instructions for using the stories to promote openness and self-reflection in training, parent or foster parent support groups, or one-on-one discussions. [Click here to order.](#)

### **Foster Care Mentoring Act Introduced**

The Foster Care Mentoring Act of 2009 proposes to connect children in foster care with responsible caring adults. It would authorize \$15 million to establish statewide foster care mentoring programs, \$4 million to begin a national public awareness campaign and offer a \$20,000 student loan forgiveness program to volunteers who mentor foster youth. [Click here](#) to view the press release.