



In this Issue:

- Leveraging Community Resources to Ensure Successful Transitions for Foster Youth
- ITOP Demonstration Sites Identified
- *Youth Perspective*: Utilizing the Youth Mapping Project
- YCidea - Project HOPE: A County-wide Partnership Extends Services to Emancipated Foster Youth
- YCidea - Partnership-run Youth Opportunity Centers Serve Riverside Youth
- YCinfo Search: Work-Ready Certificates
- New Strategic Vision for Youth Services Under WIA
- State Youth Council Update
- A View from California & Washington
- Conferences, Trainings, and Networking Events
- Calendar of Events

Don't Forget!

Meeting of the Minds Conference

There's still time to register!

[Read more by clicking here.](#)

Save the Date -

It's My Life Conference

October 12-14 in Sacramento.

[Read more by clicking here.](#)

Leveraging Community Resources to Ensure Successful Transitions for Foster Youth



Every year in California, more than 4,000 young adults age out of foster care at the age of

eighteen. The experience of transition to the adult world can be overwhelming because these youth often lack the basic skills, experiences, and resources essential for successful adulthood. In many cases they are left to navigate the range of potential support, education and career related services available to them as they prepare for life on their own.

These young adults leaving foster care can achieve economic success in today's competitive market. Ensuring that youth who age out of foster care have the means and motivation to become successful adults requires innovative approaches to engage and prepare these youth for life on their own. We must form new partnerships among the state and local systems of public education, workforce development, and social services that can leverage services and mobilize resources across communities.

To address these issues, New Ways to Work is forming "Youth Transition Action Teams" in select California counties engaged in Child Welfare Systems Improvement. To learn more about this initiative, contact New Ways at info@nww.org. To learn more about this issue, read the Youth Transition Funders Group (Foster Care Work Group) paper "Connected by 25: A Plan for Investing in Successful Futures for Foster Youth" by [clicking here](#).

The *It's My Life Conference* October 12-14 in Sacramento provides a rich opportunity for Youth Council members, school leaders and educators, and local practitioners to connect and collaborate around supporting foster youth transition services. Learn more about this conference by [clicking here](#).

California Chafee Grant

The California Chafee Grant Program gives up to \$5,000 annually in free money to **current or former foster youth** to use for vocational school training or college courses. They don't have to pay it back, and they can use the money for lots of things, like rent, childcare, and transportation. For more information about Chafee, go to:

<http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov/default.asp>

Improving Transitions for Youth with Disabilities Project (ITOP) Demonstration Sites Identified

Three pilot project sites have been chosen to demonstrate ways in which youth with disabilities can obtain transition services through local intermediaries and community partnerships. The following sites were chosen through a rigorous competitive process to participate in a five year demonstration project:

- *Workforce Investment Board of Ventura County*
- *Shasta County Private Industry Council*
- *Jewish Vocational and Career Counseling Services in San Francisco*

These sites will participate in all aspects of the California ITOP project including helping to populate the statewide resource map which will assess the delivery of youth services, assets and resources across the state in light of the elements of a comprehensive youth serving system. In addition, ITOP will develop, implement and evaluate a multi-year state plan to enhance transitional outcomes for youth with disabilities, and demonstrate the long-term sustainability of the grant objectives within California through collaboration with federal, state, and local public-sector resources.

To read more about this project, [click here](#) or go to the ITOP website at www.improvingyouthtransitions.org.



A Youth Perspective **Utilizing the Youth Mapping Project - What Will Happen Next?**

Thursday, July 22, 2004 was a big day for educators, employers, policy makers, parents, and youth who together celebrated the release of The San Diego Youth Mapping Project. This project was designed to build a comprehensive system of programs in which community collaborations are used effectively to improve responsiveness to the needs of at-risk youth. Event highlights included presenting the research findings and included a panel of community stakeholders, project partners, and youth. Read the full article by youth advisory board member, Michelle Watson, who shares her vision and passion to see the Mapping Project produce results.

[Click here](#) to read the full article and to learn more about the San Diego Youth Mapping Project. To download the San Diego Mapping Project Products, go to: www.SanDiegoAtWork.com/youthmapping.

YCidea **Project HOPE: A County-wide Partnership Extends Services to Emancipated Foster Youth**



This latest *YCidea* highlights how the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board developed partnerships to extend their employment services to emancipated foster youth. Alameda County is home to some 700 foster youth who were

receiving basic skills and job training involved through the Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP). However, the 250 to 200 youth who emancipated each year at 18 were unaware of Alameda County's WIA employment services for youth and its One-Stop Career Centers. The Alameda County Workforce Investment Board (ACWIB) saw an opportunity to offer foster youth employment information components that were not part of the Children and Family Services Department or ILSP, and believed that interagency services could be coordinated more effectively. The objective was to share and extend supportive services and employment lists to emancipated foster youth, and to increase WIA youth enrollment.

Read more about how this *YCidea* has resulted in a 100% enrollment and placement rate since its inception by [clicking here](#).

YCidea **Partnership-run Youth Opportunity Centers Serve Riverside Youth**



This *YCidea* highlights Riverside County's effective model of youth-friendly and partnership-operated Youth Opportunity Centers. The Riverside County Youth Council's goal was to meet the employment and education needs of all youth in the county, including those not funded by WIA. Riverside staff felt that young people needed less intimidating, more hands-on services than would be available at their adult One-Stops. They also realized that no single organization would be able to deliver all of the ten required program elements mandated under WIA, and that the solution lay in community partnerships.

Read more about how this *YCidea* led to strong community partnerships, leveraged funding, and centers that youth both designed and used to their full capacity by [clicking here](#).

YCinfo Search **Ideas for Work-Ready Certificates**

YCi received a request to run a *YCinfo Search* on the topic of work-readiness certificates for youth. Local Youth Councils and partners responded with ideas, practices, and examples of how their community or organization created and utilizes work-readiness certificates. The following questions were asked:

- What are the requirements of your work-readiness certificate and what skills/achievements do they demonstrate?
- What is the process for youth to achieve requirements (how is each component certified)?
- How does your community handle logistics for students, staff, schools and administrators, etc.?

Summary

Many communities are creating successful tools and materials to support student achievement and preparation for the world of work through work-readiness certificates. Youth Councils have created partnerships with workplace partners and educators in creating a sequence of learning experiences that will help prepare students for the workplace. Central to the Work-Readiness program is the willingness for students to show up for work. Looking at a student's past attendance history is a clear indicator of their willingness and commitment to any endeavors undertaken. Respondents shared details about their community strategies, links to comprehensive websites, and downloadable forms to help get you started.

[Click here](#) to read responses to this YCinfo search.



New Strategic Vision for Youth Services Under WIA

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Advisory System of the U.S. Department of Labor released on July 16, 2004, a Training Employment Guidance Notice (TEGN) on the subject of a new strategic vision for the delivery of youth services under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The primary purpose of this notice is to inform states and local areas of ETA's new strategic vision for serving out-of-school and at-risk youth under the WIA. The vision statement states that "WIA-funded youth programs will provide leadership by serving as a catalyst to connect [out-of-school] youth with quality secondary and postsecondary educational opportunities and high growth and other employment opportunities."

A stated challenge will be how state and local WIA programs interact and link with state and local education and economic development systems. The ETA has identified a new strategic approach, which addresses four major areas.

- Focus on Alternative Education.
- Meeting the demands of business, especially in high-growth industries and occupations.
- Focus on the neediest youth.
- Focus on improved performance.

During PY 2004, ETA will be issuing specific program guidelines to states and local areas on implementing components of the new strategic youth vision. To read the full TEGN, including specific information about each of the four major areas of focus on the strategic plan, [click here](#).

Content Conference Call

Participate in a content call on the topic of out-of-school youth and alternative education on September 28th. [Click here](#) for more information.

The State Youth Council Assesses Implications of New Strategies for WIA

The State Youth Council (SYC) worked diligently over the summer, focusing its efforts on expanding youth participation on the council and generating ideas for continued work at the state and local levels. Three member workgroups were formed at the May 20th Council meeting to prioritize activities for the coming year, including the continued development of the Comprehensive Plan for California's Youth. The plan will be consistent within the framework of the SYC's three functions:

- Developing policy guidance for local Youth Councils;
- Promoting coordination among programs currently serving youth through California's agencies, departments, and programs; and
- Addressing critical issues affecting California's youth.

[Click here](#) to read the full article. To read the notes from this and other State Youth Council meetings go to:

<http://youth.calwia.org/youthDevelopment/index.cfm>.

A View from Washington & Sacramento

The California Workforce Association (CWA) and the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) provide in depth federal policy and legislative analysis for the workforce system. YCi encourages practitioners to familiarize themselves with important issues related to WIA Reauthorization Allocations and other policies relevant to youth. CWA's policy analysis can be accessed by clicking the links in the summaries below. NYEC's policy updates are available for review on their website at www.nyec.org

House Appropriations Committee Clears Labor-HHS

On July 14, the full House Appropriations Committee passed by voice vote its FY 2005 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill (Labor-HHS). [For a funding chart prepared by NYEC, click here](#). The Senate Subcommittee mark-up on its version of Labor-HHS was postponed until after the summer recess which ends after Labor Day. Highlighted below are a few critical programs funded in the House bill.

Department of Labor: Although under pressure to achieve overall savings, House Appropriators added funding for critical Workforce Investment Act programs – Adult funding increased by \$1.1 million, Dislocated Workers increased \$25 million, and Youth program funding is up \$5.9 million. The overall decrease for WIA resulted mainly from the House choosing not to fund the Youth Offenders program, an item that the Senate has taken the lead on funding for the last five years. Unfortunately, Appropriators honored the Administration's request for a \$91 million reduction in funding for the Employment Service, a critical program for One-Stop core services. Key elements of the President's centerpiece jobs initiative – Youth Challenge Grants, the community college initiative, Prisoner Re-entry, and Personal Reemployment Accounts (PRAs) – received no funding in the House bill.

Department of Health and Human Services: The House bill provides level funding for the Runaway Homeless Youth Act's (RHYA) Basic Centers and Transitional Living program (\$89 million) and the Runaway Youth Prevention (\$15 million).

Department of Education: 21st Century Learning Centers program received level funding. Vocational Education state grants increase by \$20 million to \$1.215 billion, and funding for Tech Prep remains level at \$106 million. The GEAR UP and TRIO programs increase by \$20 million and \$10 million respectively.

Housing and Urban Development: On July 22, the House Appropriations Committee approved the bill that funds the Veterans Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies (VA/HUD/IA). YouthBuild would receive \$62 million in FY 2005, a cut of 5 percent.

Perkins Reauthorization on the Move

The House Education and Workforce Committee marked up, approved, and reported out on July 21 the Carl Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Reauthorization Act, H.R. 4496. The companion Senate bill (S. 2686) is slated for mark-up after the summer recess, which ends after Labor Day. The most significant change in the House bill-following the Administration's proposal-is that it eliminates the separate funding stream for Tech Prep programs



and merges the funding into the Basic State Grant (these are the two grants that states currently receive under the Perkins Act). The purpose of the consolidation is to better coordinate transfers from secondary schools to postsecondary education. Critics argue that consolidated funding leaves the programs vulnerable to funding reductions. The Senate bill keeps Tech-Prep and Basic State Grants separate. [For more information, see ACTE's analysis of HR 4496.](#)

DOLETA Releases Workforce System Results Report

US DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) released its latest "*Workforce System Results*" publication for the quarter ending March 31, 2004, comparing the performance of the nation's publicly funded workforce programs against goals established in the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). The review presents program outcomes and results for the most recent quarter compared to the same quarter in the prior year. According to the report, the WIA Youth program exceeded all of its performance goals. A copy of the report can be downloaded from NASWA's website at www.naswa.org.

DOLETA Announces New Youth Vision

On July 16, the US DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) released Training Employment Guidance Notice No. 3-04, which outlined ETA's "New Vision for the Delivery of Youth Services Under WIA." The primary purpose of the notice is to inform states and local areas of ETA's vision for serving out-of-school and at-risk youth. As stated in the TEGN, "WIA-funded youth programs will provide leadership by serving as a catalyst to connect [out-of-school] youth with quality secondary and postsecondary educational opportunities and high growth and other employment opportunities." A stated challenge will be how state and local WIA programs interact and link with state and local education and economic development systems. ETA will be issuing specific program guidelines to states and local areas on implementing components of its new strategic youth vision. [Click here to download TEGN No.3-04.](#)

Youth Bills Introduced in House

On June 24, Reps. Tom Osborne (R-NE), Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R-MI), and Rep. Harold Ford (D-TN) introduced bipartisan legislation to improve and streamline federal youth serving programs. The Federal Youth Coordination Act (HR 4703) was drafted in response to a report issued by the White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth, which describes the current federal response as lacking in focus and recommends the evaluation, coordination and improvement of federal youth-serving programs.

On June 28, Rep. Rob Portman introduced the Second Chance Act (HR 4676) to better coordinate federal agencies and policies on adult and juvenile prisoner reentry and increase support to states and community organizations to address the growing population of ex-offenders returning to communities. "By addressing the most basic needs of ex-offenders reentering society, we can reduce their chances of re-offending and improve the chances of becoming productive, contributing citizens. In turn, we reduce crime and save taxpayer dollars," Rep. Portman stated.

California Performance Review Report Released

The highly anticipated report from the California Performance Review (CPR) was released to the public on August 3. The report, developed under intense secrecy by volunteer state employees, contract consultants, and Administration officials, contains over 1,200 recommendations on the reform of our state government. Many recommendations have been discussed for years, others are new and radical, and several are already drawing fire from constituent groups. To see highlights of the report recommendations of particular interest and concern for education, youth, and workforce advocates, [click here](#). To view the entire CPR report online, go to www.cpr.ca.gov.

California's Master Plan for Education

California's Master Plan for Education is entering an important legislative phase in Sacramento, as a package of bills is currently under discussion in conference committee hearings chaired by Senator Dede Alpert. The Plan, developed over several years of public input, provides a blueprint for pre-K through university education policy by taking a comprehensive, long-term approach to restructuring education in California. The five bills under consideration by the conference committee correlate with specific Master Plan recommendations that require legislation to be implemented. Other implementation efforts will include constitutional amendments, budget control language, resolutions, studies, and expanded partnerships. These activities will occur over the next several years. The Master Plan can be accessed online at: <http://www.sen.ca.gov/masterplan/>.

Symposium on the Master Plan - August 20

On August 20, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m., the Office of the Education Master Plan is co-hosting a symposium on the Master Plan in conjunction with The Ethnic Coalition of Southern California. This public event will take place at 333 S Beaudry, 21st floor multipurpose room in Los Angeles. Also, the Office of the Education Master Plan is rolling out several "Team Master Plans" to help implement the Master Plan in local communities. These pilot efforts are intended to demonstrate that local communities can devise effective practices for promoting student achievement without legislative mandates.

For information on Master Plan legislation, the August event, or the Team Master Plans, please contact Charles Ratliff, Director, at charles@putstudents1st.org or Jennifer Mitchell, Assistant Director, at jennifer@putstudents1st.org or call 916-442-0005.

Join the YCi Listserve!

The YCi Listserve connects you with resource, network, and training opportunities relevant to education, workforce and youth development.

To join, email Chandra Larsen at clarsen@nww.org



Conferences, Trainings, and Networking Events

Meeting of the Minds (M³) - September 7-9 (Monterey, CA)

This year's conference is designed to bring a diverse group of people together to see the big picture at the local level - how a community looks when it is focused on building a competitive advantage through its workforce. There are sessions designed to give participants the How To's for linking workforce and economic development, effectively impacting policy at all levels, holding industry summits and focus groups, relating better with elected officials, leveraging resources, and improving services. For more information, go to: <http://www.calworkforce.org/CWA/conferences/m3.php?contentID=556>.

YCi Team Leader Meeting at M³ - September 7 (10am - noon)

YCi Team Leaders, Youth Council Chairs, WIB Directors and Chairs are invited to attend the YCi team leader meeting held the first day of the conference. We will discuss statewide strategies for sustaining the work of Youth Councils through effective partnerships and the implications of the new strategic vision for youth services under WIA. For more information about this event or to RSVP, email Chandra at clarsen@nww.org.

Youth Councils: Integral to the Work of the WIB at M³ - September 7 (3:30-5:00pm)

This session will focus on how to build comprehensive youth-serving systems and how to make Youth Councils an integral part of the work of the WIB. Youth Council Chairs and members, WIB Directors and Chairs will learn how Youth Councils support the work of the WIB through leveraging new and existing resources and masterful partnerships. For more information about this event or to RSVP, email Chandra at clarsen@nww.org.

Content Conference Call - September 28 (9:30-10:30am)

Topic: Out-of-School Youth and Alternative Education
This conference call will focus on the topic of out-of-school youth and alternative education. The call will include a brief overview of local implications of the new strategic vision for youth services under WIA, by state and national policy and legislative advocates. There will also be a panel of local practitioners sharing their strategies for engaging out-of-school youth, and connecting to alternative educational programs. For more information about this content call or to RSVP, email Chandra at clarsen@nww.org.

It's My Life Conference- October 12-14 (Sacramento, CA)

Based on, *It's My Life*, a youth-centered framework designed to guide transition services for young people who "age out" of foster care and other substitute care. The goal of the conference is to support youth economic success by focusing on the seven areas of the framework with special emphasis on employment, education, and housing. This is a unique opportunity to partner with other youth-serving organizations that recognize the value of coordinated, comprehensive youth-serving systems. YCi will be hosting a practitioner networking meeting at the conference as well. For more information about the conference go to: <http://www.casey.org/Home>.

YCi 2004 - 2005 Activities

This is a calendar of events and activities of the Youth Council Institute Network for 2004 to 2005. Confirmed dates and locations will be posted online at:

<http://www.nww.org/yci/calendar.htm>

September

September 7-9 CWA Meeting of the Minds Conference
September 7 YCi Team Leader Meeting (10:00-12:00)
September 7 YCi Orientation (3:30-5:00)
September 28 Content Conference Call (9:30 a.m.)
(Topic: Out-of-School Youth and Alternative Education)

October

October 12-14 It's My Life Conference
October 12 YCi Network Meeting
TBD State Youth Council Meeting

November

November 16 Content Training (Central Valley)
November 17 Content Training (Northern CA)
November 18 Content Training (Southern CA)
(Topic: Coordinated Services, Part 1)

2005

January

January 11 Content Conference Call (9:30 a.m.)
(Topic: Involving Youth at the Conference)
Team Leader Meeting
January 25 "All Youth-One System" Conference
January 24-28 **(Topic: Coordinated Services, Part 2)**

February

February 22 Content Training (Central Valley)
February 23 Content Training (Northern CA)
February 24 Content Training (Southern CA)
(Topic: Engaging Workplace Partners)

March

March 8 Content Conference Call (9:30 a.m.)
(Topic: Involving Youth on Youth Councils)
TBD CWA Spring Conference

May

May 10 Content Conference Call (9:30 a.m.)
(Topic: Coordinated Services, Part 3)
TBD State Youth Council Meeting
TBD Team Leader Meeting

About YCI

The Youth Council Institute (YCi) was established in July 2001 with a goal to assist California's 50 Youth Councils by creating a unified and transparent network of local organizations whose diverse services are available to all youth. The "All Youth-One System" tools and frameworks serve as the foundation for YCi. YCi provides technical assistance and support, disseminates tools and practices, and conducts trainings and planning activities. It is supported by the CalWIB and managed and delivered through a partnership between New Ways to Work and the California Workforce Association.