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## Don't Forget!

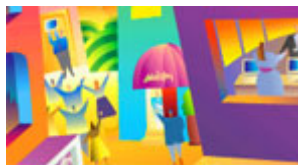
**All Youth-One System Conference**  
January 25-27, 2005

[Read more by clicking here.](#)

**Engaging Employers and Workplace Partners Workshops**

February 22, 23, & 24, 2005

[Read more by clicking here.](#)



## All Youth-One System: Connected Conference 2005 Coordinating Youth Services and Engaging Youth

Back for its fourth year, the 2005 *All Youth-One System Conference* is designed to help local youth providers, Youth Councils and policy makers run better programs, connect to other systems more easily, learn about innovative strategies for serving youth, and to develop a network of colleagues to promote peer learning. [Click here](#) to learn more about this year's conference.

This year's conference will be held in Anaheim, California - January 25-27, 2005. For more information about the conference, go to [www.calworkforce.org/CWA/conferences/youthConference.php](http://www.calworkforce.org/CWA/conferences/youthConference.php).

### New YCi Frameworks

The updated YCi frameworks, which have been adopted by several other youth transition initiatives, will be showcased at the conference. The frameworks will be available online in February on the New Ways website at [www.nww.org/whatsnew.html](http://www.nww.org/whatsnew.html).

### YCi Special Events

In addition to conference activities, special YCi pre-conference sessions will feature opportunities for youth and adults to learn how to strengthen their understanding of coordinated-systems, promote leadership and decision-making for youth, and bring home techniques and tools for supporting youth involvement in their work.

- YCi Orientation for Youth Serving on Youth Councils
- YCi Team Leader Meeting for Youth Council Members and Staff

[Click here](#) for more information about and to register for the YCi special pre-conference sessions.

### Youth Council Showcase

At this year's conference, Youth Councils are invited to participate in the Youth Council Showcase to increase visibility among peers and state policy makers during this changing environment for WIA.

Participants are invited to share strategies, initiatives, and projects that they have launched that contribute to a connected and coordinated system. For more information about the Youth Council Showcase, [click here](#).

## Los Angeles & Long Beach Study Out-of-School & Out-of-Work Youth

Education and employment among young adults should be a vital part of workforce development strategies. It is important to understand the extent to which young adults participate in these activities and identify subgroups of young adults who fail to acquire formal education or to access employment. The WIBs of L.A. and Long Beach commissioned a study from which the findings were published in the report "*One Out of Five*": *A Report on Out-of-School & Out-of-Work Youth in Los Angeles and Long Beach*. The report provides a broad snapshot of the longer-term structural changes in the economic environment and the consequent increase in the demand for, and the earnings premium of, highly educated and skilled workers. Read the full article by [clicking here](#).



## *A Youth Perspective*

### **Youth Involvement in All Youth-One System: Connected Conference 2005**

At last year's All Youth-One System conference, CWA and New Ways staff promised attendees that youth would be involved in the planning of the conference. On October 21<sup>st</sup>, CWA and New Ways staff met with local Youth Council members, including youth and young adults, to discuss planning for the All Youth-One System Conference 2005. Among several youth who participated in the planning meeting were Veronica Bravo and Alex Reynoso, who in the following article share some of their thoughts and experiences. In one comment about their experience, Veronica and Alex state that the meeting, "was an eye opener for us because we always had this idea that adults didn't understand our generation; that they looked at us as failures. We were wrong. We learned that it takes so much time and effort to plan an event like this conference to help many young people like us."

[Click here](#) to read the full article. To learn more about the conference, [click here](#).

## *YCidea Update*

### **Engaging Foster Youth through Project TRENDSS**



The outlook for the 3,500 youth who annually age out of the California foster care system is dismal. An underlying factor is a lack of collaboration between people and systems that deal with these youth. In April, 2004, *YCideas* highlighted a project to

address the needs of foster youth developed through the Ventura Youth Council. They devised Project TRENDSS — which stands for "Teens Reaching for Employment Now and Developing Self-Sufficiency" — as part of a plan to coordinate services that had not previously been integrated. Strategies to connect everyone involved in the care of a youth include meetings, networking, youth ownership of the program, and shared software.

This month we provide you with an update on the project and a success story for one of the program recipients. Read more about this initiative by [clicking here](#).

### **Coordinating Youth Services Workshops Support Building a Comprehensive Approach**

New Ways to Work and YCi completed the first of a three-part content series on the topic of *Coordinating Youth Services*. The two workshops were held on November 18<sup>th</sup> in Long Beach, and on December 9<sup>th</sup> in Visalia. Youth Council staff and members, community youth service providers, and educators came together to learn strategies to support effective collaboration and discovered ways to link youth-serving organizations. The activities and tools presented to participants taught them how to collaborate effectively, develop strategies to link youth-serving organizations within their communities, and provided them with an opportunity to network with other youth service practitioners.

The workshops focused on effective collaboration and coordination of youth services within communities. Participants left with new knowledge about the elements that support a comprehensive youth-serving system, and strategies to implement these elements into their own communities. Workshop evaluations indicated that participants left feeling they had a better understanding of true collaboration and expressed that they now have the incentive to partner with other organizations and to coordinate services.

[Click here](#) to read more about the workshops. Meeting notes, tools, and activities from the workshops may be downloaded online at: <http://www.nww.org/previouscalls.html>. See examples of how other communities are coordinating youth services by checking out their *YCideas* at: [www.nww.org/yCi/yCideas.htm](http://www.nww.org/yCi/yCideas.htm).

### **NYEC Launches Higher Education Transition Project**

In November 2004, the National Youth Employment Coalition began a new effort that will focus on connecting disadvantaged youth to higher education. This new initiative seeks to develop a national policy framework, informed by practice to better serve out-of-school youth, particularly high school dropouts as they transition from youth employment/development programs to colleges and state universities.

The project will include conducting a pilot demonstration involving community-based youth-serving organizations and state universities and community colleges that will provide a well-supported bridge between youth program participation and higher education. To read the full story about this initiative, [click here](#). For more information about this effort, please contact Mala B. Thakur, Deputy Director at (202) 659-1064 or [mt@nyec.org](mailto:mt@nyec.org).



## Memo to White House on Reconnecting Youth

Connect for Kids and several other national organizations and agencies are requesting organizations to sign this memo to the White House, which addresses several issues regarding supporting at-risk youth. The memo outlines a series of recommendations, many of which can be implemented within existing statutory and budget authority, to support youth development into successful, self-sufficient adults. It also addresses the inadequacy of funding for federal programs that support the transition of disadvantaged youth to productive adulthood. The memo addresses and requests the President's consideration and support for the following recommendations.

- Use the Presidential "bully pulpit" to set a national goal to Reach Out and Reconnect our youth
- Establish an interagency National Youth Development Council, as recommended by the White House Task Force Report for Disadvantaged Youth
- Improve youth services through better outcomes evaluation and accountability
- Establish flexibility in public education funds for disadvantaged youth, to enable enrollment in the most appropriate educational environments
- Use the reauthorization of key federal programs to strengthen supports for youth transitioning to adulthood.
- Expand opportunities for youth to engage in community service and work experience
- Provide incentives and technical support to increase employer participation in developing internships, pipelines and intermediaries

[Click here](#) to read the *Memo to White House on Reconnecting Our Youth*. If you would like to sign on to the memo to be submitted to the White House, the deadline has been extended to **January 10, 2005**. To sign on your organization, send an email with your executive director's name, organization, address and email address to [jan@connectforkids.org](mailto:jan@connectforkids.org).

In addition, Connect for Kids is hosting an online chat at [www.connectforkids.org](http://www.connectforkids.org) on January 12 at 10:00am PST to provide an opportunity for advocates to ask questions of seasoned state and federal advocates on effective strategies for protecting or moving youth issues forward.

The Coalition on Human Needs and Connect for Kids have scheduled two conference calls especially intended for advocates *not in Washington, DC*, to explain what is at stake, and how you can show the impact of federal cuts upon people in your state. Choose one of these two call dates: Tuesday, January 11, 11:00 a.m. PST or Wednesday, January 19, 11:00 a.m. PST. RSVP to Stephen Wamhoff and tell him which call you will join [swamhoff@chn.org](mailto:swamhoff@chn.org). Please include your name, organization, email, and phone number.

## 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, and by visiting their website at [www.calworkforce.org](http://www.calworkforce.org). NYEC's policy updates are available for review on their website at [www.nyec.org](http://www.nyec.org).

### Federal Update

#### *House Reintroduces WIA Reauthorization Bill*

Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA) and the House Workforce and Education Committee got the 109th Congress off to a quick start by reintroducing legislation to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act on the first day the new Congress. HR 27, "The Job Training Improvement Act," is essentially the same as HR 1261, the reauthorization bill passed by the full House back in May of 2003. For more information, see the full article on the [House WIA Reauthorization Bill](#).

#### *FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill Signed Into Law*

The Omnibus federal spending package, passed by the outgoing 108<sup>th</sup> Congress back in November, was signed into law by President Bush on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The bill fully funds the Administration's \$250 million community college initiative (mix of new money and reserve funds); provides nearly level funding for most workforce programs, with a \$25 million increase for Dislocated Workers; and provides an additional \$20 million for youth offenders. The bill also contains \$20 million for the Administration's Prisoner Re-Entry program. In order to remain within the White House-imposed spending caps, however, and still finance extra spending on these and other popular programs, appropriators instituted a relatively deep across-the-board cut of 0.80 percent to all non-security, non-defense programs. For details, see the [Updated FY05 Appropriations Chart](#).

#### *Chao and DeRocco Continue at US DOL*

As has been widely reported, President Bush asked Elaine Chao to continue as Department of Labor Secretary for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term, putting an end to speculation that Chao would depart the cabinet post. It was also rumored that Emily DeRocco might join the White House policy unit following the November election. It appears now that the Assistant Secretary will continue to lead DOL's Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA). DOLETA reportedly developed its priorities for the coming year at a recent staff retreat. DeRocco is expected to announce those priorities soon.



## *Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA) to Chair Full House Appropriations Committee*

House Republican leaders have handed the reigns of the powerful Appropriations Committee, the panel that writes spending bill, to California Congressman Jerry Lewis, concluding a year-long battle between the Redlands Representative and the more senior Ralph Regula (R-OH). Regula will continue to Chair the Labor-HHS Subcommittee through this Congress, and then relinquish control of the subcommittee due to House GOP rules that only allow chairmanship for six years. This is the same rule that opened up the Appropriations chairmanship.

The selection of Rep. Lewis could give a huge boost to California in terms of bringing in needed resources and closing the gap between what the State pays out to the federal government and its share of federal revenue. This fits well with Governor Schwarzenegger's priority of collecting California's fair share of federal funds.

With Lewis' selection, he becomes one of Congress's three top committee chairmen, all from California - David Dreier of San Dimas is chairman of the House Rules Committee, which controls debate and legislation in the lower chamber; Bill Thomas of Bakersfield is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which oversees tax policy, Social Security and Medicare.

## *TANF Reauthorization Measure Introduced in the House*

Legislation to reauthorize TANF was introduced last week in the House and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. HR 240 is an updated version of legislation approved by the House last Congress and will serve as the basis for hearings early in the 109th Congress. Welfare programs currently operate on a continuing resolution through March 31, 2005. To download a copy of the House TANF Reauthorization measure, go to:

[www.calworkforce.org/ezupload/files/Documents/TANF.pdf](http://www.calworkforce.org/ezupload/files/Documents/TANF.pdf)

## *GAO Issues Report Assessing Accessibility of WIA Services for Persons with Disabilities*

The General Accountability Office released a report (GAO-05-54) recommending the US DOL develop and implement a long-term plan for ensuring that One-Stops comply with comprehensive access requirements. Of the site visits to 18 local areas and One-Stops, GAO found most were working to implement architectural access requirements. Additionally, GAO found One-Stops have established various relationships to provide access to persons with disabilities. Although the US DOL has taken actions to ensure comprehensive One-Stop access, GAO says more could be done to improve these efforts. A copy of the report can be downloaded at

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0554.pdf>

## **State Update**

### *Governor Sends Government Reorganization Plans to Little Hoover Commission*

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger sent two proposals for reorganizing state government to the Little Hoover Commission. The reform proposals came out of the California Performance Review (CPR) process. The first proposal is a plan for the elimination or reform of 88 boards and commissions (the consolidation of local Workforce Boards, initially proposed in the CPR report, is not included). The second plan deals with Youth and Adult Corrections.

The Little Hoover Commission has 60 days to review the plans and submit its report to the Legislature. The Governor can submit the plans to the Legislature himself 30 days following its submission to the Little Hoover Commission. If neither house of the Legislature votes down the plan within 60 days of its submission to the Legislature, the reorganization becomes operational by law.

The texts of the plans are available on the [Little Hoover Commission website](http://www.lhc.ca.gov/lhcdir/reorghome/grps.html) at:

[www.lhc.ca.gov/lhcdir/reorghome/grps.html](http://www.lhc.ca.gov/lhcdir/reorghome/grps.html)

### **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](mailto:clarsen@nww.org)

## Effectively Preparing Foster Youth for Employment

Every year in California, more than 4,000 young adults “age out” of foster care when they turn 18. They are capable of achieving economic success in today’s competitive market, and many do. But like all young people, they need the kinds of support and preparation that we take as givens for our own children. For foster youth, the experience of transition to the adult world can be overwhelming because they often lack the basic skills, experience and resources that are essential for success in adulthood.



The Foundation Consortium for California’s Children & Youth recently published a “What Works Policy Brief” titled *Getting the Job Done: Effectively Preparing Foster Youth for Employment*. This publication provides an in-depth snapshot and facts about youth in foster care, and vital statistics about youth who have transitioned out.

In addition, they address the policy environment for supporting workforce development for foster youth, and explore the partnerships developing around the state to address supporting the comprehensive needs of all youth. To read the full article and portion of the policy brief, [click here](#). To download a copy of the full policy brief, go to: [www.foundationconsortium.org/how/library/policybriefs/policy9.pdf](http://www.foundationconsortium.org/how/library/policybriefs/policy9.pdf)

## Young Worker Health & Safety Youth Leadership Academy

The **Young Worker Leadership Academy** being held February 25-26, 2005, will bring together five teams of high school-aged youth (2-4 youth per team, plus an adult sponsor) from five regions of California. Participants will learn about how and why youth are injured at work, their rights on the job, and how youth can have an impact on public policy, at both the local and state level.

Selected participants will receive a two-day all expense paid visit to Anaheim, California to participate in the Academy. Team applications must be received by January 21, 2005. For more information or to download the application form, [click here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Diane Bush at 510.643.2424 or e-mail [dbush@berkeley.edu](mailto:dbush@berkeley.edu).

## Major Study Released on the Education of Youth in Out-of-Home Care

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago released a major study on the education of youth in out-of-home care. The study is one of the largest studies of its kind to examine the educational performance of abused and neglected children placed in out-of-home care. The study indicates that many students in care are academically behind early in their school careers and they remain at risk for educational failure throughout their teenage years. Its findings address, among other issues:

- Dropout rates
- Academic performance
- Communication difficulties between schools and child welfare system
- Retention rates
- Referrals to special education

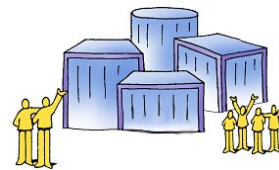


The study is available online on the Chapin Hall home page, along with the Issue Brief, “The Educational Status of Foster Children,” that includes policy recommendations at [www.chapinhall.org](http://www.chapinhall.org)

As part of its strategic communications work, Connect for Kids hosted a conference call briefing on the study.

Participants on the call also discussed other resources for those who work with foster youth. They can be accessed by [clicking here](#). For more information about Connect for Kids or to sign up to be on their mailing list, contact Jan Richer, Advocacy Director, at [jan@connectforkids.org](mailto:jan@connectforkids.org).

## Engaging Employers & Workplace Partners Regional Workshops



New Ways to Work and YCi are pleased to announce our next workshop series on the topic of **Engaging Employers and Workplace Partners: The Role of Engagement Specialists\*** and

*Strategies for Effective Organizations*. Three one-day workshops will be held in regionally in California, February 22, 23, and 24, 2005.

For more information and to register, [click here](#), or visit our website at: [www.nww.org/networkcontentcalls.html](http://www.nww.org/networkcontentcalls.html).



## Conferences, Trainings, & Networking Events

### ***Involving Youth at the AYOS Conference Content Call - January 11, 2005 (10:30 - 11:30am)***

If you are planning to bring youth or young adults to the AYOS conference, please join us for a conference call to discuss activities and supports that will be available for youth and adults at the conference. If you would like to participate, email Chandra at [clarsen@nww.org](mailto:clarsen@nww.org) to register for the call.

### ***All Youth-One System Conference - January 25-27, 2005 (Anaheim, California)***

Back for its fourth year, the 2005 All Youth-One System Conference is designed to help local youth providers, Youth Councils and policy makers run better programs, connect to other systems more easily, learn about innovative strategies for serving youth, and to develop a network of colleagues to promote peer learning. For conference information or to register, [click here](#). To make hotel reservations at the Hyatt, call 1-800-233-1234 and ask for the special CWA Youth Conference rate of \$99.00.

### ***YCi Special Pre-Conference Sessions at the AYOS Conference - January 25, 2005 10:00-noon***

New Ways to Work and YCi are hosting two pre-conference sessions at the AYOS Conference this year. More information about the sessions is featured in this issue of the *YCi Reporter*, and may be accessed by [clicking here](#). For more information and to register for these sessions, [click here](#).

- **YCi Team Leader Meeting:** Team leaders and other Youth Council representatives are invited to attend a YCi team leader meeting.
- **Youth Council Orientation for Youth:** Youth and young adult members of Youth Councils are invited to attend this introductory session on Youth Councils.

### ***Young Worker Leadership Academy - February 25-26, 2005 (Anaheim, California)***

This all-expense paid Academy will bring together five teams of high school-aged youth (2-4 members, plus one adult) to learn about how and why youth are injured at work, their rights on the job, and how youth can have an impact on public policy, at both the local and state level. Team applications must be received by January 21, 2005. For more information or to download the application form, [click here](#).

### ***Engaging Workplace Partners Workshops - February 22, 23, & 24, 2005 (3 California Regional Locations)***

New Ways to Work and YCi present workshops on the topic of *Engaging Employers and Workplace Partners*. [Click here](#) for more information about this workshop, or see announcements on the New Ways website at [www.nww.org/networkcontentcalls.html](http://www.nww.org/networkcontentcalls.html).

## YCi 2004 - 2005 Activities

This is a calendar of events and activities of the Youth Council Institute Network for 2005. Confirmed dates and locations will be posted online at: [www.nww.org/yCi/calendar.htm](http://www.nww.org/yCi/calendar.htm)

### ***January***

January 11	Content Conference Call (10:30 a.m.) <b>(Topic: <i>Involving Youth at the Conference</i>)</b>
January 25	Team Leader Meeting (Pre-conference) YCi Orientation for Youth (Pre-conference)
January 25-27	All Youth-One System Conference <b>(Topic: <i>Coordinated Services, Part 2</i>)</b>

### ***February***

February 22	Content Training (San Francisco Area)
February 23	Content Training (Fresno Area)
February 24	Content Training (San Diego Area) <b>(Topic: <i>Engaging Workplace Partners</i>)</b>

### ***March***

March 8	Content Conference Call (9:30 a.m.) <b>(Topic: <i>Involving Youth on Youth Councils</i>)</b>
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TBD	CWA Spring Conference
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### ***May***

May 10	Content Conference Call (9:30 a.m.) <b>(Topic: <i>Coordinated Services, Part 3</i>)</b>
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TBD	State Youth Council Meeting
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TBD	Team Leader Meeting
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## 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.*