

IL Resource Guide
August 2009

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Improving Access to College and Employment

Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG)

Youth planning to enroll in college this fall should complete the Chafee ETG application in addition to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) worksheet. Chafee ETG applications for the 2009-2010 academic year are on the www.pheaa.org website. (Note: there are no deadlines for the federal Pell Grant or Chafee ETG; it's not too late to submit a FAFSA application for fall classes.)

For questions about current Chafee applications or a youth's status, please contact PHEAA at 1-800-831-0797. If you have Aftercare youth who plan to move to another state and establish residency there, they can find state information on the ETG programs at: www.statevoucher.org. Each state has individual application processes.

Quest Bridge -- College Match Program

Agencies and staff working with college-bound youth may be interested in Quest Bridge National College Match, which helps high-achieving, low-income high school seniors gain admission and scholarships to 25 partner colleges and universities. Many of these partners are top-tier schools, including Columbia University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University, Williams College, and Yale University. All College Match scholarships are loan-free.

Free applications for interested youth and more information are available online. Students who are not interested in applying for the scholarships for 2010 can also use the free Quest Bridge application in lieu of the individual colleges' applications, which often have fees attached. Applications are due **September 30**.

Last year, more than 1,000 Quest Bridge applicants were admitted to the partner schools. Full scholarships, covering tuition as well as room and board, were awarded to 260 of these students. Of last year's awardees, 98% were in the top 10% of their graduating class, and 95% had household incomes of \$60,000 and under. Additionally, 71% were in the first generation of their family to attend college. www.questbridge.org

Inside the Research: When Students Enroll in College, Do All Roads Lead to a Bachelor's Degree?

Research underway at Chapin Hall shows that the various paths students follow in pursuit of postsecondary education have a significant impact on their prospects for attaining a bachelor's degree. The traditional pathway to earning a bachelor's degree has become the exception rather than the rule. Yet, deviating from the traditional pathway dramatically decreases students' likelihood of completing a bachelor's degree. Read "[When Students Enroll in College, Do All Roads Lead to a Bachelor's Degree?](http://chaphinhall.org/research/inside/when-students-enroll-in-college-do-all-roads-lead-to-a-bachelors-degree.pdf)" by Carolina Milesi.

Ready by 21 Brochure

A Ready by 21 brochure outlining the Approach and listing the Partners is now available in a downloadable format. These new information tools are ideal for introducing state and local decision-makers to the Ready by 21 Approach and Partnership. Read the brochure at www.forumfyi.org/readyby2#getstarted

Ready by 21 Partner, Corporate Voices for Working Families Releases Report on Ill-Prepared Workforce

Corporate Voices for Working Families, a Ready by 21 national partner, along with The American Society for Training and Development, The Conference Board and the Society for Human Resource Management have just released a new report that shows U.S. employers continue to struggle with an ill-prepared workforce, finding new hires lack crucial basic and applied skills. For the most part, employer-sponsored readiness training is not successfully correcting these deficiencies, according to the report, "The Ill-Prepared U.S. Workforce: Exploring the Challenges of Employer-Provided Workforce Readiness Training."

Read the more about the report at www.forumfyi.org

Keeping Youth in School

The America's Promise Alliance has released its updated edition of *Grad Nation*, a comprehensive guidebook with supporting tools on the best evidence-based practices on keeping students in school, graduating and going to post-secondary institutions.

www.americaspromise.org

National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) has released an updated version of its content rich website, <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/>. Since the original launch of the NCWD/Youth website, it has been the go-to place for information relating to youth with disabilities and the workforce development and transition systems supporting them in their transition to the world of work. The updated version of the website offers new content areas focusing on what all youth need with an emphasis on youth with disabilities and other vulnerable populations:

- Workforce Development
- Professional Development
- Youth Development and Leadership
- Helpful resources including expanded definitions, acronyms, and helpful links for a variety of topical areas
- White papers, manuals, guides, and fact sheets on a variety of policy areas

The updated version of the site provides numerous publications free of charge, background papers, Info Briefs on a variety of topics, and much more.

NCWD/Youth assists state and local workforce development systems to better serve all youth, including youth with disabilities and other vulnerable youth. The NCWD/Youth, created in 2001, is composed of partners with expertise in education, youth development, disability, employment, workforce development, and family issues. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), the NCWD/Youth is housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C. NCWD/Youth offers a range of technical assistance services to state and local workforce investment boards, youth councils, and other workforce development system youth programs.

Transitions to Permanency

Symposium on the Future of Child Well-Being Indicators Leads to Recommendations on New Directions

Chapin Hall sponsored a symposium in Bethesda, Maryland, in which academic researchers, representatives of nonprofit organizations, and government officials came together to take a fresh look at the future of child well-being indicators. Their input helped the authors identify opportunities for improving child indicators. The report makes a number of recommendations on new directions for child well-being indicators, including the areas of early childhood and young adult transitions. It also argues for additional indicators on childcare, poverty, and immigration.

Read [Improving Indicators of Child Well-Being](http://www.chapinhall.org/research/report/improving-indicators-child-well-being/) by Matthew Stagner, Robert Goerge, and Pete Ballard at www.chapinhall.org/research/report/improving-indicators-child-well-being/

PHEAA Offers Money and Budgeting Information for Youth

Helping youth with budgeting concepts is important to the future success of youth as they exit care. PHEAA offers this link for great information that youth can use.

http://www.youcandealwithit.com/budgeting_tools/budget_calculator.shtml

Reconnecting Youth

Broken Bonds: Understanding and Addressing the Needs of Children with Incarcerated Parents

Over 1.5 million children in this country currently have one or both of their parents incarcerated. In addition to the trauma of this loss, these children face tremendous uncertainty in their living arrangements, relationships with loved ones, and family financial stability. Short-term coping responses and heavy stigma are common, both of which may lead to long-term emotional and behavioral challenges. This report reviews the current research on children with incarcerated parents and offers recommendations on how to reduce the negative impact of parental incarceration, with particular attention to the role of supportive relationships with the incarcerated parent and other adults. The report is authored by Nancy G. La Vigne, Elizabeth Davies, and Diana Brazzell and published by the Urban Institute.

<http://www.urban.org/publications/411616.html>

The State of Our Unions: The Social Health of Marriage in America: Why Men Won't Commit: Exploring Young Men's Attitudes About Sex, Dating and Marriage.

A special essay on young, not-yet married men's attitudes on the timing of marriage finds that men experience few social pressures to marry, gain many of the benefits of marriage by cohabiting with a romantic partner, and are ever more reluctant to commit to marriage in their early adult years. Available evidence on marriage trends over the past four decades indicates that marriage has declined dramatically as a first living together experience for couples and as a status of parenthood. However, in recent years, there are signs that some marriage-weakening trends are slowing or in some cases leveling off. (Author abstract)

<http://marriage.rutgers.edu/Publications/SOOU/TEXTSOOU2002.htm>

Two New Reports Highlight Recent Trends in Gang Problems and Juvenile Crime

Two new reports from the U.S. Department of Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention highlight recent trends in gang problems and juvenile arrest rates. In a fact sheet titled "Highlights of the 2007 National Youth Gang Survey," findings suggest that gang problems have started to increase in recent years, after a former decline in youth gang activity seen from the mid-1990s to the early 2000s. One in five larger cities reported an increase in gang homicides in 2007 compared with 2006, and approximately two in five reported an increase in other violent offenses by gang members. Findings from the bulletin titled "Juvenile Arrests 2007" suggested more positive trends in juvenile behavior, with the number of juvenile arrests overall declining by 2% and the number of juvenile arrests for violent crimes declining by 3% from 2006 to 2007. These positive findings are also reflected in the data for males and females, for white and minority youth, and for most offense categories as well. Read the Fact Sheet on youth gangs: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/225185.pdf> Read the Bulletin on juvenile arrests:

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/225344.pdf>

Report Highlights the Needs of Pregnant and Parenting Foster Youth

Because pregnancy and childbearing remain significant problems among foster youth, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services asked Chapin Hall to examine the experiences and needs of pregnant and parenting youth in their care. Key findings of this study include: at least 30 percent of the female foster youth had been pregnant more than once; and having more than one child was a significant barrier to educational attainment, with each additional child reducing chances of earning a high school diploma or GED by 45 percent.

Read **Pregnant and Parenting Foster Youth: Their Needs, Their Experiences** by Amy Dworsky and Jan DeCoursey. <http://chapinhall.org/research/report/pregnant-and-parenting-foster-youth-their-needs-their-experience.pdf>.

The Benefits of and Barriers to Out-of-School Programs for Youth

Research suggests that participation in out-of-school time programs and activities can lessen the likelihood that youth will engage in negative behaviors, such as using drugs and alcohol, dropping out of school, and practicing unhealthy eating habits. Despite these benefits, millions of youth still do not participate in these programs. Three new Child Trends briefs explore the various reasons for non-participation.

1. Program Participation Can Lower Risk of Youth Disconnection From School or Work

Youth who participate in a job training, job search, or school-to-work program during their high school years are less likely to experience subsequent disconnection than youth who do not participate in this type of program, according to a new Child Trends brief. The brief, "*Youth Who Are 'Disconnected,' and Those Who Then Reconnect: Assessing the Influence of Family, Programs, Peers, and Communities*," analyzes factors that put youth at risk for disconnection as well as factors related to youth reconnecting after a period of disconnection. www.childtrends.org

2. Child, Family, and Neighborhood Factors Influence Youth Non-Participation in Programs

A new Child Trends brief finds that youth who have not participated in out-of-school time programs are significantly more likely than are their participating peers to live in an unsupportive neighborhood; to spend more than two hours a day watching TV or playing video games; and to have parents who are in poor health, who don't exercise, and who have less than a high school education. The brief, "*Non-Participation of Children and Adolescents in Out-of-School Time Programs: Child, Family, and Neighborhood Factors*," identifies individual and background factors that influence non-participation. www.childtrends.org

3. Youth Perspective on Why Teens Don't Participate in Programs

Youth who are not involved with out-of-school time programs identify varied barriers to participation, ranging from programs that are located in unsafe or unfamiliar neighborhoods to program participation being perceived in a negative light by parents and/or peers. A new brief, "*Why Teens are Not Involved in Out-of-School Time Programs: The Youth Perspective*," presents findings from a recent Child Trends youth roundtable discussion. Youth participants also suggested program improvement strategies, such as teaching practical skills, using technology for recruitment, offering a variety of activities, and hiring skilled staff members who treat youth with respect. www.childtrends.org

Integrating Evidence-Based Youth Programs Into Community Initiatives

There is growing recognition that single programs rarely produce large or permanent changes in the lives of disadvantaged children -- that a series of sequenced and aligned programs and services is more likely to produce lasting improvements. At the same time, there is growing interest among policymakers, philanthropists, and program staff in investing in community-level interventions, to maximize the likelihood that programs will actually succeed in improving outcomes for children and youth. A new Child Trends brief, "*Programs for Children and Youth in a Community Context*," provides insights from a recent Child Trends Roundtable with leaders of community initiatives that incorporate evidence-based and evidence-informed programs. Insights include recognizing the value of using data to guide and shape programs; taking both program implementation and sustainability seriously; planning carefully; and being sure that missions are well-aligned across programs, community initiatives and education systems. www.childtrends.org

A User's Guide to Online Resources for Identifying Evidence-Based, Out-of-School Time Programs

In the current economic and political climate, knowing how to identify and select evidence-based programs adds value to any organization seeking to improve outcomes for children and youth. A new Child Trends brief, "*Online Resources for Identifying Evidence-Based, Out-of-School Time Programs: A User's Guide*," can help funders, administrators, and practitioners find evidence-based programs that may be appropriate for their target populations and communities. The Guide provides an overview of 22 resources -- 12 searchable online databases, two online interactive summaries, and eight online documents -- that offer information on a range of evidence-based intervention programs. It also includes recommendations and questions to consider when searching for evidence-based programs, and what level of evaluation evidence or rigor is available -- ranging from evidence-informed programs to experimentally-evaluated programs. www.childtrends.org

Search Institute Releases Study on Well-Being of 15 Year Olds

The Search Institute teamed up with Best Buy to release a study exploring the importance of teen motivation and engagement in civic life. The study results find that only seven percent of 15 year-olds in the U.S. experience a strong combination of three key factors critical to their success, according to research sponsored by the Best Buy Children's Foundation. Read about the report at: www.forumfyi.org/readyby2#getstarted

Program Resources

New and Revised NRCFCPPP Information for LGBTQ Youth

The National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning (NRCFCPPP) recently posted the following Information Packet: *LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) Youth and Spirituality* by Noam Tidhar (April 2009)

http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/Tidhar_LGBTQ_Youth_Spirituality2009.pdf

Resources for Work with Older Youth and their Families

The National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning (NRCFCPPP) added new resources to many of the existing Hot Topics pages of our website, including: Adoption, Child & Family Service Reviews, Child Safety, Child Welfare Mediation, Children & Youth of Color, Children of Incarcerated Parents, Children with Disabilities in Foster Care, Community as a Resource, Concurrent Permanency Planning, Disaster Relief and Emergency Preparedness, Domestic Violence & Child Welfare, Education & Foster Care, Evidence Based Practice, Family-Centered Practice & Practice Models, Family Group Conferencing, Family Preservation & Support, Family Search & Engagement, Fatherhood, Foster Care, Immigration & Child Welfare, Independent Living/Transition to Adulthood, Indian Child Welfare Issues, Inter-jurisdictional Placement of Children, Juvenile Justice & Child Welfare, Kinship/Relative Care, Legal Issues in Child Welfare, LGBTQ Issues & Child Welfare, Mental Health & Child Welfare, Permanency Planning, Placement Stability, Pregnant & Parenting Teens, Recruitment & Retention of Resource Families, Siblings, State Policies, Substance Abuse & Child Welfare, and Youth Voice. Additionally, NRCFCPPP added the following new Hot Topics pages to our website: Prevention, Systems of Care, Cultural Competence, Multilingual Resources, Child Welfare Administration and Supervision, and Resources for Parents and Caregivers. NRCFCPPP is continuously working to update and expand the Hot Topics pages of our website.

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/information.html#hottopics>

Licensing Inspection Summaries – New from DPW

As of 8/1/09, DPW began posting all of the Licensing Inspection Summaries (LIS) & plans of correction for EVERY PROGRAM they license (public children & youth, private providers, etc) on their website. All information is available to the public. Once there, click on "Human Services Provider Online Directory" from the listing on the left side of the page. These reports are very specific and are now much more easily obtained by the general public, including media and interest groups. www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/ChildCareEarlyEd

Toolkit for Funding

From special provisions of the Recovery Act to an NFL Grassroots Grant to guides from the field, our newly updated **Funding Toolkit** can help you hit the ground running this fall!

www.connectforkids.org/node/245

What is Youth In Progress?

Published: 2009

Available from: New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Abstract: This brochure describes Youth in Progress, a New York State program that empowers foster youth (ages 14-21) to advocate for greater awareness of the needs of older youth in child welfare serving systems. <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub5086.pdf>



Protecting Children In Families Affected by Substance Abuse Disorders

The Children's Bureau is pleased to announce that the latest release in the Child Abuse and Neglect User Manual Series, *Protecting Children in Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders*, is now available for download from the Child Welfare Information Gateway website. The manual examines:

- * The nature of substance use disorders (SUD), a condition that also is referred to as "substance abuse"
- * The impact of parental SUD on child development
- * In-home examination, screening, and assessment for SUD
- * Treatment goals and approaches
- * The role of the child protective services (CPS) caseworker when an SUD is identified
- * Differences and similarities between CPS and SUD treatment providers
- * Collaborative relationships and techniques for making systems work for families

This manual is part of the third edition of the User Manual Series, developed to reflect increased knowledge and the evolving state of practice. The User Manual Series, from the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect within the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides a foundation for understanding child maltreatment and the roles and responsibilities of child welfare practitioners in prevention, identification, investigation, assessment, and treatment.

Read the manual at www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/substanceuse

The entire User Manual Series is available at www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanual.cfm

Professional Development Opportunities

Growing Pains 2009, Nashville Tennessee

The 22nd Annual National Independent Living Conference for adults and youth will be held on September 1-4, 2009. Presenters include top leaders and experts in the field of independent living. The national youth conference is comprised of sessions dedicated to the needs of youth who are currently in care including workshops, panel discussions and leadership/team building activities. Each general session and workshop will present innovative ideas on how youth can deal with life's ever changing situations. One of our missions is to help professionals, clients and their respective organizations establish and maintain effective Independent Living Programs. This year's conference will be held at the **Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center**, in Nashville, Tennessee, *"Music City!"* For more information call 1-800-226-7612 or visit us online at www.danielkids.org.

IL/SWAN Fall Quarterly Meetings – Save the Dates!

Thursday, October 1 – Best Western East Mountain Inn, Wilkes-Barre

Wednesday, October 7 – Holiday Inn, Clarion

Thursday, October 8 – Holiday Inn, Monroeville

Thursday, October 14 – Central Penn Conference Center, Enola

Wednesday, October 28 – Embassy Suites Philadelphia Airport, Philadelphia

Thursday, October 29 – Holiday Inn, Fort Washington

Mid-Atlantic Network for Youth and Family Services (MANY) Comes to Bedford

The 21st Annual MANY Conference, Celebrate Networking! is being held October 19 and 20, 2009, at the historic and beautiful Bedford Springs Resort in Bedford, PA. Please contact the MANY office with questions: 412.366.6562 or many@manynet.org

IL/SWAN Winter Statewide Meeting, Penn State Hotel and Conference Center, State College, January 27-28, 2010.

Pennsylvania Permanency Conference, Lancaster Host Hotel and Conference Center, June 23-25, 2010.

Independent Living Project Updates:

Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) Training

Justin Lee and Steve Eidson are certified to train programs about the ACLSA and its many advantages and resources for youth and programs. If you'd like to learn more about the ACLSA and how it could be used (or better utilized) by your program, please let either Justin or Steve know. Look for workshop information and dates later this summer.

CWTP Training Calendar

If you'd like to know what courses are offered to counties and providers, the Encompass database permits you to view all of the training opportunities at the CWTP. The following website will provide access to trainings at: <http://www.encompass.pitt.edu/>

Know Your Rights Training

The Juvenile Law Center, Kids Voice and the IL Project offer Know Your Rights training for youth, foster parents, casework staff and partner/community agencies. Know Your Rights Part 2: How to Conduct Yourself in Court is an addition to the original training which provides scenarios, role play and practical advice for youth as they prepare for hearings/reviews and advocate for themselves in court. If you have not had the original training and/or you are interested in a session with Part 2, please contact the IL Project specialist for your county or Neha Desai at the Juvenile Law Center: ndesai@jlc.org

Pennsylvania I.L. Youth Retreat – Look at the Video

The Pennsylvania IL Youth Retreat held on 13-17 July at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown was a great success! Thank you to everyone who helped make the week possible! You can see highlights of the Retreat by following the link <http://www.independentlivingpa.org/>

People in Transition:

Toni Williams, the long-time IL coordinator in Warren County, retired on 13 August. Best wishes, Toni!

Tammi Nyquist has moved into the position of IL supervisor for Warren County. Welcome to IL, Tammi!

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH IL PROJECT

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