

Mentoring Resources

Mentoring Juvenile Justice and Foster Care Youth

Very few mentoring organizations are equipped to help connect youth in foster care or the juvenile justice system with adults who can provide ongoing support and who understand the challenges these youth face. The organization Health and Human Development Programs recently undertook the first-ever federally funded training program to help mentoring organizations reach these youth; here's a look at what they're doing. www.hhd.org

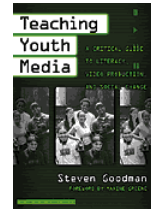


Apathy is Boring -- Youth Friendly Guide

Apathy is Boring promotes active community and civic involvement among youth and helps adult organizations reach, engage and integrate young voices and perspectives into their work. Check out the Youth Friendly Guide for tips for intergenerational partnerships and tools for U.S. and Canadian organizations to involve youth. www.youthfriendly.com

Teaching Youth Media: A Critical Guide to Literacy, Video Production and Social Change

Youth "speak the language of media" -- do you? This guide from the Educational Video Center helps youth workers and teachers empower youth to speak their mind while developing critical literacy in every form of media. (Free excerpts; cost of full book is \$18.95 plus postage.) www.evc.org/publications/teaching.htm



"So, What Do You Do?" -- Creating an Elevator Pitch

This two-part series will help you craft a concise and memorable pitch (the length of an elevator ride) to help you make the most out of opportunities to build support for the work your organization does. The second part, "Avoiding Message Pitfalls and Making the Pitch," is available on the Grant Station Website. Members can access the first section by logging in to www.grantstation.com

Check it out: AfterSchoolResources.org

Funded by the C.S. Mott Foundation, Afterschoolresources.org is a searchable, comprehensive online database with more than 500 resources and tools for designing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining after-school systems.

When Teens Use Drugs

This online report, "Teens, Drugs & Violence", shows that teens who use drugs are more likely to commit violent acts, steal, become involved in gangs, and use other illicit drugs and alcohol than nonusers. One key finding is that structured activities and volunteering help keep teens away from drugs. www.mediacampaign.org/pdf/TeensDrugsandViolence.pdf

Mentors Make a Difference

Search Institute® offers resources to help mentors provide positive qualities, experiences, and opportunities to those they mentor. The 40 Developmental Assets® can reassure mentors that they can make a difference in lives. Here are four Search Institute downloadable tools grounded in the Developmental Assets framework for mentors, those they mentor and families:

- What is My Role as a Mentor?
- My Mentor's Role in My Life
- Setting and Reaching Goals
- Supporting Your Child's Relationship with a Mentor
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Also check out Tip Sheets for Mentoring Adolescents that were developed in partnership by Search Institute and the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota to support and strengthen relationships between mentors and mentees. You can find more mentoring tools on-line at www.searchinstitute.org

Preparing Youth for Education and/or Employment

SAT Fee Waivers

The SAT Fee Waivers for 2007-2008 as well as the College Fee Waivers are available at the IL Project. If you need application forms for your youth, please contact Ann Molsky at akm9@pitt.edu or 717.795.9048. You can duplicate the application form as often as needed. Youth can register for fall SAT dates now. Keep in mind that SAT and College Fee Waivers are specific to each youth, therefore a separate application for each youth must be completed.

Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG)

Youth planning to enroll in college this fall or for the spring should complete the Chafee ETG application in addition to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) worksheet. Chafee ETG applications are available at www.pheaa.org. If your youth or you have questions about Chafee applications or a youth's status, please contact **Tina Blair** at PHEAA at 1-800-831-0797.

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology: A Commitment to Transitioning Youth

Located in Lancaster (about 35 miles from Harrisburg and 75 miles from Philadelphia), Thaddeus Stevens is a two-year college, which is owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Nearly 800 students are enrolled at the college, which is located near downtown Lancaster. Thaddeus Stevens offers seventeen areas of study with a practical, hands-on approach; degree programs include construction areas and the building trades, office administration and respiratory care. The college was founded by Thaddeus Stevens, a Civil War era congressman, who firmly believed in the dignity of all people, the ability of all to benefit from education and in racial equality. Through its Legacy Award program and in combination with federal and state financial aid grants, students who do not have family resources, can attend the college and live on- or off-campus free of charge. For more information: www.stevencollege.edu

Chapin Hall Webinar Focuses on Youth Workforce Development

Forum Program Manager Elizabeth Gaines presented in this Web conference to explore the challenges and solutions for disadvantaged youth entering the workforce. Elizabeth shared the Ready by 21 Framework which focuses on the importance of 21st century skills and the systems coordination that must happen to get those skills to the young people that need them. She also shared some promising state policy examples. Click www.aboutchapinhall.org to listen to a recording of the Web conference, view panelist PowerPoint presentations and read the audience Q & A log. Read a related Forum issue brief on www.forumfyi.org

Family Involvement in Middle and High School

The third and final brief in a Harvard Family Research Project series examining the impact of family involvement across academic and developmental stages is now online. This brief spotlights what works to promote family involvement and student achievement during this critical developmental period, and offers tips for effective policies and practices. www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects



Legal Issues and the Child Welfare System

Your Help is Needed

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) is currently investigating the connection between unmet housing needs and family involvement in the child welfare system. We are seeking information about the likelihood of children coming into contact with that system solely, or primarily, due to unmet housing needs (homelessness or otherwise inadequate housing). We are also focusing on the role of unmet housing needs in delaying or preventing family reunifications. We would appreciate if you could complete the following brief survey: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=WBGCT88gpEfYLIV3o_2bwF2w_3d_3d.

Preventing and Responding to Prejudice

Teaching Tolerance, a Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center has a new resource - *Beyond the Golden Rule: A Parent's Guide to Preventing and Responding to Prejudice*. The 56-page print version is available at a nominal cost. A single copy is \$5, but a set of 10 books can be obtained for \$20 total, with no additional shipping or handling charges. A free download is also available at www.tolerance.org/parents.

Undocumented Immigrant Youth: Guide for Advocates and Service Providers

This brief from the National Human Services Assembly looks at the challenges that undocumented foreign-born children and youth face, particularly in immigration and justice proceedings. The brief is designed to help advocates and youth-serving agencies understand the issues and risks, and get the latest on best practices for collaborating. It includes a policy and action section. www.nassembly.org

Transitions to Permanency

Minimizing placement change

Recent studies conducted by Casey Family Programs and other organizations have found that placement stability is a key predictor of youth success in foster care. Casey Family Programs researchers present these findings in a new paper called [Why Should the Child Welfare Field Focus on Minimizing Placement Change as Part of Permanency Planning for Children?](http://www.m1casey.org)

Building Collaborative Leadership in Communities

The Leadership in Action Program provides hands-on training for people in a wide range of fields and positions who are already working to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and families. Sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF), the Leadership in Action Program works to strengthen leadership and management skills and help leaders learn to collaborate more effectively, move quickly toward common goals, and use data to develop action plans and measure progress. In collaboration with AECF, a local partner, such as a city task force or citizens' group, first agrees to sponsor an initiative focused on a particular need. The local partner then invites up to 40 participants, including State and local government employees, managers of public agencies, nonprofit directors, child advocates, business people, and community leaders. Guided by Leadership in Action Program faculty, the group participates in nine 2-day sessions over 14 months. The program provides the tools, framework, and skills to develop action plans, identify low- and no-cost solutions, and enlist new partners. A full description of the program and contact information can be found in an online brochure: www.aecf.org/upload/PublicationFiles/LAP.pdf

Assessment and Intervention Strategies

Misunderstood Minds: Tools to Tackle Learning Issues

One in five students face a learning disability or learning problem. This 90-minute Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) documentary follows five families as they work with experts to try to solve the mysteries of their children's learning difficulties. The website has scientific explanations, strategies for school success, and more -- check out the interactive section, "Experience Firsthand," for a glimpse at what it may be like to struggle with a basic skill. www.pbs.org/wgbh/misunderstoodminds



Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Science and Engineering

Sticks and stones? Researchers took 200 women with strong math skills and separated them into two groups. They told one group it was part of a study on math performance, the other a study on why men outperform women in math. The first group did well; the second group's scores dropped. This National Academies book argues that the real-world version of this study is why girls and women are under-represented in higher levels of math, science, and engineering. <http://books.nap.edu/catalog>

Reconnecting Youth

Making an Impact Through Youth Media

Helping young people express themselves through media -- including new technologies -- can be a powerful strategy for youth development. The latest *Youth Worker News* from the National Youth Development Information Center offers case studies of programs using youth media, curricula and guides, and funding tools for programs. www.nydic.org



Core Principles for Engaging Young People in Community Change

Engaging young people as partners in community change is a compelling idea -- but translating it into effective practice requires focused attention to a range of issues. This Forum for Youth Investment paper looks at important but simple principles for research and practice that can help schools, youth groups and community organizations strengthen youth leadership and youth involvement. www.tinyurl.com

Beyond City Limits: Cross-System Collaboration to Reengage Disconnected Youth

It takes more than a single agency or public system to meet the needs of disconnected youth and help them reconnect to school, work and the right supports and opportunities. Collaboration among city, school, county and state agencies is essential. This National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families report has eight case studies exploring how city leaders can launch these collaborative efforts -- and what makes them work in the long run. www.nlc.org/assets

Training and Curricular Resources

Training Resources on Substance Abuse

The Utah Division of Child and Family Services has developed a Participant Workbook and a Supervisor Handbook to implement a statewide training for child welfare supervisors and caseworkers, utilizing the NCSACW online tutorial *Understanding Substance Use Disorders, Treatment and Family Recovery: A Guide for Child Welfare Professionals*. Both are available to download: <http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/resources.asp>

Early Head Start Supports Teen Parents

Early Head Start (EHS) programs are in a unique position to help teen parents, especially those involved with the child protective services system and those who have children with disabilities. As part of the Federal Head Start program, EHS provides a range of services to eligible low-income pregnant women and mothers with infants and toddlers, many of whom are teen parent families. A new issue brief from the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) examines the special needs of these families and highlights promising EHS programs and activities across the country. Teen parent families may face increased risks for child abuse and neglect and for disabilities and developmental delays in children. Studies have shown that teen parent participation in EHS programs helps improve child development and parenting behavior and increases economic self-sufficiency and the family's ability to access support services.

The report highlights the importance of increased collaboration between EHS programs and other systems serving teen parent families, especially child protective services and early intervention programs. EHS can collaborate with the child welfare system to prevent child abuse and neglect by teaching teenage parents appropriate parenting techniques, improving their knowledge of child development, and connecting them to support services. EHS programs can also identify children who may have disabilities and facilitate access to appropriate services. The full report, *Early Head Start and Teen Parent Families: Partnerships for Success*, is based on discussion and findings from a 2-day meeting of EHS providers. Descriptions of the EHS programs and services represented by participants are included. The report was funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and is available at: www.clasp.org/publications/ehs_teens.pdf

Funding Opportunities and Sustainability

Youth Power Grants

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Youth Service America (YSA) are pleased to announce Youth Power grants of up to \$1,000 to support youth-led service projects. These grants support youth in foster care (ages 5-18) and youth who have recently transitioned out of foster care (ages 19-25) in planning and implementing service projects in their community. Youth-serving organizations that have prior experience in working with youth in the foster care system are eligible to apply, provided that they that engage foster youth in planning and implementing a service project.

Service projects will take place as part of Global Youth Service Day on April 25-27, 2008. Projects can address themes such as the environment, disaster relief, public health and awareness, community education, hunger, literacy, or any issue that youth identify as a community need. Applications are welcome from organizations in the US only. Please download application materials at www.YSA.org/awards. **Receipt deadline: October 1, 2007.**

Grant: Comcast Foundation

For diversity-oriented programs that address literacy, volunteerism and youth leadership development in Comcast communities. Funder: Comcast. Eligibility: Nonprofits.

Deadline: Open.

Amount: Unspecified.

Contact: www.comcast.com/corporate/about/inthecommunity/foundation/comcastfoundation.html

Sustainability

This is a topic that often comes up when discussing program activities. Often agencies look outside of their government funding streams for additional funds to meet the changing needs of the population. Private and government funding sources, often require that evidenced based practices be used. To that end, SAMHSA provides a website that assists in the review of interventions when you are considering new programs. It is not an all inclusive list of interventions, but it is a good resource. It provides an intervention summary, including the "Key Findings" sections that summarize the research results for each outcome. The site can be viewed by clicking the link below: <http://nrepp.samhsa.gov/index.htm>

Professional Development Opportunities

IL/SWAN Fall 2007 Quarterly Meetings:

Thursday, 11 October – Best Western East Mountain Inn, Wilkes-Barre

Tuesday, 16 October – Radisson Hotel, Monroeville

Wednesday, 17 October – Holiday Inn, Beaver Falls

Monday, 23 October – Holiday Inn, New Cumberland

Tuesday, 30 October – Fort Washington Hotel and Conference Center, Fort Washington

Wednesday, 31 October – Embassy Suites Airport, Philadelphia

Casey My Life Conference (30 September – 2 October)

Sponsored by Casey Family Programs, this national conference held in Atlanta showcases efforts to help youth make successful transitions to adult life and to advocate for themselves. Resources and curricula are shared with a regional and national perspective. Conference and registration details are available at www.casey.org

Getting Beyond the System Philosophy and Approaches Training Workshop (1-2 October)

The Youth Advocacy Center in New York advocates for teenagers who are or may become involved with the foster care system. Its fall workshop is designed to give professionals tools to help teens in foster care transition to independence. Participants can experiment with these approaches during the training workshop. **Registration:** \$300 before September 10, \$315 after.

Youth
Advocacy
Center

People in Transition – Please welcome:

Todd Kline has been appointed as the IL coordinator for Clarion County CYS; he formerly was the foster care coordinator and has worked at CYS for six years.

Kathleen Hood became the IL coordinator for Warren County Human Services in early August.

Christine Tirendi to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families as the Program Specialist who is the new State IL Grant Coordinator. Christine comes from Dauphin County as a Permanency and Intake caseworker. She is originally from Massachusetts, has lived overseas (Germany) and in several stateside locations before the Army brought her to Pennsylvania. She's been married fourteen years and has a son (13) and daughter (12). She enjoys a number of hobbies and claims she plays a mean game of ping-pong. You can call Christine at (717) 772-7012 or email her at ctirendi@state.pa.us.

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