

**Examples from the Field: What Three Cities are Doing**

**Denver – New approaches for runaway and homeless youth:** Building on the commitment of the Mayor, City Council, homeless youth service providers and advocates, Denver is serving more homeless young people and assisting them to exit the streets permanently through a comprehensive system of care. A 2002 survey of over 200 youth living on the streets of Denver confirmed that substance abuse was a key issue. When presented with the survey results, a Councilmember convened a meeting of stakeholders, and soon thereafter the city approved a \$70,000 grant to a direct service provider, Urban Peak to step up efforts to address substance abuse. City support helped Urban Peak leverage millions of dollars in additional grants from the state and federal government and expand and deepen services significantly. See also [www.denvergov.org/dephome.asp?depid=1805](http://www.denvergov.org/dephome.asp?depid=1805) or [www.urbanpeak.org](http://www.urbanpeak.org).

**Pittsburgh -- Youth Programs Quality Initiative:** Area nonprofits and foundations came together in recent years to develop and field test a set of standards, as part of an overall quality control system for youth-serving programs. Experience gained through this project has led to the development of resources for use nationwide through the newly formed Community Quality Institute, a project of the Tides Center. Available now on-line is the CQI Youth Standards Online Assessment, which provides a snapshot of board member or staff perceptions of where the agency stands in relation to the youth program standards. Additional information about the background and benefits of this quality initiative, as well as ways to get involved, is also available at [www.communityqualityinstitute.org/](http://www.communityqualityinstitute.org/).

**San Jose – Joint Efforts for Gang Prevention and Intervention:** With an orientation to reducing gang participation and violence, as well as on reconnecting youth to education and other positive pathways, San Jose has developed a powerful structure for program visioning, planning, and implementation – the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force. Throughout the past 13 years, the city has provided a total of \$24 million in grants to community-based agencies engaged in prevention and intervention projects, under the direction of the Task Force. San Jose looks to results such as a 50% reduction in crime from 1991 through 2000; a 47% drop in gang-related arrests over a six-year period; and increasing high school graduation rates as indicators of the collaboration’s effectiveness. The pattern of collaboration has spread as well, with the mayor and 19 school district superintendents now participating in joint efforts around safety and improving student performance. See [www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/ysbest.htm](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/ysbest.htm) for more on the funding mechanism; regarding the Task Force, visit [www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/ysmqptf.htm](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/ysmqptf.htm).

**Plan now to attend!** The 2005 *National Summit on Your City’s Families* will take place September 25 – 28, 2005. [Click Here](#) to download the Summit registration form; [click here](#) to read more about the Summit. Obtain hotel rates of \$149 double/\$155 single at the Westin Riverwalk by contacting the hotel directly at (210) 224-6500 and mentioning the National League of Cities by 9/1/05.

National League of Cities, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families



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