



Municipal Network on Disconnected Youth E-Newsletter **October 2006, Volume III, Issue 7**

Cities to Watch

Philadelphia – Collaborative launches Project U-Turn to re-engage disconnected youth: In response to growing concern about high school dropout rates, the Philadelphia Youth Transitions Collaborative this month released a major report and launched a new dropout recovery campaign. Recommendations of the report include building a wide net of people and agencies devoted to reaching youth on the verge of dropping out. The report reveals how many students drop out, analyzes demographic trends, and describes how many others are at risk of dropping out. The report emphasizes the economic impact for the city. Much of the analysis came about by tracking individual students over time and cross-checking school records with data from the courts and other city agencies. The new campaign, dubbed Project U-Turn, will involve city agencies, the school district, businesses, neighborhood groups and parents. The Project U-Turn campaign aims to create more high-quality learning options that will re-engage youth who have left school or are close to doing so. To learn more about the Project U-Turn report and campaign, visit www.projectuturn.net/index.html.

Oakland, California – City’s Workforce Investment Board (WIB) supports transitional job programs for emancipated foster youth and others: The Oakland WIB, an oversight and policy-making body for federally funded employment and training programs in Oakland, invests nearly 50% of available resources in a range of paid, work opportunities for youth in transition. Many of these work experience, work tryout, and subsidized employment approaches fall under the umbrella of “transitional jobs” – a subject on which the YEF Institute recently released a report (available at http://www.nlc.org/content/Files/IYEF_Transitional_Jobs_Report.pdf). Breaking new ground among Oakland’s mix of programs is one for out-of-school former foster youth. For more information, see: <http://www.oaklandwib.org/showdetail.asp?id=21&pid=3>.

New YEF Institute Resources and Professional Development Opportunities

Keeping Young People Safe: Effective Mayor-Law Enforcement Partnerships
Audioconference, on Thursday, November 16, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. (ET). To learn more and register, visit www.nlc.org/iyef.

2006 Congress of Cities and Exposition in Reno, Nevada, December 5-9: Elected and appointed city officials, city employees and staff are invited to attend NLC’s annual gathering of more than 4,000 leaders from cities and towns across the country. The Congress of Cities conference features general sessions, conference workshops, and networking opportunities, including a track of workshops hosted by the YEF Institute.

A Congress of Cities workshop of particular interest to MNDY members takes place on December 8: ***Community Collaboration for Adolescent Safety: How Local Leaders,***

Police, and Other Community Stakeholders Can Work Together to Protect Young People, and will emphasize the extent to which improving public safety, particularly for young people, requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach from community stakeholders. In this workshop, panelists will look at outcomes of successful partnerships between city leaders and law enforcement officials as well as key partnerships with young people who contribute their voices and energies to the development of local solutions. Delegates will learn how they can use collaborative efforts to protect the children and youth in their communities from violence, substance abuse, and other threats to health and safety. To learn more and register online for the Congress of Cities and Exposition, click [here](#) or click “Congress of Cities & Exposition” at www.nlc.org. For more information about the workshop, contact Leon T. Andrews, Jr. at (202) 626-3039, or by email at andrews@nlc.org.

Additional Resources

The Youth Transition Funders Group (YTFG) Action Group met in October to discuss policy successes, relevant outcomes, and joint efforts among funders since 1999. Updates on the emerging work of federal agencies, YTFG work groups on out-of-school and foster youth, and Chicago dropout trends and potential interventions are available at <http://www.ytfg.org/ChicagoMeetingInvitation.html>.

Positions Available

NLC Hiring a Senior Program Associate for Disconnected Youth: The National League of Cities seeks an experienced professional to provide program and research support in areas related to needs of high school dropouts, youth in juvenile justice/foster care systems, and other teenagers and young adults not connected to school, work, or caring adults. Requirements include: bachelor’s degree; graduate degree in public policy, social work, education or related field preferred; minimum six years progressively responsible relevant experience in research, program development, or policy analysis; knowledge of issues and program strategies related to needs of young people not connected to school, work, or caring adults; strong research and writing skills; experience working with city officials and/or knowledge of city initiatives in these areas preferred. Grant funded position for two years. If you know of any qualified individuals that would be interested, please encourage them to apply. Send resume to: Human Resources, NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES, 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004, or email to employment@nlc.org.

Massachusetts Pathways to Success by 21 Initiative – Two positions: The Center for Youth Development and Education has two positions open to manage this statewide initiative promoting cross-system collaboration for disconnected youth. For more information, see: <http://comcorp.org/about/careers.html>.

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



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