

Examples from the Field: What Three Cities are Doing

Los Angeles: The Workforce Investment Boards of the cities of Los Angeles and Long Beach commissioned an evocative report on out-of-school and out-of-work 16-24 year old youth entitled **“One Out of Five.”** The title refers to the percentage of young adults out of work – some 93,000 in Los Angeles alone. The report was a first step in building the case for stronger investments in the human capital that youth represent. The city’s Community Development Department, which operates employment as well as gang prevention and intervention services, is now explaining the findings and discussing solutions with professionals and youth through a series of regional town hall meetings, and will sponsor a citywide policy forum on the topic in April. For more information and to view the report and executive summary, visit www.lacity.org/wib/ as well as www.lacity.org/CDD/you_index.html

New York City: A review of the city’s employment and training and education systems endorsed by the Mayor’s office and implemented with foundation funding, led to the realization that 200,000 young people ages 16-24 were unemployed, had not finished high school, and were not taking part in an education, literacy, or workforce preparation program – and that this population is growing. Over a six-month period in 2003, consultants held one-on-one conversations with representatives of city and state agencies as well as key business and community-based organizations about the situation and opportunities for change. At the close of the interview process, a group of 40 government officials, practitioners, and private sector leaders convened for the first time, and are continuing to meet to develop citywide policy recommendations, program expectations, and quality standards for improving outcomes for disconnected youth, as well as implementation strategies. Contact: Civic Strategies, (617) 630-9898, vision@civicstrategies.org.

Long Beach: Building on the recommendations of a thorough report by the city’s Human Relations Commission, the Mayor, Council, and City Manager convened a 40-member **Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force** last year. Over its three-year life span, the task force is charged to pursue solutions to disconnected youth issues. The task force has divided into five issue-specific action teams to develop specific projects. For more info: www.longbeach.gov/citymanager/human_dignity_office/youth_and_gang_violence_prevention_task_force.asp

Training – and More!

LOWEST REGISTRATION FEES FOR 2005 NLC SUMMIT AVAILABLE THROUGH JANUARY 31. Plan to attend the 2005 *National Summit on Your City’s Families* being held September 25 – 28, 2005 at the Westin Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Tex. Early bird registration fees of \$245 for NLC members and \$295 for non-members are now available, but only through 1/31/05. The 2005 Summit will bring together top municipal and other community leaders from cities and towns all across America, offering opportunities for leadership growth and networking on topics related to children, youth, and families. For more information go to http://www.nlc.org/IYEF/your_city_s_families_conference/.

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



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