



## ***Municipal Network on Disconnected Youth E-Newsletter*** **March 2007, Volume IV, Issue 2**

### **Cities to Watch**

#### **Portland, Oregon reaches disconnected youth through alternative education programs**

The city of Portland (pop. 538,180) and Portland Public Schools (PPS), in partnership with the local workforce agency and nineteen community-based organizations, have developed a set of coordinated alternative education programs to enable out-of-school and at-risk youth to continue their formal education and gain workforce training. Collectively, the alternative education programs have been able to demonstrate that they provide education for thousands of young people who would not otherwise complete high school. These partners form the Coalition for Metro Area Community-Based Schools (C-MACS), and work with PPS to offer attractive, learner-focused options for students, with programs and paths to meet their varied needs. The New Avenues for Youth Alternative Education Center ([www.newavenues.org](http://www.newavenues.org)) and the City Corps program at Portland's Open Meadow Alternative Schools ([www.openmeadow.org](http://www.openmeadow.org)) are two program examples of the partnerships in Portland.

#### **Worcester, Massachusetts adapts youth violence reduction strategy from larger city**

In Worcester (pop. 175,898) the mayor and police chief led an effort to bring the most relevant aspects of Boston's Ten Point Coalition, a group of local clergy that united to work with the city and police department to combat youth violence, to their city, resulting in the Youth Mentoring Program (YMP). A top priority was to establish a sense of trust and communication between the clergy and law enforcement officials. The mayor and police chief also outlined clear, achievable goals for the YMP. These goals included reducing violence, restricting the availability of guns, and reaching the maximum number of youth in the city – those deemed at-risk of involvement in violence. Contact the Chief of Police Gary J. Gemme, [GemmeG@ci.worcester.ma.us](mailto:GemmeG@ci.worcester.ma.us), for more information.

### **NLC Updates & Resources**

#### **Save the Date! April 25 MNDY Audioconference on sharing youth data across systems**

In partnership with the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), this audioconference on Wednesday, April 25 at 3pm (ET) will highlight cities that have created successful formal systems to share youth data between social services, juvenile justice, law enforcement, education, and workforce agencies. Panelists from Hartford, CT; Indianapolis, IN; and San Jose, CA will discuss integrated database systems and community networks as potential data-sharing strategies. To register, please e-mail or fax your name, title, organization, mailing address (including street, city, state and zip), telephone, fax and e-mail. No telephone registrations can be accepted. You may e-mail your registration to [fellow@nlc.org](mailto:fellow@nlc.org) or fax to 202-626-3043.

**NLC Hiring Three Youth Development Positions** The Youth Development department at National League of Cities' Institute for Youth Education and Families has three positions open – Senior Program Associate for Disconnected Youth, Program Associate for Youth Development, and the Thomas M. Menino Fellowship. Applications and interviews are currently taking place and the requirements for each position ranges from more senior to entry-level. For more information on these positions, please visit [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org). 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](mailto:employment@nlc.org).

## **Additional Resources**

### **Expansion of Reclaiming Futures initiative announced by Robert Wood Johnson**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently announced an expansion of its Reclaiming Futures initiative, which assists youth involved with the juvenile justice system who are struggling with drugs and alcohol. The foundation will provide \$6.5 million to support Reclaiming Futures' ten pilot sites for two more years and help new sites implement the model over the next four. The expanded effort will create a national resource center to provide case studies and other data to communities seeking to enhance drug- and alcohol-related services for system-involved youth. In late spring 2007, Reclaiming Futures will invite applications from cities interested in participating as a pilot site. Successful applicants will receive technical assistance, on-site coaching, invitations to national conferences, and other resources. For more information, visit [www.reclaimingfutures.org](http://www.reclaimingfutures.org).

**AYPF calls for evaluations of out-of-school time programs** The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF), with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, will develop a compendium to highlight effective and innovative out-of-school time programs for youth who are underserved by the education system, focusing on afterschool programs that have evaluative data and information on positive youth outcomes. AYPF solicits current information on policies, programs, and research in the afterschool field to include in this report, scheduled for completion in 2008. More information, and the Jan. 2006 AYPF report, *Helping Youth Succeed Through Out-of-School Time Programs*, can be found at [www.aypf.org](http://www.aypf.org).

**CLASP guidebook on *Making the Juvenile Justice-Workforce System Connection for Re-Entering Young Offenders: A Guide for Local Practice*** The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has designed this guidebook to provide advice from the field to communities who are interested in creating or strengthening more formal connections between the workforce and justice systems. It draws on experiences in eight communities and focuses on local challenges and solutions related to blending the cultures, adapting programming, engaging employers, and meeting performance. For an online copy, visit [www.clasp.org/publications/making\\_connection.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/publications/making_connection.pdf).

***The Nexus of Youth Homelessness and the Child Welfare System* forum recording from the Urban Institute** This Thursday's Child series forum in Washington, DC, on Feb. 8, 2007, analyzed the efficacy of federal policies to reduce youth homelessness, focusing on two groups: youth who age out of the child welfare system and those who never qualify for its supports. To listen to the audio MP3 files, visit [www.urban.org/Pressroom/thursdayschild/feb2007.cfm](http://www.urban.org/Pressroom/thursdayschild/feb2007.cfm).

***The Consequences Aren't Minor: The Impact of Trying Youth as Adults and Strategies for Reform* report from the Campaign for Youth Justice** The report presents research, statutory analysis, and case studies to highlight the current policy challenges for treating young people as adults in the justice system. Calling for a ban on the incarceration of youth in adult jails or prisons, the report also focuses on the importance of addressing the shortcomings of the juvenile justice system. To learn more and read the report, visit [www.campaign4youthjustice.org/news.html](http://www.campaign4youthjustice.org/news.html).

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



For more information about the

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