



## ***Municipal Network on Disconnected Youth E-Newsletter*** **April/May 2007, Volume IV, Issue 3**

### **Cities to Watch**

#### **Fort Worth, Tex. Safe City Commission promotes community partnerships for youth safety**

A vision of becoming "the safest major city in the U.S." led to the founding of Safe City Commission, Inc. in Fort Worth, Tex. (pop. 624,000). The nonprofit organization includes among its leadership the city's mayor and a host of city, county, state, and federal public safety officials, along with business and community leaders. In addition to its role fostering collaboration among public safety and crime prevention agencies, the Safe City Commission helps train and support community champions for crime prevention, safety, education, and law enforcement. In one example of its particular focus on the safety of children, the commission coordinates a 200-member collaborative anti-gang network known as Community Organizations for Restoration and Empowerment.

Read more about Fort Worth's Safe City Commission and other community partnerships for youth in the YEF Institute's recent *Vital Partners* report, hard copies available by emailing [iyef@nlc.org](mailto:iyef@nlc.org).

#### **Hampton, Va. and Newport News, Va. conduct a forum on youth in transition**

Eighty representatives (area school districts, state and county agencies, and community- and faith-based organizations) from the cities of Hampton (pop. 145,579) and Newport News (pop. 179,899), Virginia gathered in April for a one-day forum on youth-in-transition. In addition to hearing and discussing big-picture comprehensive planning recommendations from NLC based upon the forthcoming cross-system collaboration case studies, participants delved into key topics such as access to health care, housing, employment, and positive connections with caring adults. The Youth Development Task Force of the regional homelessness continuum of care council organized the forum and will oversee follow-up steps in the above areas. For more information, see [www.gvpccc.org/bfytf.html](http://www.gvpccc.org/bfytf.html).

### **News & Updates**

#### **Reminder: *Municipal Leadership for Disconnected Youth* technical assistance deadline May 25**

The deadline for cities to submit completed requests for proposals for a new technical assistance project sponsored by the YEF Institute, focused on *Municipal Leadership for Disconnected Youth*, is May 25, 2007. For questions, please contact Leon T. Andrews, Jr. at (202) 626-3039 or by email at [andrews@nlc.org](mailto:andrews@nlc.org).

#### **YEF Institute audioconference on youth master planning on May 24 at 2:30pm (EST)**

City efforts to work with school, community and youth leaders in developing long-term youth master plans will be the topic of a free upcoming audioconference from the YEF Institute. "*Making Youth a High Priority: City-School Youth Master Planning Initiatives*," will take place on Thursday, May 24, at 2:30 p.m. (EST). Listeners will hear from Claremont, Calif., and Hampton, Va., two cities that have each been invested in youth master planning for fifteen years, and Lakewood, Ohio, a city that has just begun this journey and already made significant strides.

To register for the audioconference, email your full contact information (name, title, organization, mailing address, telephone, fax and email address) to [iyef@nlc.org](mailto:iyef@nlc.org), or fax to (202)626-3043 by Tuesday, May 22.  
[>More Information](#)

#### **New legislation introduced to turn around the nation's lowest-performing high schools**

During the last week of April, U.S. Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Richard Burr (R-NC), and Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) introduced new legislation that would make \$2.5 billion in federal funds available for use in transforming the nation's lowest-performing high schools into effective centers of teaching and learning.

Called the Graduation Promise Act (GPA), the bill would leverage statewide systems of high school improvement, support the development of effective school models for struggling students and dropouts, and reform state policies to remove barriers to high school reform. Ultimately, if passed into law, the bill would help to ensure that every student graduates from high school prepared for college and the workforce. The GPA would: create federal-state-local reform for the lowest performing schools in the US; build capacity and resources for those students facing the highest challenges; strengthen state systems to target reform, align policies and systems, and raise accountability; and advance research and development in high school reform models.

A statement in support of the GPA from President of the Alliance for Excellent Education, Bob Wise, is available at [www.all4ed.org/press/pr\\_042307b.html](http://www.all4ed.org/press/pr_042307b.html).

### **Additional Resources**

#### **Invitation to attend CCRY Network summer meeting in Hartford, Conn., June 11-12**

The Communities Collaborating to Re-Connect Youth (CCRY) Network affiliated with the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) invites MNDY members to attend its summer meeting focused on *Increasing Employer Engagement: Facing the Challenges and Realities*, on June 11-12 in Hartford, Conn. CCRY aims to support communities in creating comprehensive service delivery systems and innovative peer-to-peer networking to improve the lives of youth. To view the preliminary agenda and to register for the meeting, visit [www.ccrynetwork.org/?q=node/28](http://www.ccrynetwork.org/?q=node/28).

#### **USDOL-ETA Announces Grant Competition for YouthBuild**

The US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has announced the availability of approximately \$47 million in grant funds to launch or sustain YouthBuild programs. YouthBuild programs assist at-risk youth to obtain education and skill training and advance towards post-secondary education and career pathways in construction and other high growth, high demand occupations while building affordable housing in their communities. Applicants may be a public or private nonprofit agency or organizations, and it is anticipated that awards will be made for three year grants (two years of operation with a twelve-month follow-up period) and with average individual grants ranging from approximately \$700,000 - \$1.1 million.

The closing date for receipt of applications is July 3, 2007. Find YouthBuild Frequently Asked Questions at [www.doleta.gov/youth\\_services](http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services).

#### ***It's My Life: Postsecondary Education and Training* guide from Casey Family Programs**

This new guide from Casey Family Programs provides professionals and advocates with recommendations, strategies and resources to assist underrepresented youth prepare for, access and succeed in higher education. *It's My Life: Postsecondary Education and Training* gives professionals the recommendations, strategies, and resources they need to improve their work with young people for college success. For a free hard copy, email [postsecondaryguide@casey.org](mailto:postsecondaryguide@casey.org), or download the PDF of the guide at [www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/IMLPostsecondaryEd.htm](http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/IMLPostsecondaryEd.htm).

#### **Report on the 2007 Projected Summer Job Outlook for teens, available now**

Just released by Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Studies, the 2007 *Projected Summer Job Outlook* forecasts a continued drop in job opportunities for U.S. teens this summer and recommends a federally-funded summer jobs creation program under the proposed Summer Jobs and Opportunities Act of 2007. To download the PDF version of *The Projected Summer 2007 Job Outlook for the Nation's Teens and the Case for a Federally-Funded Summer Jobs Creation Program*, authored by Andrew Sum and Joseph McLaughlin, visit [www.clms.neu.edu/publication/documents/s\\_Teens.pdf](http://www.clms.neu.edu/publication/documents/s_Teens.pdf).

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



For more information about the  
Municipal Network on Disconnected Youth, please contact:  
Program Director, Leon T. Andrews, Jr. at 202/626-3039, [andrews@nlc.org](mailto:andrews@nlc.org)  
or Senior Consultant, Andrew Moore at 215/848-6910, [moore@nlc.org](mailto:moore@nlc.org)

