

Examples from the Field: What Three Cities are Doing

Denver – Three Collaboratives: In Denver, at least three discussions about increased collaboration for disconnected youth are moving forward. One initiative, dubbed the Phoenix Forum for its roots in a group who attended a regional presentation on the US Department of Labor's new Youth Vision, brings together state and local agency representatives. Another, the Interagency Youth Team, convenes representatives of several city departments and programs to develop strategies on youth issues. Examples of agencies represented in the latter group are the Departments of Human Services/Children and Family Services, Parks and Recreation, the Safe City Program, and the Mayor's Office for Education and children. A third Youth with Disabilities Transition Team is developing collaborative approaches to transition-to-adulthood issues for young people with a broadly defined set of disabilities. Against a backdrop of tight funding and resulting drive for efficiency, the state and city interagency initiatives are in the process of determining a specific focus to motivate further collaboration. For more information, contact: Seth Howsden, Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, Seth.Howsden@ci.denver.co.us.

New York City Progress Update: A recent broad-based meeting of public agencies, service providers, funders, and advocates resulted in agreement to publish and disseminate a working paper of the NYC Young Adult Task Force that recommends adoption of a strategy designed to quadruple the portion of the disconnected youth population reached by services by 2010. Efforts of the strategy include scaling up provision of services and stakeholder capacity, as well as putting in place a structure for convening and coordination citywide. For the recent report of the Community Service Society, "*Out of School, Out of Work... Out of Luck?*" (available at www.cssny.org) serves as a data touchstone for the Task Force. That report recommends that the city undertake specific labor market initiatives such as a public works transitional jobs program, opening apprenticeship opportunities in the construction industry, and expanding apprenticeships to new industries. Civic Strategies, with support from The Clark Foundation, continues to provide facilitation for the Task Force.

Boston Reentry Initiative for Young Adults: The Boston Reentry Initiative (BRI) brings together public agencies with community- and faith-based organizations to target inmates who are between the ages of 17 and 34 and are considered high risk for continuing their involvement in crime. Inmates are referred to BRI by the Boston Police Department's Gang Intelligence Unit. Within 45 days of entering a county or state facility, BRI participants begin attending one of several monthly community panel sessions. During the panels, representatives from law enforcement and criminal/juvenile justice agencies, social service providers, and faith-based organizations form a semi-circle and sit across from 10-20 inmate participants. Each of the panel members addresses the inmates from the unique perspective of their own organizations. Collectively, panelists convey a unified message that the inmates have the power to choose their own destiny. Following the panel, inmates are assigned caseworkers and faith-based mentors from the community, who begin meeting and working with them in the prison setting and continue their support after release. For more information contact: Blake Norton, Boston Police Department, NortonB.bpd@ci.boston.ma.us or see www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/sp_public_bri.htm.



Calendar Announcements

Audioconference On "What To Do When Youth Say 'There's Nothing To Do:'" City strategies (programs, engagement, etc.) for youth will be the topic of a free audioconference for municipal leaders and for youth on April 21, 2005, at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time sponsored with support from MetLife Foundation. To register for this free call, send complete contact information (name, address, city, state, phone, fax, and email) to Melissa Rogers by close of business Tues, April 19 via email to rogers@nlc.org or via fax to 202-626-3043. No phone registrations can be accepted. If you wish, gather a group of people around a speaker phone and use the call as a springboard for brainstorming or training. One day prior to the call, each registrant will receive an email or fax providing a toll-free, dial-in number to use in joining the audioconference. More details at [www.nlc.org/Newsroom/Nation s Cities Weekly/Weekly NCW/2005/04/04/3460.cfm](http://www.nlc.org/Newsroom/Nation_s_Cities_Weekly/Weekly_NCW/2005/04/04/3460.cfm).

NLC Announces New Work On Youth Master Planning: With support from MetLife Foundation, NLC is beginning a project on City-Schools Youth Planning. The project will be launched officially with a Leadership Academy of training and networking opportunities on June 12-14, 2005 in Baltimore, Md. Participants must apply by April 18. Local elected officials, city staff, state municipal league staff, school officials, and youth (current high school sophomores and juniors) will be competitively selected to attend based on applications. Those selected will be reimbursed up to \$600 per person for travel-related expenses. In addition, only participating cities will be eligible to apply for a year-long technical assistance project set to begin later in 2005. Go to www.nlc.org/iyef to download the announcement and application form. Contact Rebecca Makar at 202-626-3046 or makar@nlc.org, if you have any questions. For the complete article, go to [http://www.nlc.org/Newsroom/Nation s Cities Weekly/Weekly NCW/2005/03/14/2634.cfm](http://www.nlc.org/Newsroom/Nation_s_Cities_Weekly/Weekly_NCW/2005/03/14/2634.cfm). For information on various activities related to the new project, go to [http://www.nlc.org/Newsroom/Nation s Cities Weekly/Weekly NCW/2005/03/14/2635.cfm](http://www.nlc.org/Newsroom/Nation_s_Cities_Weekly/Weekly_NCW/2005/03/14/2635.cfm).

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 – early bird fees expire **April 15**. [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.

Funding Announcement

Department of Labor Re-entry Grants: Cities may wish to approach their faith-based and community organization partners, to encourage or help shape applications for a share of \$19.8 million in new grants to provide an employment-centered program that incorporates mentoring, job training, and other comprehensive transitional services. Applications must detail proposed partnerships with the local criminal justice system, Workforce Investment Board, housing authority, and mental health and substance abuse treatment providers. Deadline is July 13, 2005; view the Federal Register notice at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/05-6484.pdf>

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



For more information about the
Municipal Network on Disconnected Youth, please contact:
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