



Municipal Network on Disconnected Youth E-Newsletter **November/ December 2006, Volume III, Issue 8**

Cities to Watch

New York City – City Department of Education charts multiple pathways: The Office of Multiple Pathways to Graduation of the New York City Department of Education (OMPG) has drawn recent attention locally and nationwide for data analysis and strategy development for disconnected youth. For instance, with assistance from researchers at the Parthenon Group, OMPG found that 140,000 NYC youth ages 16-21 have dropped out or are significantly off-track for graduation. In terms of “recuperative” strategy to serve over-age and under-credited students and put them back on track toward graduation, OMPG is identifying and expanding a portfolio of school and program options. This portfolio includes more new small schools and schools operated in partnership with community-based organizations. For more information, see: <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/DYD/OMP/default.htm>.

Fort Lauderdale and Broward County, Florida partner for at-risk youth: The Children’s Services Council of Broward County (CSC) works closely with the City of Ft. Lauderdale (pop. 152,397) on projects that engage local teens in positive activities. CSC of Broward County, a group appointed by Florida’s governor to fund and strategically plan a continuum of quality care for the county’s children and youth, is one of six children’s services councils in the state of Florida with independent taxing authority. Through shared responsibility and resources for youth programming, Broward County CSC partners with Ft. Lauderdale to offer a varied menu of opportunities for local youth. Examples include the “Reaching Our Kids Now Prevention Program” which has provided over 150 youth with tutoring, family counseling, computer instruction, arts enrichment, fitness and other activities, “Fighting Chance,” a boxing program that combines a professionally supervised high level of aerobic and cardiovascular workout in combination with discipline, and mentorship and a Summer Youth Employment Program. To learn more, visit www.cscbroward.org.

NLC Updates & Resources

Mayor-Police Partnerships Highlighted at NLC’s Congress of Cities & Exposition through the workshop that included Mayor Steve Larson (New Brighton, MN), Councilmember Charles Hughes (Gary, IN), Lt. Richard Saito (San Jose, CA), and Esther Mota -- Coordinator of the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (San Jose, CA). With approximately 100 city leaders in attendance, the panelists discussed a comprehensive and collaborative approach to community safety for young people. The workshop highlighted outcomes of successful partnerships between city leaders and law enforcement officials, as well as key partnerships with young people who contributed their voices and energies to the development of local solutions. To obtain a recording of the workshop, visit www.nlc.org/content/Files/Conference%20Recordings%20PDF.pdf.

Updated NLC education policy reflects attention to alternative schools: The National League of Cities’ Human Development Policy and Advocacy Committee recently completed

an in-depth process of updating portions of the “National Municipal Policy” – NLC’s statement of formally adopted positions on national issues – in preparation for the expected reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. In a section on reducing drop-out rates, the revised policy calls for federal aid to states and districts to develop longitudinal data systems that will keep track of “all students, including those enrolled in alternative programs.” The new policy also calls for federal support for a “better-defined, larger scale, and well-resourced set of options and alternatives that combine on the local level to provide all students (including those who may have dropped out) with multiple pathways to graduation, college readiness, and effectiveness in future roles as workers and citizens.” Keep track of the National Municipal Policy at:

www.nlc.org/Advocating_For_Cities/NLC_National_Municipal_Policy/.

Additional Resources

HUD announces YouthBuild grants, including awards to three cities: Savannah, Ga., Phoenix, Ariz., and Texarkana, Ark. have been included as three city recipients of YouthBuild grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These grants, in the amount of \$360,000 to \$700,000 each, will enable YouthBuild programs in communities across the country to offer job training and leadership skills to an estimated 3,075 young people. YouthBuild grants will help these students, ages 16 to 24, to earn their high school diplomas and train them for a future in the construction trades while producing 702 homes for lower income families, many facing homelessness. YouthBuild programs are currently active in more than 226 communities. The Fiscal Year 2006 grant announcement also marks the transition of the YouthBuild program from HUD to the U.S. Department of Labor. To learn more, visit www.youthbuild.org and www.doleta.gov/youth_services/.

Street Law offers *Parents and the Law* regional training institutes on skills for young parents, January 22-23, 2007 in Newark, NJ and June 24-25, 2007 in Reno, NV. The *Parents and the Law* program and curriculum are designed to help young parents learn practical legal information and to use that information to strengthen their families and prevent child abuse and neglect. The training institutes are geared toward community leaders, educators, social workers, and anyone who works directly with teen parents. For more details, visit www.streetlaw.org/pal.asp

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



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