

In the weeks since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast region, NLC's YEF Institute has been working to identify ways of helping affected communities (including those devastated by the storm and those sheltering substantial numbers of evacuees) respond to the needs of children and families. As part of the 2005 Summit on Your City's Families, held in San Antonio two weeks ago, a major plenary session highlighted lessons from Katrina, including steps that every community can take in its disaster planning to protect vulnerable populations. The YEF Institute has also played a lead role in convening representatives of national organizations in Washington, D.C., who are seeking to work collaboratively to assist affected communities. See related items below:

I. On Thursday, October 20, at 12:30 pm Eastern time, the YEF Institute will continue its Katrina-related efforts by hosting an audioconference featuring Baton Rouge, La., Mayor Melvin "Kip" Holden and George Haddow, adjunct professor at George Washington University and former deputy chief of staff at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

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, Oct 18 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.

II. The YEF Institute is also launching a peer network that will enable city officials from affected communities to share experiences and strategies for moving forward. If you would like to be part of this network, which may include invitational conference calls and exchanges via e-mail listserv or web-based chat room, please send an e-mail message expressing your interest (including your name, title, mail and e-mail addresses, and phone number) to iyef@nlc.org or leave a message with this information at 202-626-3014.

III. Finally, YEF Institute staff has reviewed a wide range of web sites to identify policy updates and other information that may be helpful to city officials. Ten web links are listed below for your convenience. If you have further questions, please feel free to call Jessica Hembree, the YEF Institute's Menino Fellow, at 202-626-3014.

1. The U.S. Government website features a consolidated listing of government-related hurricane recovery sites, including information about public health and safety, accessing disaster recovery, and help for survivors.

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

2. Connect for Kids offers an excellent resource for policymakers and displaced families, including legal rights for victims, where to get and give help, and resources to help children and families cope.

<http://www.connectforkids.org/node/3372?tn=hp/1b>

3. The website of the American Public Human Services Association contains up-to-date federal guidelines for administering human services in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
<http://www.aphsa.org/katrina/>
4. The U.S. Department of Education launched a website to provide guidance for school administrators and community leaders seeking to serve displaced students.
<http://hurricanehelpforschools.gov/>
5. A resource from the Nation's Network of Child Care Resource and Referral provides information about helping parents find child care and helping rebuild child care facilities.
<http://www.naccrra.org/emergency/>
6. The Food Research and Action Center's Hurricane Katrina Center provides details about the substantial opportunities for nutritional assistance that are available through federal food programs.
http://www.frac.org/html/disaster/disaster_index.html
7. A website of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network contains resources for helping children cope with Hurricane Katrina. The resources are catalogued for parents, professionals, educators, and relief workers.
http://www.nctsn.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=nws_main
8. The America's Promise website offers a range of volunteer opportunities designed to support afterschool programs, help kids enroll in schools, and assist youth volunteer efforts.
<http://www.americaspromise.org/katrinaskidsusa/>
9. A document by the Urban Institute provides a demographic profile of those affected by Hurricane Katrina.
http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/900835_katrina_factsheet.pdf
10. The Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program offers a number of research analyses that shed light on issues such as poverty in New Orleans, the immediate problems of mass homelessness, and the challenges of rebuilding devastated communities.
<http://www.brookings.edu/metro/katrina.htm>



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

For more information about the

Municipal Network on Disconnected Youth, please contact:

Jessica Sandoval at 202/626-3035, sandoval@nlc.org

or Senior Consultant Andrew Moore at 215/848-6910, moore@nlc.org

