



## **Municipal Network on Disconnected Youth E-Newsletter** **April 2006, Volume III, Issue 4**

### **Examples from the Field: What Two Cities are Doing**

**Springfield, Massachusetts collaborations converging:** As part of the statewide, multi-system Pathways to Success by 21 efforts, multiple agencies contributed to a common strategic plan completed in October 2005, with an initial focus on scaling up services by connecting 500 Springfield dropouts to P21 partners (see [www.commcorp.org/programs/p21/index.html](http://www.commcorp.org/programs/p21/index.html)). Poised to converge with P21 is the newly formed Youth Services Collaborative, consisting of 40 organizations. The city underwrote the cost of developing a recent Collaborative proposal to broaden the geographic reach of a youth violence reduction partnership among CBOs, the District Attorney, the Sheriff, and the Police Department, which got started in three targeted neighborhoods in January 2006.

**EL Paso, Texas successful community collaboration helps to reduce homicide rate:** The city of El Paso (pop. 592,099) has been rated the 2nd safest large city in the United States, with only one homicide this year. The reduction has been in part to a community collaboration called The Youth Initiative Program (YIP) spearheaded by the Police Department. The collaborative was created to promote and support community partnerships and collaborative efforts to address youth issues. "We're in it together, helping kids, making El Paso the safest city in the country" said a 26 year veteran on the police force. This holistic approach has been successful in reducing juvenile crime, gang activity, and homicides. To learn more about this innovative collaborative see <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/police/yip.asp>

### **New YEF Institute Resource:**

**Foster Youth Transition Resources:** New Ways to Work provides links to a large inventory of tools and resources on the website it maintains for the Youth Transition Action Teams initiative now active in multiple California counties. For instance, under Tools and Resources, review the materials provided to support conference calls on workforce development and legal issues for foster youth; under Current Happenings and Announcements, find materials on youth-friendly one-stops.

<http://www.newwaystowork.org/initiatives/ytat/about.html>

### **Additional Resources:**

**May 22-24 – National City Afterschool Summit, Washington, D.C:** The National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families will host the first-ever National City Afterschool Summit in Washington, D.C. to highlight the leadership of local elected officials to provide quality afterschool programs for youth. The Summit is primarily for Municipal leaders who will have an opportunity to learn more about the strategies that cities are using – and can use – to invest in afterschool programs, improve the quality of existing programs, sustain them over time, and strengthen partnerships between cities and schools, communities and states to move the afterschool agenda forward. Registration has been extended until May 5, 2006! [Register today!](#) For more information, contact Bela Shah at 202-626-3057 or [shah@nlc.org](mailto:shah@nlc.org)

**October 18-19- Adolescence and the Transition to Adulthood Conference:** Hosted by the University of Chicago, this conference will consist of six in-depth panel discussions on immigrant youth, young adults with health, mental health, and special education needs and youth involved with the criminal justice and child welfare systems. [Registration Info](#)

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



For more information about the

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