



**NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FOR FOSTER CARE
& PERMANENCY PLANNING**

at the Hunter College
School of Social Work

INFORMATION PACKET: *Youth Development*

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INFORMATION PACKET

Youth Development

Prepared by Kristine Schuerger, M.S.W. Intern, NRCFCPP [June 2002]

Summary

*Taken from YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: Issues, Challenges and Directions
A Publication of Public/Private Ventures*

“The last several decades have witnessed growing skepticism in America about the capacity of social programs – especially publicly funded social programs – to address the problems and prospects of American youth. This skepticism is especially strong once youth reach the pre-teen years and beyond. Thus interest in early childhood programs continues and grows – while support for teenage employment programs declines and dwindles. The body politic seems to be in the process of deciding that a young person’s life course is set in concrete after the onset of puberty....

...There is also a growing body of evidence about the positive relationship between the number of supports and opportunities children experience while growing up – their “assets” or “social capital” – and the increased successes and decreased problems they have during adolescence. This data confirms what many think is self-evident common sense; to others it is revealing evidence that environment does have a powerful effect, one which can be broken down into practical bits. Many communities have expressed a commitment to learning how they can organize to implement a “positive youth development” approach for their young people....

...There arose in the 1990s a movement to augment the typical “problem-reduction” orientation of youth policy with a new orientation toward “positive youth development.” The new orientation is more attuned to the basic needs and stages of a youth’s development, rather than on simply “fixing” whatever “problem” may have arisen. It focuses on youth’s need for positive, ongoing relationships with both adults and other youth; for active involvement in community life; and for a variety of positive choices in how they spend nonschool time. It aims to build *strengths* as well as reduce *weaknesses*...”

In this Youth Development Information Packet you will find:

- **Terms and Definitions**
- **Review of Policies and Legislation**
- **Facts and Statistics**
- **References and Suggested Readings**
- **Best Practice Tips/Model Programs**
- **Links to Web Resources**

Youth Development Terms and Definitions

* From *Child Welfare League of America*, excerpt from *Child Welfare*, Vol. LXXVI, #5, September/October

Introduction to Positive Youth Development By Robin Nixon

What is Positive Youth Development?

Youth development can be defined as the process in which all youths engage over time in order to meet their needs and build their competencies. A positive youth development philosophy and approach reflect our desire for positive outcomes in the developmental process and our purposeful efforts to design environments and services that will contribute to the achievement of desired outcomes.

The helping professions have traditionally defined youths in identified at-risk situations (abused, delinquent, runaway/homeless, pregnant, etc.) in terms of what is needed to “fix” the youths themselves. Program design and funding support are consistently categorical, focusing on the prevention or remediation of perceived pathological conditions among youths. This emphasis on youth problems has contributed to a pervasive negativity toward youths as a collective group, a paucity of research and information regarding what Hobbs (1982) calls, “the psychology of well-being,” and a failure to address the many developmental needs of youths that are not related to maladaptive behaviors or other dysfunctions. In the broad context of development, it has been assumed that if problems are prevented or eliminated, then young people will inevitably develop the range of social, educational, and vocational competencies needed for productive citizenship. Problem-free is not the same as being fully prepared, however [Pittman & Fleming 1991].

This mistaken assumption has resulted over time in a significant lack of programs and services for youths that contribute to their overall healthy development. Few teens in today’s society, and particularly those served by child welfare and juvenile justice, have access to programs that promote development by building on strengths, creating opportunities to learn and practice real life skills, and facilitating mutually beneficial participation in programs and communities.

Why Positive Youth Development?

Young people in out-of-home care, or in other at-risk situations, have the same the concerns, hopes and dreams as their more mainstream counterparts and face the same developmental challenges. They need supports, opportunities, and services provided by adults who recognize and respect each youth’s ability to take an active role in making decisions about their lives, as well as the value of their contributions to youth service programs and community life. The philosophy supporting a positive youth development approach places value on young people regardless of their situations, and emphasizes their strengths and potential. It requires us to view young people with a broad, nonprejudicial lens, and to believe that if meaningful opportunities, a wide range of supports, and a network of caring relationships are available, young people will achieve successful transition to adulthood. A positive youth development approach does not deny the existence of serious problems or the need for specialized services to confront these problems. It does, however, promote a shift in emphasis from the need to diagnose and treat the problem, or convict and control the offender, to the need to develop and nurture the person.

The best way to help young people who are considered to be at risk is to provide them with the same supports and services that all youths need, which will help them develop into caring, competent citizens. Services and supports provided within the context of a positive youth development philosophy will most effectively respond to the needs of all young people, including those in out-of-home care settings.

A substantial body of research and practice wisdom exists to support this argument. Maluccio (1981) promotes a competency based approach to social work practice, and asserts that clients' ongoing drive toward personal growth and competence requires us to focus on their strengths and create environments that support the growth process. Resiliency research has demonstrated the significance of positive relationships and perceptions of opportunity in the lives of young people considered to be at risk [Werner & Smith 1992; Wolin & Wolin 1993]. Other practitioners have described the importance of a positive youth development approach as a strategy for "reclaiming" youths who have experienced tremendous discouragement in schools and social service systems [Brendtro et al. 1990].

It is important to note that more positive developmental outcomes for youths are observed in programs that build a sense of belonging and mutual respect, provide opportunities to do well in activities and projects that are valued by the community, and provide consistent, caring support. In other words, not only do services designed to promote overall positive development provide better preparation for adulthood, they also are more likely to lead to positive outcomes in prevention and treatment settings [Pittman & Flemming 1991; Pittman & Wright 1991].

References

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Youth Development Reference Material

Adapted from material developed by the Center for Youth Development and Policy Research In Washington, DC.

What is Youth Development?

Youth development is the ongoing process in which all youth are engaged in attempting to 1) meet their basic personal and social needs, and 2) build skills and competencies that allow them to function and contribute to their daily lives.

Youth development occurs as young people interact in their families, with peers, and within their communities. It is influenced by but by no means controlled by the services, supports, and opportunities provided by formal programs, organizations, and institutions. **Whether youths' needs are met and skills are used in socially acceptable ways depends, in large part, on the quality and availability of people, places, and possibilities. Young people will seek ways to meet needs and build and use competencies whether or not these are socially acceptable.**

Youth development is facilitated when young people consistently have opportunities to:

- Feel physically and emotionally safe
- Build relationships with caring, connected kids
- Acquire knowledge and information
- Engage in meaningful/purposeful activities in ways that offer both continuity and variety

And have clear, consistent expectations that they will:

- Set goals
- Devise strategies
- Make concerted efforts
- Follow social rules

Premises underlying the positive youth development approach

- Youth are full of potential, not pathology.
- Problem-free youth are not necessarily fully-prepared youth.
- Fully-prepared means much more than passing in school or earning a paycheck.
- Identity and positive self-image are central to being prepared.
- Youth development does not discriminate. All youth require the same developmental opportunities and supports.
- Diversity among youth is something to be celebrated and reinforced.
- Young people grow up in families, social networks, and communities, not only schools and programs. "It takes a village to raise a child."

Youth development practice guidelines

- Practice is characterized by providing youth with challenging experiences, combined with the interpersonal support necessary to succeed,

- Practice is characterized by helping young people recognize and develop their own strengths.
- Practice is characterized by youth involvement and contribution.
- Practice is characterized by safe environments, trust, caring relationships, and group memberships.
- Practice is characterized by shared accountability – an ever expanding web of community support among young people, their families, other adults and practitioners.
- Practice is characterized by deliberate action, based on full deliberation of theory, research, and experiences.
- Practice is oriented by the “A-list.” (“*Available, affordable, accessible, appropriate, adaptable, affirming, and accountable.*”)

From [*A Positive Focus Including All Youth*](#) [National youth Development Information Center]

Look at the specific activities you will be providing youth and see if you can answer these questions:

- What elements of my program contribute to a young person's **sense of safety and structure**?
- How does my program provide youth with a **sense of belonging and membership**?
- Which activities contribute to a young person's **sense of self-worth**? Are there activities that have the potential to make some participants feel worse about themselves? Does my program give youth a chance to contribute to others?
- What is my program doing to give youth participants **meaningful roles and a sense of control over their lives**? Have I involved them in planning? Are there opportunities for them to practice decision-making?
- What does my program do to promote a **sense of closeness**? Have I specifically thought about creating opportunities for youngsters to develop relationships with other youth and with adults?
- In what areas does my program build a **sense of competence and mastery**? What will a young person learn to do? What skills will my program increase? What will they feel proud of after they participate? Will they acquire understanding in areas such as **health, vocational awareness, and citizenship**? Will they gain **personal and social skills**? Are there activities that will contribute to their **reasoning and creativity**? How will activities build **character, values, and a sense of personal responsibility**?

Youth Development Facts and Statistics

[taken from [National Youth Development Information center](#)]

**Links to websites containing statistical/ and demographic information on youth and youth development*

- [America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being](#)--the full text and highlights from the most recent Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics report.
- [Assessing the New Federalism State Database](#), a project of the Urban Institute, is a searchable database of 872 indicators of social and policy characteristics from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- [Children With Disabilities: Research and Statistics](#)--links to a myriad of statistical publications and data on children with disabilities from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service
- [Community Health Status Indicators Project](#)--this site, from the Health Resources and Services Administration, provides detailed health and mortality statistics on every county in the U.S.
- ["Fact Sheet on School-Age Children's Out-of-School Time"](#)--statistical information on how children spend their out-of-school time and the benefits of out-of-school time programming. From the [National Institute on Out-of-School Time](#).
- [FedStats](#)--this website, maintained by the Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, links to the websites of more than 70 federal agencies in order to give quick access to statistics that they offer. The [FedStats Regional Statistics page](#) lists local-area statistical subjects and links to the government agencies that collect them.
- [Kids Count Data Book](#)--the latest state-by-state and national indicators of child well-being, available for customization and "raw data" downloading. From the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- [National Data Analysis System](#)--CWLA's child welfare database, featuring state-by-state data, tables, and graphs of child abuse and neglect statistics and other information.
- [News and Stats](#)--this page contains the latest statistical data on American children and poverty, crime, education, and the costs of raising a child. From the [Children's Defense Fund](#).
- [Social Statistics Briefing Room](#)--this resource from the White House lists federal crime, demographic, education and health statistics gathered from many different federal agencies and presented in an easy-to-read format, along with links to the full report the statistics are drawn from.
- [Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth 2000](#)--a massive compilation of children's statistical data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- [University of Michigan Document Center: Statistical Resources on the Web](#)--a comprehensive, searchable, subject divided website featuring annotated links to

governmental and non-governmental statistical resources. The “Sociology” section has subdivisions for statistics on Child Abuse, Children, Crime, and Poverty.

- [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System homepage](#)--information on youth risk behaviors from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Youth Development ***Review of Policies and Legislation***

[Source: [The National Foster Care Awareness Project](#)]

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act

The Foster Care Independence Act signed by President Clinton on December 14, 1999 reforms the way Independent Living Services are being delivered to transitional foster care youth. The Act doubles funding for the Title IV-E Independent Living Program from \$70 million to \$140 million.

Key Provisions of the Foster Care Independence Act

- States must use a portion of their funds for assistance and services for young people 18 to 21 who left foster care because they reached age 18.
- Gives states the option of extending Medicaid to youths 18 to 21 who have left foster care.
- Increases the asset/savings limit for the federal foster care program from \$1,000 to \$10,000, so youths in foster care can save and still be eligible for foster care payments.
- Offers increased assistance, including room and board, for young people ages 18 to 21 who are leaving foster care.
- Requires states to ensure that foster parents are adequately prepared, both initially and on a continuing basis, to care for the children placed with them.
- Authorizes additional funding for adoption incentive payments to the states to assist in finding permanent homes for children in foster care.
- Increases state accountability for outcomes for young people transitioning out of foster care.
- 1.5 of authorized program funds set aside for evaluation, technical assistance, performance measurement and data collection.
- Young people must participate in designing their program activities and accept personal responsibility for achieving independence.
- States must make benefits and services available to Indian children in the state on the same basis as other children.
- Emphasizes the importance of securing permanent families for young people in foster care.

[Source: [Children’s Defense Fund Action Council](#)]

The Younger Americans Act

There is currently no comprehensive national policy for youth that is based on positive outcomes. Most Federal programs for young people focus on the prevention and treatment of negative behaviors and problems like delinquency, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, health concerns and dropping out of school.

The Younger Americans Act would provide federal support to help coordinate federal, state, and local government activity with the private sector to ensure that all youth have access to positive development activities in their community. The Act seeks to ensure that all youth have access to the following five key resources:

- On-going relationships with caring adults
- Safe places with structured activities during non-school hours
- Physical well-being and mental health
- Marketable skills and competencies through education and youth development
- Opportunities to give back through community service and civic participation.

How does the Younger Americans Act work?

- Under the Act, federal funds are distributed to the states through a formula based on the number of youth ages 10-19 in each state. Each state will designate planning and mobilization areas, which will be overseen by an area agency on youth. The area agency, under the supervision of a local community board, is responsible for distributing funds to the community-based organizations and coalitions of organization serving youth in their area.
- Community boards are created to assess community needs and decide which programs best serve the area's youth.
- The Act focuses on youth participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the funded programs. At least one-third of the new federal Council on National Youth Policy and least one-third of the Community boards that decide on funding for local youth development efforts must be persons under age 21.
- The Act establishes an Office of National Youth Policy within the White House and a Council on National Youth Policy to advise the President and the Administration.

How will the Younger Americans Act be funded?

- The Act calls for \$500 million for the first year, increasing steadily to \$2 billion by the fifth year for a total five-year appropriation of \$5.8 billion.
- Funding provided by the Act is not the sole support of these programs, but rather gives local communities the extra help they need to develop and initiate programs tailored to local needs.

More than 90 percent of the funds will be funneled directly to local communities.

- At least 30 percent of the funds allocated to an area youth agency must be awarded to serve youth with special developmental needs, such as youth in rural areas, youth in areas with high concentrations of poverty, and those involved in the juvenile justice system.

Youth Development
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* Visit [Welfare Information Network's Youth Development page](#) for links to numerous publications on general youth development available for download.

***Electronic Newsletters** [taken from National Youth Development Information Center]*

Building Blocks for Youth Online Newsletter--from [Building Blocks for Youth](#), "an alliance of children's advocates, researchers, law enforcement professionals and community organizers that seeks to protect minority youth in the justice system and promote rational and effective justice policies." To subscribe, send an e-mail to info.bby@erols.com.

Children's Defense Fund Electronic Newsletters --These include **CDF Update**, weekly information on key child policy issues; **CDF Violence Prevention**, updates and information for people interested in juvenile justice, youth development and violence prevention; and **CDF**

Religious Affairs, the online network of faith-based child advocates. Visit the [CDF E-mail List page](#) to join up.

Connect for Kids--a project of the Benton Foundation, Connect for Kids has two e-mail newsletters: *Connect for Kids Weekly*, devoted to breaking news in kids' issues, and *Connections*, a monthly bulletin highlighting original articles, profiles, and interviews. Both are available for free by [completing this form](#).

Community Schools Online--The [Coalition for Community Schools](#) newsletter, it provides bi-monthly updates on developments in the community schools fields and the work of the Coalition. Subscribe [using this form](#), or send an e-mail with your name, title, organization, mail and web address, phone/fax and e-mail address to ccs@iel.org.

EDInfo--This mailing list provides information on grants, publications, and other important news from the U.S. Department of Education. To subscribe, address an e-mail message to listproc@inet.ed.gov. Then write **SUBSCRIBE EDINFO [first name] [last name]** in the message. For more information on EDInfo, e-mail kirk_winters@ed.gov.

Indiana Youth Institute Weekly Update--Not just for Indiana, IYI's Weekly Update is a one-page e-mail newsletter full of useful information for non-profits, grant tips and bulleted research information pertaining to youth and children. [Visit the IYI Weekly Update page](#) to sign up, find out more information, or view an archive of previous Updates.

JTO Direct--A service of Join Together, JTO Direct is available daily or weekly and features news, grant announcements, and alerts on substance abuse and/or gun violence issues. To subscribe, visit the [JTO Direct signup section of the Join Together website](#). JTO Direct is also available as [website plugin](#) for your own site.

JUVJUST--The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's electronic newsletter lists publications, grants and funding opportunities, conferences, and other juvenile justice-related information. To subscribe: send an e-mail message to listproc@ncjrs.org, leave the subject line blank, and type **subscribe juvjust [your name]** in the body of the message. For more information or technical assistance, contact OJJDP at askncjrs@ncjrs.org.

Youth Development

Best Practice Tips/Model Programs

Youth Power (*Child Welfare League of America*)

<http://www.cwla.org/programs/positiveyouth/youthpower.html>

The Educational Fund to End Handgun Violence and the Child Welfare League of America are proud announce their partnership on Youth Power, an innovative youth development program. Youth Power is for anyone concerned about the future of young people. It offers valuable tools for those who are already involved in or would like to initiate a school or community project dedicated to the well being of children and teenagers. Youth Power is based on these fundamental principles:

Young people are among our most valuable, yet underutilized, resources. They have the ability to make genuine and significant contributions to their peers, schools, communities, and society, and should be encouraged and empowered to do so.

- All young people have positive traits and skills that enable them to survive and even thrive in confusing and often difficult circumstances. Those attributes must be maximized
- Young people's problems and successes are interrelated. If they experience success in one area of their lives, this will increase the likelihood that they will experience success in other areas. They need opportunities to experience success in many areas of their lives.
- Young people need to be part of a caring and supportive environment that allows them to develop social and academic skills. They need to feel connected to their peers, school and community.

The Youth Power projects are designed for youth ages 8 to 18. They can be used in conjunction with other youth oriented projects in schools, after-school programs, and community groups. These projects may be initiated as new projects where none have existed, or they may fill programming gaps. Youth Power offers a structure to unify projects while facilitating collaboration, organization, and outreach.

For information on specific Model Programs in Youth development follow these links:

- [National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices – Youth Development](#)
- [Welfare information Network](#)

- [PEPNet – Promising and Effective Practices Network](#)

Youth Development Web Resources

National Organizations

[The Institute for Youth Development](#)

The Institute for Youth Development (IYD) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization founded in 1996 dedicated to ensuring the best possible future for America's children by promoting positive choices and behaviors. IYD is unique in its commitment to a comprehensive risk-avoidance message regarding major risk behaviors among youth: alcohol, drugs, sex, tobacco, and violence. Based on data showing unquestionable linkages between these behaviors, IYD promotes a consistent, comprehensive risk-avoidance message for all these behaviors. IYD believes that if parents and adults provide children and teens with consistent risk-avoidance messages, young people are capable of choosing to avoid these behaviors altogether.

See: [IYD's Approach to Youth Development](#)

[CONTACT]

[Academy for Educational Development](#)

Founded in 1961, AED is an independent, nonprofit organization committed to solving critical social problems in the U.S. and throughout the world through education, social marketing, research, training, policy analysis and innovative program design and management. Major areas of focus include health, education, youth development, and the environment.

See: [Youth Empowerment page](#)

[CONTACT]

[National Youth Development Information Center](#)

NYDIC, The National Youth Development Information Center, is a project of the [The National Assembly](#) through its affinity group, the National Collaboration for Youth ([click here for links to NCY member sites](#)). NYDIC provides practice-related information about youth development to national and local youth-serving organizations at low cost or no cost. See: [Site Index](#) for listing of all resources and links

CONTACT: 1-877-NYDIC-4-U

[Child Welfare League of America](#)

CWLA is an association of more than 1,100 public and private nonprofit agencies that assist over 3.5 million abused and neglected children and their families each year with a wide range of services. CWLA is managing a four-year grant from the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund to promote the positive development of youths in out-of-home care and help them move toward a self-sufficient and productive adulthood. CWLA provides training, technical assistance and financial support to five member agencies participating in the project. Activities include youth sponsored and youth led training, development of

independent living curricula and implementation of guidelines generated by young people for staff and foster parents in independent living programs. This effort is supported by the work of the National Advisory Committee on Independent Living and the National Advisory Committee on Youth services.

See: [Positive Youth Development](#)

[National Youth Employment Coalition](#)

NYEC is a non-partisan national organization dedicated to promoting policies and initiatives that help youth succeed in becoming lifelong learners, productive workers and self-sufficient citizens.

See: [News Archives](#)

CONTACT: nyec@nyec.org

[Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development](#)

The Innovation Center seeks, tests, and promotes innovative concepts and practices, providing cutting edge tools for youth workers in diverse settings. Formerly a division of National 4-H Council, the Innovation Center is now an independent organization that operates as a project of the Tides Center.

[CONTACT]

[Advocates for Youth](#)

Advocates for Youth is dedicated to creating programs and advocating for policies that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates provides information, training, and strategic assistance to youth-serving organizations, policy makers, youth activists, and the media in the United States and the developing world.

See: [Advocate's Online Library](#), [Facts & Figures page](#)

[CONTACT]

[National Youth Advocacy Coalition](#)

NYAC'S Primary Membership consists of local, community-based LGBTQ youth service providers. We offer membership to 501(c)3 non-profit agencies whose work is consistent with NYAC's mission, vision, and values.

See: [Press Center](#)

[CONTACT]

[Public Libraries as Partners in Youth Development - Urban Libraries Council](#)

The *Public Libraries as Partners in Youth Development* (PLPYD) initiative, sponsored by The Wallace Reader's Digest Funds, challenges public libraries to work with youth to develop innovative high quality educational and cultural enrichment programs for low-income youth during non-school hours. This \$6 million grant seeks to introduce positive youth development to public libraries and encourages libraries to explore a wide range of community partners to create a web of support for youth who will be given new roles, opportunities and supports by their public libraries.

See: [Research & Resources](#)

[CONTACT]

[Girls Inc.](#)

Girls Incorporated is a national nonprofit youth organization dedicated to inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. For over 55 years, Girls Inc has provided vital educational programs to

millions of American girls, particularly those in high-risk, underserved areas. Today, innovative programs help girls confront subtle societal messages about their value and potential, and prepare them to lead successful, independent, and fulfilling lives.

See: [Girls Inc. Resource Center](#)

[CONTACT]

[The Forum for Youth Investment](#)

The Forum for Youth Investment (formerly IYF-US) is a national initiative dedicated to increasing the quality and quantity of youth investment and youth involvement in the United States by promoting a "big picture" approach to planning and policy development. The Forum is a bold new approach to an old problem: fragmentation. The Forum is designed to add value to existing efforts to improve youth outcomes by finding or creating tools, vehicles and opportunities for reaching across fields and systems to bring researchers, policy makers, practitioners, media and philanthropists together to identify common messages and agendas.

See: [Resources](#)

CONTACT: youth@iyfus.org

Also visit [Youth Today-Youth Tomorrow](#) – an online workspace and resource center created and managed by Forum for Youth Investment.

[National Urban League](#)

Over the years, the National Urban League and its affiliates have been deeply involved in the areas of education and youth development by providing local programs to strengthen the role of parents as first teachers and to expand their ability to advocate in the best interests of their children. In 1986, the National Urban League and its affiliates launched its Education Initiative, which was a result of the organization's resolution on public education. During the National Urban League's Delegate Assembly in 1985, the National Education Initiative established education as a priority program area to improve the educational performance of African American and Latino students, through the mobilization of existing resources for parents, schools, and community groups.

See: [NUL's Department of Education & Youth Development Policy](#)

CONTACT: info@nul.org

[Alliance for Children and Families](#)

The Alliance for Children and Families is an international membership association representing more than 350 private, nonprofit child- and family-serving organizations. Alliance members serve more than 5 million individuals annually in more than 2,000 communities, providing a vast array of services ranging from residential care to domestic abuse prevention and intervention. The Alliance's mission is to strengthen members' capacity to serve and advocate for children, families, and communities. The Alliance formed in October 1998 when Family Service America (established 1911) and the National Association of Homes and Services for Children (established 1975) merged.

[CONTACT]

[United Way of America](#)

United Ways bring communities together to focus on the most important human needs-building partnerships, forging consensus and leveraging resources to make a measurable difference. Focus areas are identified at the local level and vary from community to community.

Common focus areas include: helping children and youth succeed, strengthening and supporting families, promoting self-sufficiency, building vital and safe neighborhoods and supporting vulnerable and aging populations.

See: [Mobilization for America's Children](#)
[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[National 4-H Council](#)

National 4-H Council is the national, private sector non-profit partner of 4-H and the Cooperative Extension System. National 4-H Council manages the National 4-H Conference Center, a full-service conference facility in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and the National 4-H Supply Service, the authorized agent for items bearing the 4-H name and emblem. National 4-H Council partners with 4-H at all levels—national, state and local—providing training and support, curriculum development, fostering innovative programming, and facilitating meetings and connections within the 4-H partnership.

See: [Power of Youth Newsletter](#)
[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Andrus Family Fund](#)

[Children's Defense Fund](#)

CDF provides a strong, effective voice for all the children of America who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investment before they get sick or into trouble, drop out of school, or suffer family breakdown.

See: [CDF's Violence Prevention and Youth Development Division](#)
[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Search Institute](#)

Search Institute is an independent, nonprofit, nonsectarian organization whose mission is to advance the well-being of adolescents and children by generating knowledge and promoting its application. To accomplish this mission, the institute generates, synthesizes, and communicates new knowledge, convenes organizational and community leaders, and works with state and national organizations.

See: [Areas of Work](#), & [Developmental Assets: An Overview](#)
[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Connect For Kids](#)

Connect for Kids, an award-winning multimedia project of the Benton Foundation, helps adults make their communities better places for families and children. The Web site offers a place on the Internet for adults—parents, grandparents, educators, policymakers and others—who want to become more active citizens, from volunteering to voting with kids in mind.

See: [Reference Room](#)
CONTACT

[Commonwealth Corporation – Center for Youth Development & Education](#)

CYDE develops innovative approaches to expand learning opportunities for young people so they can make successful transitions into the workplace and adulthood. CYDE's work is organized under three broad categories: Education reform, Programs and services for at-risk and out-of-school youth, Resources for teaching and learning.

CONTACT: eweisstein@commcorp.org.

[YWCA](#)

The YWCA is committed to meeting the needs of women and girls by providing quality child care, school age programs and youth development programs. The YWCA youth development program supports the empowerment of girls and young women by creating opportunities for education and leadership development. The core program themes include: economic empowerment and financial literacy, positive health and fitness, community action and leadership, academic enrichment.

See: [Eight Critical Issues](#)

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[YMCA](#)

YMCAs give young people a safe place to call their own. Caring, dedicated adults are there to listen to them and help them navigate the stresses, changes and choices that come with adolescence. Building relationships with these responsible adults and with other young people from different backgrounds helps give preteens and teens the inner strength to avoid destructive behavior. Young people have more fun and learn more when they can take the lead in planning and directing their own programs, and Ys often provide this opportunity. YMCAs run programs targeted specifically to at-risk youth and other programs targeted to low-income youth.

[Global Partnership for Youth Development](#)

The objective of the Global Partnership for Youth Development (GPYD) is to study, promote, and invest in good examples of tri-sector partnerships in youth development around the world.

See: [Projects](#)

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Women in Community Service](#)

Women in Community Service, Inc. (WICS) reduces the number of women and youth living in poverty by promoting self-reliance and economic independence. WICS has addressed issues surrounding employment, job training, welfare reform, poverty and cultural diversity for 38 years. Each year, WICS volunteers and staff help more than 150,000 low-income individuals by providing support services, mentoring and workforce preparation programs nationwide.

See: [Youth Division](#)

[\[CONTACTS\]](#)

[At The Table](#)

Grounded in the conviction that institutions and communities benefit from the voices of young people, a growing national movement of youth and adults is working to secure a place for youth "at the table" where decisions are made that affect them. AttheTable.org is designed to provide resources and information about how to involve young people in decision-making.

See: [Resources](#)

CONTACT: info@atthetable.org

[The Center for Advancement of Youth, Family and Community Services, Inc.](#)

The Center for the Advancement of Youth, Family & Community Services, Inc. is a not for profit - 501(c)(3) organization which promotes positive youth development and assists children in their transition through adolescence and on to healthy adulthood. The Center helps individuals, organizations, schools and communities use effective youth and community building processes and programs. We help communities meet the increased challenges of raising children to live well in a complex society. Our innovative Youth Worker - Youth Development training helps to

prepare youth workers, counselors, teachers and the community for effective youth development practice.

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Fund for the City of New York – Youth Development Institute](#)

The Fund's Youth Development Institute (YDI) is ambitious in what it is trying to accomplish. YDI is working to affect youth policies, programs and practices at all levels of government and in all funding streams so that they reflect a positive model of youth development rather than the standard deficit model. YDI works with government, community-based organizations, and schools to adapt and apply this youth development framework to the design and implementation of programs, services, and community-wide strategies. Pioneered by YDI as an incubator project at the Fund in 1991, the Youth Development Framework has gained increasing recognition from foundations and the federal government, as well as national and local non-profit organizations.

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Joint Action in Community Service](#)

As JACS looks forward to its second quarter century of service to America's disadvantaged youth, it will continue its commitment to serve those in need through individualized assistance. With its coalition of corporate, labor and nonprofit organizations, JACS will continue to recruit, train and deploy skilled and committed volunteers who, by investing their time and talents, will assist the youth in overcoming the obstacles facing them.

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[National Mentoring Partnership](#)

The National Mentoring Partnership exists for 15.7 million reasons - each a young person with the potential to offer a great deal to our society. Mentoring can unleash that potential by pairing young people with caring adults to guide and encourage them. We see evidence of that every day in thousands of communities across the country. The National Mentoring Partnership does not provide direct mentoring services. We do provide the resources and tools mentoring organizations need to effectively serve young people in their communities. In fact, we're the resource for information about mentoring and mentoring initiatives

See: [Research Corner](#)

[\[CONTACT\]](#)

[Youth Today](#)

Youth Today is the only independent, nationally distributed newspaper that goes out to more than 70,000 readers in the child and youth services field. Some of the issues covered include: Youth development; Juvenile justice; Gang and violence prevention; Adolescent health; Teen pregnancy, sex, and parenting; After-school programs and mentoring; Job training and school-to-work; Best practices. The newspaper is full of resources including: An extensive calendar of workshops and conferences related to professional development, youth issues and working with youth; Contact information for foundations interested youth development issues and listings of recent grant awards to youth-serving organizations; Book and video reviews for use with staff and kids; Analysis of groundbreaking research in the youth services field; and Coverage of federal and state legislative issues concerning youth.

Contact:

[Youth Today](#)

1200 17th St., NW, 4th Fl.

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 785-0764

Federal Government Websites (related to youth development):

- [Administration for Children and Families – Family and Youth Services Bureau](#)
 - [Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative](#): This unprecedented joint effort among the U.S. Departments of Education, Justice, Labor, and Health and Human Services helps communities design comprehensive educational, mental health, social, and juvenile justice services for youth. The services help young people develop the social skills and resilience necessary to avoid risky behaviors.
 - [Girl Power!](#): This national public education campaign is sponsored by HHS and helps encourage and empower 9- to 14-year-old girls to make the most of their lives, providing positive messages, accurate health information, and support for girls and those who care about them.
 - [21st Century Community Learning Centers](#): The U.S. Department of Education and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation have entered into a partnership to keep inner city and rural public schools open after regular school hours for enhanced learning and developmental opportunities. Schools, members of the National Collaboration for Youth, and other community-based organizations work together on this initiative.
 - [4H Clubs](#): Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Cooperative Extension System, since 1902 the 4H Clubs have offered activities and opportunities for growth, learning, and community involvement to youth in every county of the Nation.
 - [Youth Opportunity Movement](#): Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, the vision is to ensure that all youth acquire the necessary skills and work experience to successfully transition into adulthood.
 - [National Youth Network and National Organizations for Youth Safety](#): With support from the U.S. Departments of Justice and Transportation, these groups give youth an active role in the formulation of policies affecting them.
 - [AmeriCorps](#): Of the more than 40,000 AmeriCorps members, most are young and in organizations focused on serving youth or engaging young people themselves to serve others. A special partnership between the Corporation for National Service and America’s Promise supports 500 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows to give leadership to the Promise campaign in communities across the country.
 - [Neighborhood Networks](#): This project of the Department of Housing and Urban Development provides nearly 1,000 multi-service computer technology community learning centers in public and low-income housing nationwide to teach computer literacy for 21st Century careers.
 - [Child Care and Development Fund \(CCDF\)](#): Nationwide, 35 percent of children receiving child care subsidies through the CCDF are school-aged. This program, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, also

supports quality improvement activities such as professional development initiatives for staff in after-school programs.

- [National Resource Center for Youth Development](#) at University of Oklahoma
- [Independent Living Resource Center](#) at the Hunter College School of Social Work
- [National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning](#) at the Hunter College School of Social Work