

July 2007

## Supporting Families, Fostering Healthy Development

### State Early Childhood Policies: Improving the Odds

"For young children to thrive, they need high-quality health care and early learning experiences, as well as nurturing parents who are economically secure," says Dr. Jane Knitzer, director of the National Center on Children and Poverty and co-author of a new study that finds wide variation in how states support development. When it comes to health care, child care, pre-K, and family economic supports, the report finds that what states do -- and don't do -- can make a long-term difference for children. [www.nccp.org/publications](http://www.nccp.org/publications)



### Investing in Parents to Invest in Children

In these remarks before the May 22 National Summit on America's Children, MDRC President Gordon Berlin summarizes rigorous research showing that supplementing parents' earnings helps raise families out of poverty and improves the school performance of young children. [www.mdrc.org/sps/go.cgi](http://www.mdrc.org/sps/go.cgi)

### The Forty Developmental Assets for Adolescents

Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets<sup>®</sup> are concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to raising successful young people. These assets have the power during critical adolescent years to influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults. <http://www.search-institute.org/assets/>

### Promoting Healthy Families in Your Community: 2007 Resource Packet

Developed for service providers, this year's packet highlights strategies to strengthen families by promoting key protective factors that prevent child abuse and neglect. It also includes tip sheets in both English and Spanish to share with parents.

HTML: [www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/res\\_packet\\_2007](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/res_packet_2007)

PDF: [www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/res\\_packet\\_2007/packet.pdf](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/res_packet_2007/packet.pdf)

### Enriching Children, Enriching the Nation: Public Investment in High-Quality Prekindergarten

Funding remains a major challenge to quality pre-K programs. This Economic Policy Institute book offers evidence that investments in early learning pay off for state governments -- for example, 80 percent of states would see surpluses in 10 years or less from spending on targeted pre-K initiatives. You can buy the book for \$14.95 or download the executive summary and introduction; click on the media kit for a fact sheet and state-by-state analyses. [www.epi.org/content.cfm/book\\_enriching](http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/book_enriching)

### Pre-Kindergarten in the South: the Region's Competitive Advantage in Education

Southern states have typically lagged behind other regions in many areas of education performance -- but not when it comes to pre-K. Southern states show greater enrollment, higher standards and more funding in state-funded pre-K than other regions. This will lead to economic and educational gains in the area, says this Southern Education Foundation report. [www.sefatl.org/pdf/Pre-KSouthReport-final.pdf](http://www.sefatl.org/pdf/Pre-KSouthReport-final.pdf) (Free PDF report.)

### Ideas for Dads and Daughters

The new book by Joe Kelly, "The Dads & Daughters Togetherness Guide: 54 Fun Activities to Help Build a Great Relationship" has tons of ideas -- and so does the Web site. [www.dadsanddaughters.org](http://www.dadsanddaughters.org)

## Trends

### **Parenting with a Mental Illness: Programs and Resources Guide**

Research has shown that mothers with a serious mental illness were almost three times more likely than mothers without a serious mental illness to have been involved in the child welfare system or to have lost custody of their children. This Guide, developed by the University of Pennsylvania Collaborative, is a comprehensive resource to help parents, providers, and advocates find information about possible programs in their area; it will be continually updated as more programs are identified. Hopefully it will also be a useful source of information for administrators and providers who are beginning their own initiatives to support these parents.

[http://www.upennrrtc.org/resources/view.php?tool\\_id=128](http://www.upennrrtc.org/resources/view.php?tool_id=128)

### **"Born Learning" Tools for Adults to Help Young Children**

This new campaign is designed to help parents, grandparents, and caregivers turn everyday fun into "teachable moments." A project of United Way, the Ad Council, Civitas and Families and Work Institute, the site also has information on child development, and ways to take action and improve policies for learning. [www.bornlearning.org](http://www.bornlearning.org)

### **Parent-Child Interaction Therapy with At-Risk Families**

This bulletin from the Child Welfare Information Gateway is intended to build a better understanding of the characteristics and benefits of this family-centered approach. It was written primarily to help child welfare caseworkers and other professionals who work with at-risk families make more informed decisions about when to refer parents and caregivers, along with their children, to PCIT programs. This information may also help biological parents, foster parents, and other caregivers understand what they and their children can gain from PCIT and what to expect during treatment. This brief also may be useful to others with an interest in implementing or participating in effective parent-training strategies. [www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f\\_interactbulletin/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_interactbulletin/)

### **Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)**

This assessment tool was developed at Northwestern University. It is an open domain resource for use in service delivery systems that address the mental health of children, adolescents and their families. This tool, which is in use in several states, is free. It is distributed by the Buddin Praed Foundation. <http://www.buddinpraed.org/cans/>

## Funding Opportunities

### **The Foundation Center**

The Foundation Center is an online resource with searchable databases, information on how to write grants, and a wide array of valuable resources to help with fundraising. Check out this link to find **free** access to the Foundation Center's resources at a location near you -

<http://foundationcenter.org/collections/ccpa.html>.

### **Foundations Support Youth Development**

Agencies are constantly seeking new sources of funding to support programs that help children and youth. Ten private funding sources that may not come immediately to mind but do provide grants to nonprofit agencies for youth development and to promote safe and healthy youth are:

- Alcoa Foundation - [www.alcoa.com/global/en/community/info](http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/community/info)
- Charles Lafitte Foundation - [www.charleslafitte.org/childadvocacy.html](http://www.charleslafitte.org/childadvocacy.html)
- Chatlos Foundation, Inc. - [www.chatlos.org](http://www.chatlos.org)
- Dynegy Foundation - [www.dynegy.com/Community/Our\\_Support/Grants.shtml](http://www.dynegy.com/Community/Our_Support/Grants.shtml)
- Home Depot (from this web page, click on "How We're Helping"- <http://corporate.homedepot.com/wps/portal>)
- Michael and Susan Dell Foundation - [www.msdf.org](http://www.msdf.org)
- Milagro Foundation - [www.milagrofoundation.org](http://www.milagrofoundation.org)
- New York Life Foundation- [www.newyorklife.com/cda/0,3254,13090,00.html](http://www.newyorklife.com/cda/0,3254,13090,00.html)

- Nick Traina Foundation- [www.nicktrainafoundation.org/main.htm](http://www.nicktrainafoundation.org/main.htm)
- Ralph and Eileen Swett Foundation- [www.swettfoundation.org](http://www.swettfoundation.org)

**Grant:** Staples Foundation for Learning - For programs that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth.

Eligibility: 501(c)(3) organizations. Deadline: Aug. 3. Amount: \$5,000 to \$25,000.

Contact: [www.staplesfoundation.org](http://www.staplesfoundation.org)

**Grant:** Public Welfare Foundation - The Youth program supports projects in employment, training and alternative education; early intervention; youth leadership development; violence prevention; and advocacy and policy development. Eligibility: 501(c)(3)s. (Some exceptions are made for organizations without such status.) Deadline: Open. Amount: \$20 million across all grant areas; average grant in 2006 was nearly \$49,000. [www.publicwelfare.org/news/news/fund\\_2007.asp](http://www.publicwelfare.org/news/news/fund_2007.asp).

**Grant:** The WHO Foundation: Women Helping Others - For grants to grass-roots charities serving the overlooked needs of women and children in areas that include health, education and social services. Funder: The WHO Foundation: Women Helping Others. Eligibility: Nonprofits, with preference to those with operating budgets of \$3 million or less, those not dependent upon government grants and those with greater organizational program costs than personnel costs. Deadline: Sept. 11. Amount: Unspecified. Contact: [www.whofoundation.org](http://www.whofoundation.org)

### **Creating Dedicated Local and State Revenue Sources for Youth Programs**

Finding funding to support increased demand for youth programs and services is a continuing challenge. This audio conference outlines strategies for youth programs, intermediary organizations, local policymakers and youth advocates to create dedicated local and state revenue sources for youth programs, provides guidance and information on the capacity, funding, and community support required for these strategies, and profiles these strategies at work in different states and communities. Access The Finance Project's Website at: [http://financeproject.org/publications/DLR\\_PM.pdf](http://financeproject.org/publications/DLR_PM.pdf).

### **Community Fundraising for Expanding and Sustaining Youth Programs**

Current funding for youth programs is fragmented and fluctuates according to the state of the economy and constantly changing funding priorities. Critical to the long term success of youth programs is the ability to adapt to these changing conditions by devising creative strategies for raising revenue. This audio conference provides strategies for accessing resources through a variety of fundraising strategies. Youth programs currently employing these strategies will share their insights and lessons learned. The Community Fundraising: A Guide for Youth Programs is due to be published in summer 2007. For more information on the audio conference series, please visit our [Youth Programs Resource Center](http://www.youthprogramsresourcecenter.org) or contact Soumya Bhat at [sbhat@financeproject.org](mailto:sbhat@financeproject.org).

### **Funding Announcements from the Children's Bureau**

The Children's Bureau has announced the availability of several new opportunities, including Targeted Grants to Increase the Well-Being of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children Affected by Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse; Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect Through Nurse Home Visitation; and a cooperative agreement establishing a National Child Welfare Leadership Institute. Access information on all these grants and more at: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants\\_cb.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_cb.html)

### **Finding Funding: A Guide to Federal Sources for Youth Programs**

This guidance book is part of a series of books published by the Finance Project to provide policymakers and after-school providers with tools and strategies to finance and sustain programs for youth. To read, please visit [www.financeproject.org/publications/findingfunding.pdf](http://www.financeproject.org/publications/findingfunding.pdf)

## Curricular Resources

### "LifeDreams" to Keep Kids Connected this Summer

To curb drop-out, starting early can help. The Legacy Project, created by the nonprofit Parenting Coalition and Generations United, has free online resources for elementary and middle school students, including a new "LifeDreams" activity set inspired by the award-winning book, *Dream*, by Susan V. Bosak. The activities can help parents, teachers, and youth leaders work with kids to recap this year's successes and set goals for next. [www.legacyproject.org](http://www.legacyproject.org)

### Youth Service-Learning, A Family-Strengthening Strategy

Service learning prepares young people for college, work, and adult responsibilities -- and it also strengthens families as it improves communities. This brief from the Family Strengthening Policy Center looks at strong programs, their impact, and how human services leaders can play a role. [www.nassembly.org](http://www.nassembly.org)

### Volunteering Really is Good for Your Health

"It'll be good for you" -- turns out, it just might. A new study by the Corporation for National and Community Service looks at the science behind this common parental platitude and finds that volunteers have greater longevity, higher functional ability, and lower rates of depression and heart disease. [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)

### Planning Kit for National Summer Learning Day (July 12)

School may be out, but learning shouldn't stop. Studies suggest that over the summer, children lose many of the gains they make during the academic year. This event [www.summerlearning.org/summerlearningday/plan.htm](http://www.summerlearning.org/summerlearningday/plan.htm) is designed to raise awareness of how summer learning programs:



- Send young people back to school ready to learn
- Support working families
- Keep children safe and health
- Check out the toolkit to get something started in your hometown!

### Online Summer Writing Club for Youth

Attention Teachers and Parents, writer and CFK Weekly Reader Tabatha Yeats -- whose books include *The Holocaust Survivors* -- is hosting a summer writing workshop for kids and teens. To join, email [tabatha@threeleggeddragon.com](mailto:tabatha@threeleggeddragon.com) with "Summer Writing Club" as the subject, and tell her your name and age.

## Web Resources

Family Center home page information has been added to the website at the Child Welfare Training Program. Here's the link: <http://www.pacwcbt.pitt.edu/FamilyCenters/Default.html>

### Guide Provides Research-Based Information on Preventing Youth Drug Use

The Department of Health and Human Services' National Institute on Drug Abuse has released a second edition of "Preventing Drug Use among Children and Adolescents: A Research-Based Guide for Parents, Educators, and Community Leaders."

The new edition includes information on risk factors for youth drug abuse, guidance on planning community drug abuse prevention programs, and descriptions of core elements of effective prevention programs. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/Prevention/Prevopen.html>.

A free print copy of the guide may be ordered at <http://ncadistore.samhsa.gov/catalogNIDA/>

## Cultural Competencies

### **Buenos Principios: Latino Children in the Earliest Years of Life**

One in five toddlers in the United States is Latino. They are less likely than their white peers to be read to daily, according to a new National Council of La Raza study ([www.nclr.org/content/publications](http://www.nclr.org/content/publications)). The study offers demographic profiles of Latino infants and toddlers, and examines the growing school readiness gap between Latino and other children. It concludes that investments in high-quality, comprehensive early childhood education programs can help narrow the gap. Among the specific policy recommendations for Congress:

- restore funds to Even Start and Early Head Start;
- remove barriers to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) so more children can grow up healthy; and
- increase the reach and accountability of the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

### **Para Nuestros Ninos: Pre-K as a Tool to Close Achievement Gaps**

The National Task Force on Early Childhood Education for Hispanics says that in order to narrow achievement gaps between white and Hispanic students, it pays to start early -- with effective pre-K programs. The site has the latest study, "Para Nuestros Ninos" ("For our Children"), and links to specific recommendations for practitioners and policymakers. [www.ecehispanic.org/work](http://www.ecehispanic.org/work)

### **Profiles of Children in Immigrant Families: The U.S. and 50 States**

Twenty percent of children in the U.S. now live with at least one foreign-born parent. This new brief from Child Trends and the SUNY Albany Center for Social and Demographic Analysis finds four in five children of immigrants are American citizens, and nearly one-half speak English fluently and another language at home. Pre-K is a critical support for their successful integration into American society. [www.fcd-us.org/resources](http://www.fcd-us.org/resources)

### **The Challenges of Change: Learning from the Child Care and Early Education Experiences of Immigrant Families**

One in every five children in the U.S. is the child of an immigrant. Although quality child care can benefit these children, they are less likely to participate in all types of non-parental care than their U.S.-born peers. To find out why, the Center for Law and Social Policy conducted site visits across the country, and sought out immigrant leaders, parents, service providers, and policymakers. This report identifies the main barriers for these families and promising local strategies to improve programs so they're more relevant and accessible for children of immigrants. It includes policy and research recommendations. [http://clasp.org/publications/challenges\\_change.html](http://clasp.org/publications/challenges_change.html)



### **Undocumented Immigrant Youth: Guide for Advocates and Service Providers**

This brief from the National Human Services Assembly that looks at the challenges that undocumented foreign-born children and youth face, particularly in immigration and justice proceedings. The brief is designed to help advocates and youth-serving agencies understand the issues and risks, and get the latest on best practices for collaborating. It includes a policy and action section. [www.nassembly.org/ncy/documents](http://www.nassembly.org/ncy/documents)

## Policy Questions

When you encounter MIS issues/questions, direct them to contact Holly Kuch and Deborah Harman. They both are trained to know what questions to ask people to drill down to the problem area and then log the issue for tracking purposes. Holly and Deb can be reached at: Holly Kuch -- 717.214-6765 or [hkuch@state.pa.us](mailto:hkuch@state.pa.us)  
Deborah Harman -- 717.787.3984 or [deharman@state.pa.us](mailto:deharman@state.pa.us)

Mandated reporter training will be available statewide to public and private agencies through PA Family Support Alliance's contract with Department of General. Angie Fogle, Executive Director, is the contact at 717-238-0937. It's a limited amount of funding and it is available to every county.

### University of Pittsburgh Sponsored-Training

A Training Calendar for the 2007-2008 fiscal year is being developed based on your suggestions for professional and skills development. You should receive e-mail and print versions in July.

In the meantime, please remember that Family Center staff members are welcome to attend any training offered by the University's Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program (CWTP.) If you have any questions about workshops and training, please contact your county's liaison listed below. Thanks.

#### Family Centers Program Contact Information

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