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*The Technical Assistance and Training Program for Mentoring System Involved Youth welcomes you to our monthly E-Newsletter. We hope the information will be useful to you and we encourage you to share this newsletter with other staff and agencies that are also mentoring system involved youth. If you find a particular Web site, research article, or helpful fact, we encourage you to send them to us and we will disseminate to the listserv.*

**Quote of the Month:**

*There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.  
~ Nelson Mandela*

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**Mentoring System  
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**Message from TATP**

During the past 20 years, mentoring has gained significant support as a key strategy for youth development. The lives of thousands of youth (and adults) have been enriched by these relationships. As mentoring has gained in popularity, much has been learned of what works and what are best practices. And yet, as you know, many questions remain, particularly for our efforts with at-risk and system involved youth, those for whom mentoring is most likely to yield the most benefit.

Over the past four years, your MSİY mentoring programs have forged ahead, developing program models and partnerships; policies and models; and tools, handbooks, and templates; all of which have helped pinpoint a number of best practices for working with system involved youth. We are excited to have been a part of this process with you.

During this phase of our relationship, we are focusing our efforts on working with you to continue our group dialogues about MSIY best practices, successes, and learning, and to document them. Ultimately we know the work you are doing and have done will help make the entire field of mentoring stronger, better, and smarter.

Please feel free to contact us with your thoughts and suggestions for any assistance we can provide or with feedback you may have.

Thank you for all your work and leadership in mentoring. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

### **Message from PIRE**

Happy Holidays from the PIRE team!

Be sure to look for an upcoming email from PIRE about your match surveys.

Thanks for all you do!



### ***Investments in Building Citywide Out-of-School-Time Systems: A Six-City Study***

This report is the last in a series documenting the costs of out-of-school-time (OST) programs and the investments that city-level systems make to support them. The work was funded by the Wallace Foundation and conducted jointly by Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) and the Finance Project. Focusing on six cities across the country, this final report summarizes the strategies and activities commonly pursued in OST systems, their associated investments, and various options for financing such system-building efforts. These findings can provide OST stakeholders with critical information to help guide their investments in system planning, start-up, and ongoing operations.

To learn more, go to [http://www.ppv.org/ppv/initiative.asp?section\\_id=23&initiative\\_id=38](http://www.ppv.org/ppv/initiative.asp?section_id=23&initiative_id=38).

### **Online Tool Provides Strategies for Preventing Community Gang Violence**

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has created an online tool that teaches communities effective strategies to address local gang problems. The tool, provided by OJJDP and the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA's) National Gang Center, is called the Comprehensive Gang Model Overview. It provides a 23-minute discussion of OJJDP's model for identifying target areas with high levels of gang activity, locating gangs, and focusing appropriate resources on them. The tool also describes how communities can follow proven anti-gang strategies and how to implement the model locally. To access the Comprehensive Gang Model Overview, visit [www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Comprehensive-Gang-Model/Online-Overview](http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Comprehensive-Gang-Model/Online-Overview).

### **Fact Sheets Provide Overview of Agency Initiatives**

OJJDP has released the *In Focus* series of fact sheets, which highlight major agency programs and initiatives. The series provides information on OJJDP resources, including funding, training, technical assistance, and research activities on topics such as disproportionate minority contact,

the Community Prevention Grants Program, and the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program. To access the *In Focus* series, go to <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubResults.asp?sei=92&PreviousPage=PubResults&strSortby=&p=>.

### **Needs Assessment to Enhance Juvenile Justice Resources**

OJJDP's National Training and Technical Assistance Center launched the Training and Technical Assistance Needs Assessment, an online survey that asks participants to describe their training and technical assistance needs and preferences. OJJDP will use the information to better provide the juvenile justice community with the tools and resources they require to enhance their organizational capacity and to develop new curricula and training programs that are timely and responsive. The OJJDP Needs Assessment is available online at [www.nttac.org/JJNeedsAssessment](http://www.nttac.org/JJNeedsAssessment).

### ***Practice Guidelines: Core Elements in Responding to Mental Health Crises***

Individuals experiencing mental health crises may encounter an array of professionals and nonprofessionals trying to intervene and help: family members, peers, health care personnel, police, advocates, clergy, educators, and others. Their approaches in assisting those in crises often vary widely, contributing to the potential for ineffectual responses. Developed by a diverse expert panel that included individuals with mental illnesses, providers, public officials, and advocates, this new publication from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) defines appropriate responses to mental health crises across various situations and environments. Download the report at <http://download.ncadi.samhsa.gov/ken/pdf/SMA09-4427.pdf>.

### **Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant Writing Manual Released**

BJA has released its *Guide to Grants FY10 edition* to help potential grant applicants who are interested in applying for FY 2010 grant funds. The manual is based on the insights of BJA staff and grant applicants and is designed to inform grant applicants about the grant process. It includes tips for writing grants and sample documents. To download the guide, visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/resource/GrantWritingManual.pdf>.

### ***Adoption USA: A Chartbook Based on the 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents***

*Adoption USA* presents findings from the first nationally representative survey of adoptive parents in the United States. About 2 percent of U.S. children joined their families through adoption. The chartbook describes the characteristics, adoption experiences, and well-being of these children and their families, making comparisons between adopted children and the general population of children in the United States and among children adopted through different types of adoption. The chartbook contains information on types of adoption, adoption by relatives, contact with birth families, physical health and social and emotional well-being of adopted children, and parenting. It is based on the National Survey of Adoptive Parents, a collaborative effort of several agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. To download a PDF of the chartbook, go to <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/09/NSAP/chartbook/index.pdf>.

### ***A Resource Guide for Planning and Operating Afterschool Programs***

This third edition of *A Resource Guide for Planning and Operating Afterschool Programs* provides a description of resources to support 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool programs. Many of the entries will also apply to before-school, summer, and community learning center programs. The guide organizes resources into six areas: Management, Communication, Programming, Integrating K–12 and After-School Programs, Community

Building/Collaboration, and Evaluation. To read the guide, go to <http://www.sedl.org/pubs/fam95/>.

## Conferences and Events

**Date:** January 25–27, 2010

**Location:** Washington, D.C.

**Title:** Children 2010: Leading a New Era

**Sponsor:** Child Welfare League of America

**Description:** Child welfare professionals will offer sessions on a variety of topics, including foster care, adoption, juvenile justice, crime prevention, early intervention, and mental health. The conference also provides interactive workshops and technology demonstrations to educate the child welfare community.

**Web site:** <http://www.cwla.org/conferences/>

## Grant Opportunities

*These grant opportunities may be applicable to you or partner organizations.*

**Title:** 2nd Annual U.S State Department ExchangesConnect Video Contest

**Funder:** ExchangesConnect with Hilary Clinton

**Description:** ExchangesConnect and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton invite you to address this year's theme, Change Your Climate, Change Our World. Your "climate" is not only the air you breathe, but also the people, places, and relationships that affect your daily life. Submit a video no longer than two minutes sharing what you or someone you know is doing to make your community a better place, and in the process, contributing to a healthier, safer, cleaner, and more peaceful world.

**Award:** Four Grand-Prize Winners will be eligible to receive an all-expense paid international exchange program trip.

**Eligibility:** The contest is open to individuals from all countries and territories worldwide. Contestants must be registered members of ExchangesConnect (<http://connect.state.gov>) and 14 years or older at the time of submission.

**Deadline:** January 12, 2010

**For more information:** <http://connect.state.gov>

**Title:** Offender Reentry Program Grants

**Funder:** The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment

**Description:** SAMHSA is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2010 for Offender Reentry Program grants. The purpose of this program is to expand and/or enhance substance abuse

treatment and related recovery and reentry services to sentenced juvenile and adult offenders returning to the community from incarceration for criminal and juvenile offenses. Applicants are expected to form stakeholder partnerships that will plan, develop, and provide a transition from incarceration to community-based substance abuse treatment and related reentry services for the targeted populations.

**Award:** SAMHSA expects that a total of \$39.6 million in funding will be available for the three-year project period. It is anticipated that up to 33 grants of up to \$400,000 per year will be available for each of the three years, \$13.2 million per year.

**Eligibility:** Eligible applicants are domestic public and private nonprofit entities.

**Deadline:** January 19, 2010

**For more information:** <http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/TI-10-006.aspx>