



*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 it to us, and we will disseminate to the listserv.*

**Quote of the Month:**

Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us, hovering, averting our eyes, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted.

~Garrison Keillor

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**Mentoring System  
Involved Youth Highlights**

Over the past 20 years, mentoring has experienced a period of great attention, growth, and innovation. For the past four years, each of your MSIY programs has worked diligently to develop and support effective mentoring programs for youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. In our work together, we have identified best practices for mentoring system involved youth, as well as developing and implementing a number of important and innovative practices that support such efforts.

Some best practices for MSIY programs include:

- Training staff and mentors on related issues and the foster care and/or juvenile justice systems
- Developing working relationships and partnerships with both child welfare and justice stakeholders as well as community organizations
- Creating plans for documenting and evaluating programs
- Providing ongoing support and training for mentors so they can continue to build their skills and knowledge in working with system involved youth
- Identifying core program activities and developing strategies to continue these activities

Examples of your program innovations include the following:

- Having a child welfare partner agency incorporate elements of foster care/adoptive parent training for staff and mentors so they can understand the foster care system and common strengths and challenges of foster care youth (Mentor Match)
- Establishing partnerships and relationships with others, across a number of fields, who share an interest or commitment to your program goals and participants who contribute key support to the mentoring relationships and resources to address youth developmental needs (Economic Mentoring Program)
- Establishing low mentoring relationship case load ratios for staff supervision to ensure adequate support and coordination with support services for youth (Mentor Portland)
- Focusing the mentoring relationship on meeting the needs of system involved youth—for positive role models and youth-centered relationships, age-appropriate development, and recognition of youth resiliency and strength (AfterCare)

As you continue your mentoring efforts, now is an important time to review and assess the strategies for continuing the program efforts that form the foundation for the outcomes.

Important steps include the following:

- Identify the essential program activities that lead to your desired outcomes.
- Document how these activities should be done and include this in staff and mentor training.
- Regularly revisit these activities to ensure agreement and consistent implementation, and to make improvements.
- Explore with your partners how to enhance your connections, networking, and collaboration.

These important innovations have helped strengthen your program management and impact over the past four years. By developing a strategy to continue the critical program activities, your program will consistently provide a match experience that builds social competence, accesses resources and supports, and fosters youth problem-solving. Through well-trained mentors, the assistance of program partners, and staff who help connect it all, your program will facilitate youth in creating hope for their future.



## Useful Resources

### **Bulletin Describes Results of Youth Survey on Conditions of Confinement**

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published *Conditions of Confinement: Findings From the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement*. This bulletin, which is the third publication in a series derived from findings from the *Survey of Youth in Residential Placement*, describes the characteristics of the facilities in which youth are confined and the programs that serve them. To read the bulletin, go to [oijdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=249736](http://oijdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=249736).

### **Paper Addresses Educational Challenges Facing System Involved Youth**

Georgetown Public Policy Institute's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform has released the paper *Addressing the Unmet Educational Needs of Children and Youth in the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems*. Written by Peter Leone, University of Maryland, College Park, Md., and Lois Weinberg, California State University, Los Angeles, California, the paper reviews educational barriers encountered by youth involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems and describes recent legal and policy reforms. Promising practices and evidence-based interventions to improve educational outcomes for these system-involved youth are also provided. *Addressing the Unmet Educational Needs of Children and Youth in the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems* is available online at [cijr.georgetown.edu/pdfs/ed/edpaper.pdf](http://cijr.georgetown.edu/pdfs/ed/edpaper.pdf).

**Toolkit Provides Guidelines for Effective Transition from Jail to Community** In response to the need for jurisdictions across the country to address the jail-to-community transition, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) partnered with the Urban Institute (UI) in 2007 to launch the *Transition from Jail to Community* (TJC) Initiative. Out of that partnership, they have created the Transition from Jail to Community (TJC) Online Learning Toolkit, a Web-based resource that guides local criminal justice agencies and community-based organizations in implementing the TJC model. Users can navigate through the nine modules at their own pace. To view the toolkit, go to <http://www.urban.org/projects/tjc/toolkit/index.html>.

### **Future of Children Report on Youth in Transition**

Taking a broad view of the transition to adulthood, this volume of *Future of Children* (with chapter contributions from various authors) describes how the transition youth face today differs fundamentally from the transitions of previous generations. Dramatic changes in the structure of the economy; family circumstances; and the roles of immigration, race, and class have altered the normative trajectory of young adults to economic and social maturity. More information is available at: [www.futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/index.xml](http://www.futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/index.xml).

### **Bulletin Provides History of Street Gangs**

The National Gang Center, a collaborative project of the Bureau of Justice Assistance and OJJDP, has published *History of Street Gangs in the United States*. Written by James C. Howell, senior research associate, and John P. Moore, director, National Gang Center, the bulletin reviews the chronology of major events associated with the emergence of street gangs in each of the country's four major geographic regions. To read the bulletin, go to [www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Content/Documents/History-of-Street-Gangs.pdf](http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Content/Documents/History-of-Street-Gangs.pdf).

## **SAMHSA Initiative Raises Awareness of Mental Illness and African Americans**

Stories That Heal, a national public service advertising campaign created by SAMHSA, the Ad Council, and the Stay Strong Foundation, seeks to spread the word to young African Americans that it's okay to talk about depression, anxiety, and other mental health problems. The campaign is designed to encourage young adults to share their strength by stepping up and talking openly about mental health problems. The central message is "Share Ourselves: Healing Starts with Us." To learn more about the initiative, go to

[http://www.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsletter/Volume\\_18\\_Number\\_2/MentalIllnessAfricanAmericans.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsletter/Volume_18_Number_2/MentalIllnessAfricanAmericans.aspx). To hear five powerful and empowering stories from African Americans who have experienced difficult times and overcome them with the help of their families, friends, and communities, go to the campaign's Web site at <http://storiesthatheal.samhsa.gov>.

## **Conferences and Events**

**Date:** June 2, 2010, 1 p.m. EST

**Title:** Mobile Marketing for Nonprofits Webinar

**Sponsor:** GuideStar

**Description:** Attend this free webinar to discover how your nonprofit can launch mobile marketing campaigns on even the smallest of budgets. Learn about best practices in mobile technology and how group texting, mobile Web sites, Smartphone Apps, and text-to-give technology can help you recruit new donors and engage and inspire mobile activists.

**Web site:**

[https://guidestarusa.webex.com/mw0306lb/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=guidestarusa&service=6&main\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fguidestarusa.webex.com%2Fec0605lb%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26confViewID%3D268658353%26siteurl%3Dguidestarusa%26%26%26](https://guidestarusa.webex.com/mw0306lb/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=guidestarusa&service=6&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fguidestarusa.webex.com%2Fec0605lb%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26confViewID%3D268658353%26siteurl%3Dguidestarusa%26%26%26)

## **Grant Opportunities**

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

**Title:** BIC 4 GOOD Grants

**Funder:** BIC USA Inc.

**Description:** BIC 4 GOOD Grants are targeted towards established programs and organizations that have a large impact, proven sustainability, and measurable success. The best applicants are those that are self-driven, unique, and community-oriented with measurable impact.

**Award:** Ten \$2,000 grants and one grand prize \$5,000 grant

**Eligibility:** The applicant must be 25 or under and must be a U.S. or Canadian citizen.

**Deadline:** June 15, 2010

**For more information:** [www.dosomething.org/grants/bic4good](http://www.dosomething.org/grants/bic4good)

**Title:** Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

**Funder:** Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

**Description:** The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. The JAG Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. JAG funds support all components of the criminal justice system, from multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces to crime prevention and domestic violence programs, courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives. JAG-funded projects may address crime through the provision of services directly to individuals and/or communities and by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice systems, processes, and procedures.

**Award:** Funds are allocated by state according to a statutory formula.

**Eligibility:** All states and territories and certain local governments, as specified

**Deadline:** June 16 for state solicitations; June 30 for local solicitations

**For more information:** <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/jag.html>

**Title:** Community-Based Violence Prevention Demonstration Program

**Funder:** OJJDP

**Description:** OJJDP is seeking applications for funding under its Fiscal Year 2010 Community-Based Violence Prevention Demonstration Program. This program furthers DOJ's mission by reducing violence involving youth in targeted communities. A growing number of communities have adopted multi-strategy, multidisciplinary approaches to reduce the violence that has adversely affected youth, families, and communities across America. The Community-Based Violence Prevention Demonstration Program provides funding for localities to support federal, state, and local partnerships to replicate multidisciplinary, community-based, proven strategies to reduce violence.

**Award:** OJJDP will make up to four awards of up to \$2.2 million each for a 3-year award period.

**Eligibility:** Private nonprofit and public agencies, including state agencies and units of local government

**Deadline:** June 18, 2010

**For more information:** <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2010/CBVP%20DEMO.pdf>

**Title:** Promise Neighborhoods Planning Grants

**Funder:** U.S. Department of Education

**Description:** The U.S. Department of Education is accepting applications for a \$10 million planning grants competition for the Promise Neighborhood program—an initiative meant to support comprehensive, community-based efforts to prepare youths from economically distressed neighborhoods for college and careers. The initiative will support up to 20 organizations with one year of funding to plan for implementing cradle-to-career services. The Promise Neighborhoods program will award one-year grants to support the development of a plan to implement a Promise Neighborhood.

**Award:** Up to 20 planning grants of up to \$500,000 each will be awarded.

**Eligibility:** Nonprofits and institutions of higher learning

**Deadline:** July 1, 2010

**For more information:** [www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html)

**Title:** Best Buy @15 Community Grants

**Funder:** Best Buy

**Description:** Through the @15 Community Grants Program, Best Buy teams across the United States select nonprofit organizations that provide positive experiences to help teens excel in school, engage in their communities, and develop leadership skills. This year, Best Buy Children's Foundation will give \$2 million through the Community Grants Program. Special consideration will be given to programs that serve a diverse population in local or regional communities; build social, academic, leadership and/or life skills in early adolescents (primarily ages 13–18); show positive results against a demonstrated community need; and/or reach at-risk children in working families.

**Award:** Up to \$10,000

**Eligibility:** Organizations that have current 501(c)(3) tax status and are serving a diverse population of young teens in the areas of learning, life skills, leadership, or relationship development

**Deadline:** Applications will be accepted June 1–July 1, 2010.

**For more information:** [www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/local\\_donations.htm](http://www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/local_donations.htm)