



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:

*Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well. ~
Voltaire*

*Mentoring Initiative for System
Involved Youth Highlights*

Announcement from the Technical Assistance Team

The Technical Assistance and Training Program (TATP) for Mentoring System Involved Youth (MSIY) is continuing to conduct site visits for grantees. On April 28th–29th the team visited the Chicago Department of Children and Youth Services. The purpose of these visits is to gain a better understanding of your program so we can create a TA plan for the next several months. We think this is a great opportunity to develop our relationship and improve our TA services for you.

Useful Resources

May is National Foster Care Month

National CASA will stage a week-long media event in Washington, D.C. to draw attention to the thousands of abused and neglected children who need caring, permanent homes. The organization will place 4,250 life-sized, stand-up displays representing images of children in care on the grounds of the Washington Monument. The images represent the number of children who enter into foster care each week. Six versions of the stand-up images will illustrate the diversity of children in foster care and the overrepresentation of children of color. A variety of messages from foster youth will be featured on the displays. This event takes place two weeks before CASA's national conference in Washington, D.C. To learn more about the Foster Care Month media event and the National CASA Annual Conference, please visit <http://www.casenet.org>.

“Mentoring for Success: Essential Elements for and Models of Mentoring Programs”

The National Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk (NDTAC) Web site offers an archive of its Webinars. This month, the Web site features the Webinar, “Mentoring for Success: Essential Elements for and Models of

Mentoring Programs.” Three presentations are posted, including *Reflections on the Use of Mentoring in a Juvenile Reentry Program*, by Dr. Roger Jarjoura. To view the presentations, please visit http://www.neglected-delinquent.org/nd/events/webinars_archive.asp#mentoring200802.

Unsuccessful In-Home Child Welfare Service Plans Following a Maltreatment Investigation: Racial and Ethnic Differences

This report, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, presents findings from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being. It discusses racial and ethnic differences in child maltreatment, and the probability of a recurrent report or placement into out-of-home care within 36 months of an investigation. To read the full report, see <http://www.aecf.org/~media/PublicationFiles/Patricia%20Kohl%20Child%20Welfare%20Service%20Racial%20Disparity%20Report%202007.pdf>.

“Considerations for Mentoring System Involved Youth”

This workshop was presented at the 2008 Mentoring Conference, Mentoring Youth: Defining the Difference It Makes, which focused on program development for those working with system involved youth. The workshop discussed four key elements for creating a mentoring program for system involved youth: 1) identifying system involved youth and recognizing their unique needs; 2) understanding how the system works; 3) exploring ways to integrate mentoring into the lives of system involved youth; and 4) providing resources on mentoring system involved youth. To view the workshop paper, please visit http://www.friendsforyouth.org/CCB_March_2008.pdf.

New Blog Will Promote Juvenile Justice Connections

The U.S. Department of Justice's National Institute of Corrections (NIC) has created a blog titled “Juvenile Justice Connection” to facilitate the exchange of information among juvenile justice professionals. The blog will feature news from NIC, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and other Federal, state, and local sources. It will include information about professional training opportunities and juvenile justice related research. To learn more about the blog, please see <http://community.nicic.org/blogs/juvenilejustice/default.aspx>.

New Transition Center Opens in San Antonio

Supported by Casey Family Programs, Foster Youth Life Investment Partners (FYLIP) opened a new center in Corpus Christi, Texas to help young people as they prepare to transition out of foster care. FYLIP provides housing assistance, job placement services, life skills training, and mentoring. The partnership has received a total of \$24,000 from three foundations and will use these funds for operational costs and to help provide for young people's educational and medical needs. For more information, please see http://m1.casey.org/mk/get?_EC=YPy0lsyfiv6GB62U02bHNq.

Google Offers Suite of Free Internet Applications to Nonprofits

Google recently established a new nonprofit portal so that organizations can more easily access its tools. The company is offering resources including e-mail programs, mapping software, blogs, Internet traffic analysis programs, and free search engine advertising. In addition to the software, the site offers setup instructions and advice on how to use the programs to support each organization's individual mission. <http://www.google.com/nonprofits/>



Date: June 7–10, 2008

Location: Washington, D.C.

Title: 27th Annual National CASA Conference

Sponsor: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children

Description: The 27th Annual National CASA Conference will provide participants with a comprehensive learning experience through education, training, and networking opportunities. The theme of the 2008 conference is "How Are the Children?" More than 60 workshops and institutes offering continued learning opportunities with top-notch faculty, including the four designated workshop tracks: Fundraising, Public Policy, Volunteer Skills and Resources, and Cultural Competency. Other conference features include dedicated networking time built into the conference schedule; well-known general session speakers; opportunities to get involved with CASA's media events, and to network with more than 1,400 CASA/GAL staff, board members, volunteers, judges, attorneys, and other child welfare professionals; and an exhibit hall with additional resources.

Web site: <http://www.casanet.org/conference/registration.htm>



This grant opportunity may be applicable to you or partner organizations.

Title: The Corps Network Youth Restoration Corps

Funder: The Youth Restoration Corps in New Orleans

Description: The Youth Restoration Corps in New Orleans, Louisiana is looking for AmeriCorps*Vista applicants to serve as mentors and help launch its first class of 800 young people, including court-involved, formerly incarcerated, or disconnected youth. The Youth Restoration Corps will focus on environmental and historical restoration and energy conservation, while building community capacity to reengage disconnected youth. Mentors will establish a multi-site Youth Corps, to provide youth with opportunities that lead to promising careers while investing in their communities.

Award: Successful applicants will receive a living allowance and other benefits, including an education award of \$4,725 to be used for tuition, education loans, or other qualified education expenses, at the satisfactory conclusion of their year of service.

Eligibility: Adults who are interested in participating in AmeriCorps (*some who may share the same type of history and background as the youth they will supervise*) are encouraged to apply for this project. These mentoring/supervising positions are AmeriCorps*VISTA positions.

For more information:

<http://www.corpsnetwork.org>

Anthony Gabriel

Louisiana State Program Specialist

Corporation for National & Community Service

(225) 389-0471- Office

(225) 389-0510- Fax

tgabriel@cns.gov