



In this Issue:

- [Youth on Board Comes to California](#)
- [Karen Young Talks about Getting Youth on Boards](#)
- [Involving Youth in the Second Annual Sonoma County Youth Symposium](#)
- [YCidea: Service Providers Connect to Achieve Placement Rates](#)
- [2004 Kids Count Data Released](#)
- [California Children Improve in National Rankings](#)
- [State Youth Council Update](#)
- [A View from Washington](#)
- [Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

Youth on Board Comes to California

Increasingly, Youth Councils, Boards of Directors, Advisory Councils, youth organizations, schools, and other programs and services are recognizing the need to engage young people in their planning, policy, and decision-making.

This was reflected in a YCi survey of YCi practitioners conducted in November of 2003, which indicated that this topic was a professional development priority. In response, New Ways to Work and YCi partnered with Massachusetts-



based Youth on Board (www.youthonboard.org) to present a series of conference calls and workshops on the topic of "Involving Youth in Organizational Planning, Policy, and Decision-Making." With nearly 200 participants in conference calls and workshops, it's clear that people are passionate about this subject. For more information about Youth on Board, [click here](#). For information and resources from previous content calls and workshops, visit: www.nww.org/networkcontentcalls.html.

Youth and Adult Youth Council Panelists Participate on Conference Call

On May 11, 2004, Karen Young, Co-Director, of Youth On Board moderated a conference call hosted by New Ways to Work. Representatives of Youth Councils from San Diego, California and Ann Arbor, Michigan shared their progress and suggestions for successful implementations. [Click here](#) to read highlights from the call, including tips for involving youth on your decision-making body.

Youth on Board Workshop

Karen Young Co-Director of Youth on Board, and Youth Trainer, Sheena Seale, came to California for two full-day workshops in Sacramento on June 2nd, and Irvine on June 3rd. Ninety participants in both workshops, including 32 young people between the ages of 13 and 18, exemplified the state's dedication and desire to involve youth in organizational planning, policy, and decision-making. [Click here](#) to read the full article, or to download workshop notes go to: <http://www.nww.org/previouscalls.html>.



Karen Young Talks about Getting Youth on Boards - and Other Decision-Making Positions

Founded by Karen Young and Jenny Savama, Youth on Board just celebrated its tenth anniversary. The Massachusetts-based organization uses publications, customized workshops, and technical assistance to prepare youth to be leaders and decision-makers in their communities. The mission is an ambitious one: "to help young people and adults think differently about each other so that they can work together to change society." In an exclusive YCi interview, Karen Young shares her ideas and expertise about how to get and keep youth engaged in organizations and decision-making bodies. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

Join the YCi Listserve!

The YCi Listserve connects you with resource, network, and training opportunities relevant to education, workforce and youth development.

To join, email Chandra Larsen at clarsen@nww.org



A Youth Perspective: **Involving Youth in the Second Annual Sonoma County Youth Symposium**



The Sonoma County Youth Council hosted its Second Annual Youth Symposium on May 18th. As a follow up to last year's symposium, this year's event focused on engaging youth. The Sonoma County Youth

Council wanted to create an opportunity not only to talk about youth, but to *involve* youth in the conversation.

Approximately 40 of the 150 attendees were youth. The symposium featured the eloquent Lori Strumpf of Stumpf Associates: Center for Strategic Change, and a youth panel of seven Sonoma County students. [Click here](#) to read the full article by David Perez.

YCidea: The Youth Force – Service Providers Connect to Improve Placement Rates

This latest YCidea highlights Tulare County's success at sharing information and collaboration with their four WIA-funded youth agencies. With staff spread out across a rural county the size of Connecticut, county youth job developers were accustomed to meeting for administrative purposes or trainings every few months, but had no ongoing way to connect and share information. Consequently, the county-wide job placement process — both for youth and for employers — was less efficient than it might have been.

Service providers approached the Youth Council office with a request: they wanted to meet on a regular basis with all their fellow front-line practitioners in order to share resources, best practices and job orders. Eldonna Caudill of the Tulare County Workforce Investment Department (TCWID) response was, "OK, tell us how you want it to work, what you want to call it, and what you want from us." The result was the establishment of monthly meetings called Youth Force, which are built into the calendar and hosted by the four agencies and the TCWID on a rotating basis. Read more about how this YCidea improved placement rates by [clicking here](#).

2004 Kids Count Data Book Released

On June 3, 2004 the Annie E. Casey Foundation and its state Kids Count partners released the 2004 Kids Count Data Book. The theme for this year's Data Book is supporting a successful transition from adolescence to adulthood for youth at risk. The report identified trends that affect our most vulnerable youth and disconnected young adults, including dropping out of school, having a child, incarceration, and living in foster care. This represents a major opportunity for the many organizations around the country that are trying to strengthen supports to improve the odds for youth at risk to become responsible adults. In addition to a national release in Washington, DC, each state's Kids Count grantee (or grantees) is conducting state media events or other activities.

While Kids Count grantees will be responsible for any activities connected with the national release of the 2004 Kids Count Data Book, many other nonprofit organizations working to improve programs and policies for youth at risk can take advantage of the theme of this year's Data Book to garner media attention and to organize state and local efforts to address the needs of marginalized youth and solutions to strengthen the supports they need to make a successful transition to a productive adulthood.

The ***Kids Count Data Book*** is now available online at <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/databook/>. The easy-to-use online database allows you to generate custom graphs, maps, ranked lists, and state-by-state profiles; or, download the entire data set as delimited text files. You can also read the book online, view the book in PDF format, or [order a free copy of the Data Book](#).

The Data Book's essay "Moving Youth from Risk to Opportunity," presents a stark picture of who are America's disconnected young adults, why it is so critical that effective supports be put in place, and what young adults need to succeed (<http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/databook/essay.htm>).

Media Outreach and Communication Strategies

For support in your local media outreach and communications strategies, see the May 2004 memo [Youth Transitions: Media Relations and Community Outreach Strategy](#), by Jack Levine for the Youth Transitions Funders Group, on how youth advocates can make the most of the *youth in transition* theme of this year's Data Book. For a quick outline of media outreach steps and strategies for building partnerships with your local media sources, see the [media relations strategies ideas](#), a sample ["elevator pitch"](#) and [letter to your media partner](#), and a sample [press release](#).



California Children Improve in National Rankings

According to 2004 Kids Count Data Book, California ranked 15th out of 50 states and the District of Columbia, and showed significantly greater reductions in teen birth rates, high school dropouts, and child poverty than the nation as a whole. Despite the state's 21% improvement in the child poverty rate, this was still California's worst measure, ranking 38th out of all states.

This year's report shines a spotlight on 18- to 24-year-olds. It found that in 2002, a sizeable minority (15%) was not working, not in school and had no degree beyond high school. Further, the report found that the number of these young adults has grown by 700,000 across the country (19%) since 2000. In California, there were 495,000 (15%) such "disconnected young adults" in 2002. And young California adults ages 18-24 are slightly more likely to live in poverty (20%) than children ages 0-17 (19%).

We encourage you to connect with the California Kids Count Grantee contact, Kevin Donegan from Children Now, to learn more about California media release events and other activities. Call them at (510) 763-2444 or visit www.childrennow.org.

The State Youth Council Revisits Structure and Plans for Future

At the May 20th California State Youth Council (SYC) meeting, an ad hoc group of members volunteered to examine the charter, purpose and structure of the council, including how "formal" a body the council should be and whether State Agency and Departmental representatives should be included as members. Another group agreed to make recommendations on how to expand youth involvement on the SYC and to consider setting youth participation standards for local councils. These two priorities emerged as members discussed how the SYC could be most effective as a state-level policy body in the coming year. [Click here](#) to read the full article. To read the notes from this and other State Youth Council meetings go to: <http://youth.calwia.org/youthDevelopment/index.cfm>.

A View from Washington

The California Workforce Association (CWA) and the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) provide in-depth federal policy and legislative analysis for the workforce system. NYEC's policy updates are available for review on their website at www.nyec.org. CWA's policy analysis can be accessed by clicking the links in the summaries below. YCi encourages practitioners to familiarize themselves with important issues related to the WIA Reauthorization and other policies relevant to youth.

Personal Re-employment Accounts Implementation Bill (HR 444) Passed House—Success in Senate Unlikely

On June 3rd, the House passed on a party-line vote an important component of the President's Job Training Reform Agenda and centerpiece of the Administration's 2005 budget proposal for DOL. [Click here](#) to see CWA's analysis on the President's Job Training Reform Agenda and [click here](#) to see an analysis of the President's FY 2005 Budget Proposal. Authored by Representative Jon Porter (R-NV), HR 444 amends the Workforce Investment Act to allow the DOL Secretary to implement a national demonstration project for Personal Re-employment Accounts (PRAs), funded with existing WIA dollars. According to Senate staff and policy advocates on the Hill, HR 444 stands little chance of passing the Senate. Senate Democrats instead are intent on reviving a counterproposal to extend UI for those who exhaust their 26 weeks of benefits. [Click here](#) for more information on the PRA Proposal (HR 444).

House Conference Members Appointed for WIA Reauthorization

On June 3rd, House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) made the long-awaited move of appointing members to the conference committee on HR1261, the Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. Republican conferees include Representatives John Boehner (R-OH), Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA), Jon Porter (R-NV), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), and Thomas Petri (R-WI). Democrats include Representatives Dale Kildee (D-MI), Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX), John Tierney (D-MA), and Betty McCollum (D-MN).

FY 2005 Congressional Budget

The Senate has yet to approve a conference report on the FY 2005 budget resolution. The stumbling block has been a Senate-only "pay-as-you-go" (pay-go) rule pushed by moderate Republicans steadfast against ballooning federal deficits. The pay-go rule requires that any new tax cuts must be offset by revenue increases or program spending cuts. The standoff shows no sign of relenting. The House adopted the conference report (S. Con. Res. 95 - H. Rept. 108-498) with the extension of tax cuts and without the pay-go rule for one year.



FY 2005 Appropriations

House Appropriators are operating under the funding limits established by the conference report (S. Con. Res. 95 - H. Rept. 108-498). The Labor-HHS-Education proposed allocation is \$142.3 billion, a 2.4% increase over FY 2004. The Administration's request is \$142.1 billion. The Senate Labor-HHS subcommittee has not yet released its allocations.

Federal Program Cuts Slated for FY 2006

A variety of domestic programs appear to be slated for additional budget cuts in FY 2006. On May 27th, a memo from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) instructed federal agencies, now pulling together their spending requests for FY 2006, to use an OMB guide that projected significant cuts in the coming years. The OMB document accompanied the President's FY 2005 budget, which requested significant cuts to workforce programs under WIA, when it was circulated to members of Congress.

Advocacy Notes

The April 21st issue of NYEC's *Advocacy Notes* features a summary of President Bush's recent comments regarding new proposals that would affect programs under the Higher Education Act (HEA), and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. We have highlighted below information from the *Advocacy Notes*, but for complete analysis and review, go to the member's only section of www.nyec.org, or email Chandra Larsen at clarsen@nww.org to send you a copy.

Higher Education Act (HEA)

In April, President Bush proposed putting a four-year time limit on how long students may access Pell Grants in order to use the savings to create a new program that would give low-income students \$5,000 grants to study mathematics and science in college.

This proposal met with some opposition regarding challenges associated with balancing demands of families and jobs with higher education. Also related to HEA, Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA) is working to introduce a bill to address remaining issues (higher education costs, fairness in student aid, and expanding opportunities for non-traditional students). Several issues are delaying the bill, which indicates that McKeon's bill may not be introduced until after Congress finishes or forgoes work on the FY 2005 budget resolution. Overall, considering the election year environment, it is very likely that the Senate may leave HEA Reauthorization for the 109th Congress to address. See NYEC's April 21st *Advocacy Notes* article for full review and analysis at www.nyec.org.

Vocational Education

In April, the President commented on the Administration's proposals to reauthorize vocational education programs, asserting that the current program is antiquated and calling on Congress to sharply increase standards at vocational schools. The President's FY 2005 budget released in February proposes to cut funding for career and technical education by approximately 25%, and replace the Perkins vocational education program with a \$1 billion block grant. The budget would further eliminate all programs funded under the Perkins Act, including Tech Prep, Occupational and Employment Information, and national programs. Several committees and hearings were scheduled for the month of April, although Senate action may be pushed into 2005. See NYEC's April 21st *Advocacy Notes* article for full review and analysis at www.nyec.org.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

It remains uncertain whether IDEA will be reauthorized this year or whether the job will be left to the 109th Congress. The House and Senate bills differ in how they address discipline, and both versions of the bill have left out issues related to funding. See NYEC's April 21st *Advocacy Notes* article for full review and analysis at www.nyec.org.

Senate Passes Temporary TANF Extension

Because funding under TANF is mandatory, Congress must reauthorize it prior to its expiration in order to continue funding TANF programs. It has remained in effect due to a long series of temporary extensions, the latest of which expires on June 30th. Recently it was almost moved in the Senate, but fell short of the needed votes. It is now uncertain whether TANF will be taken up again this year. See NYEC's April 21st *Advocacy Notes* article for full review and analysis at www.nyec.org.

Outstanding Literacy/Numeracy Gains Issues under Common Measures

In pending WIA reauthorization legislation, there are three options for implementing the literacy/numeracy measure (see details of options by [clicking here](#)). NYEC recommends Option 1A, which excludes in-school youth from the literacy and numeracy gains measure and eliminate the current exclusion on the placement and certificate measures so that all youth would be included in those two measures at the time of exit. This option would help fulfill the WIA youth vision of long-term comprehensive services for youth. [Click here](#) to read full descriptions of the Common Measures options, and [click here](#) to read the notes and recommendations from the May 18th Common Measures Teleconference.



Funding Opportunities

\$4.5 Million in Grants to Train Biotechnology Workers

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training announced two grants totaling \$4.5 million to train biotechnology workers in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Greater San Diego Area. The grants are part of a \$17.2 million national effort to address workforce challenges facing the biotechnology industry. To read the full news release, [click here](#), the [Alameda WIB RFP](#), or the [San Diego Workforce Partnership RFP](#).

"All Youth-One System" Funding Opportunity - Improving Transitions Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities Project

The California Workforce Investment Board is pleased to announce a solicitation for proposals for demonstration projects as part of the Improving Transitions Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities Project (ITOP). Successful demonstration projects will use intermediary organizations to provide services to youth with disabilities consistent with California's "All Youth-One System" framework. Applicants should have a record of providing services to youth with disabilities as well as employer service connected to workforce development, and be able to leverage existing dollars to improve transitional outcomes for youth with disabilities. [Read the full RFP](#) or visit www.calwia.org.

YCi 2004 - 2005 Proposed Activities

This is a proposed calendar of events and activities of the Youth Council Institute Network for 2004 to 2005. Confirmed dates and locations will be posted online at: <http://www.nww.org/yqi/calendar.htm>

June

June 29 Team Leader Conference Call (9:30 a.m.)

September

September 7-9 CWA Meeting of the Minds Conference
September 7 YCi Orientation
September 8 Team Leader Meeting
September 28 Content Conference Call (9:30 a.m.)

October

October 12-14 It's My Life Conference
October 12 Team Leader Meeting
TBD State Youth Council Meeting

November

November 16 Content Training (Central Valley)
November 17 Content Training (Northern CA)
November 18 Content Training (Southern CA)

2005

January

January 11 Content Conference Call (9:30 a.m.)
January 25 Team Leader Meeting
January 24-28 "All Youth-One System" Conference

February

February 22 Content Training (Central Valley)
February 23 Content Training (Northern CA)
February 24 Content Training (Southern CA)

March

March 8 Content Conference Call (9:30 a.m.)
TBD CWA Spring Conference

May

May 10 Content Conference Call (9:30 a.m.)
TBD State Youth Council Meeting
TBD Team Leader Meeting

About YCI

The Youth Council Institute (YCi) was established in July 2001 by the California Workforce Investment Board (CalWIB). Its goal is to assist California's 50 Youth Councils by creating a unified and transparent network of local organizations whose diverse services are available to all youth. The "All Youth-One System" tools and frameworks serve as the foundation for YCi. YCi provides technical assistance and support, disseminates tools and practices, and conducts trainings and planning activities. It is supported by the CalWIB and managed and delivered through a partnership between New Ways to Work and the California Workforce Association.

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