

COLLABORATING FOR YOUTH:

Highlights from the Positive Youth Development State and Local Collaboration Demonstration Project

**A Report from the
Family and Youth Services Bureau
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Administration for Children and Families
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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief assessment of efforts by the Family and Youth Services Bureau to encourage a more positive and proactive approach to the development of young people in the United States. For the past decade, FYSB has been making grant awards to agencies of state government to encourage them to exercise larger leadership roles in reshaping the policies, programs and practices that affect the delivery of services and supports to young people in their states.

What follows is not intended to be a formal evaluation nor is it meant to convey definitive answers to questions of affect and/or impact. Instead, our intent is to highlight positive and hopeful accomplishments by the state grantees, participating in these efforts, as a means of assessing the promise of the approaches supported under FYSB's demonstration authority.

BACKGROUND

For over 30 years, the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), has been providing national leadership on youth and family issues. The Bureau promotes positive outcomes for children, youth, and families by supporting a wide range of comprehensive services and collaborations at the local, Tribal, State, and national levels. Throughout its history, the Bureau's Youth Development Division has worked within the youth services field to create a strong continuum of care for youth growing up in difficult situations and for their families.

In its flagship effort, FYSB's Youth Development Division administers programs that provide services to an estimated 1.5 million adolescent runaway, homeless, and street youth through: 336 Basic Centers that provide shelter, food, clothing, medical and other survival services; 193 organizations that provide longer-term shelter through Transitional Living Programs; 16 organizations that operate Maternity Group Homes for runaway pregnant or parenting girls; and 140 grants to organizations who conduct Street Outreach Programs that provide education and support to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation.

Another major effort of the Division is the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program. It has been estimated that approximately 2 million children and youth in the United States have at least one parent in a Federal or State correctional facility. Since 2003, FYSB has been funding 52 community- and faith-based projects that provide mentoring services to youth in this population. The goals of these efforts is to ensure that these youth have access to: safe and trusting relationships; healthy messages about life and social behavior; appropriate guidance from a positive adult role model; and opportunities for increased participation in education, civic service, and community activities.

A Positive Youth Development Approach

The Family and Youth Services Bureau has worked to promote *a positive youth development* framework for all FYSB activities. This approach, which is asset-based rather than problem focused, is intended as a guiding principle for policy and program developers, program

managers, youth services professionals, and others who care about young people. It emphasizes the need for youth service models and approaches that direct young people toward positive pathways of development. The positive youth development approach is predicated on the understanding that all young people need support, guidance, and opportunities during adolescence – a time of rapid growth and change. With these supports in place, they can develop self-assurance and create a healthy, successful life.

Key elements of positive youth development are:

- Healthy messages to adolescents about their bodies, their behaviors and their interactions;
- Safe and structured places for teens to study, recreate, and socialize;
- Strengthened relationships with adult role models, such as parents, mentors, coaches or community leaders;
- Skill development in literacy, competence, work readiness and social skills; and
- Opportunities to serve others and build self-esteem.

FYSB believes that, if these factors are being addressed, young people can become not just "problem free" but "fully prepared" and engaged constructively in their communities and society.

Advancing Positive Youth Development through State-Level Collaboration Demonstrations

To promote these principles, over the past 10 years, FYSB has used its demonstration authority to encourage states to adopt positive, collaborative approaches to the development of the nation's young people. Two demonstrations were conducted over the period. The Youth Development State Collaboration Demonstration Project (YDSCDP) operated from 1998 to 2003 as a 13-state,¹ 5-year demonstration aimed at encouraging the participating state grantees to form collaborations with other youth serving agencies and organizations at the state and local levels in order to promote positive youth development approaches to youth policies and programs within their states and communities.

The positive results achieved in this demonstration encouraged FYSB to design a sequel – the Positive Youth Development State and Local Collaboration Demonstration Project (PYDSLCL) – to which the original 13 states were encouraged to apply. PYDSLCL was designed to translate the earlier achievements and apply the lessons learned, from its predecessor state-level demonstration, to local level youth operations in a single selected pilot jurisdiction. Nine of the original 13 states were selected to participate.²

The primary objective of PYDSLCL was to increase youth opportunities in three specific domains – increasing opportunities for: (1) positive use of time; (2) positive self-expression; and (3) youth participation and civic engagement. The demonstration also emphasized collaboration and community participation as follows:

PYDSLCL Collaboration Goals:

- to encourage collaboration among the State and Local (or Tribal) agencies and communities that would increase opportunities for young people in their local communities and neighborhoods; and
- to promote and facilitate communication and cooperation between the State, local

¹ Participating states included: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, and Oregon.

² Arizona, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, and Oregon

communities and youth serving agencies, including FYSB RHY Program grantees, in addressing the needs and issues of adolescents and young adults.

PYDSL Community Participation Goals:

- to encourage an ongoing community (youth and adult) presence and participation in the planning and execution of strategies aimed at the positive development of their young people; and
- to energize local constituencies including (youth and adult) residents, community and faith-based organizations and service providers around a positive youth development agenda.

TAKING STOCK OF RESULTS

Given this background and the purposes and goals of the demonstration, this report will highlight some of the notable events and achievements that have occurred in the state projects. In so doing, we will focus only on the nine states that have participated in both of FYSB's collaboration demonstrations.

The following brief state by state review will report some of the achievements of the projects. For each state, we will: identify the agency that received the FYSB grant; provide a brief description of the local community in which the demonstration project was operated; along with a brief description of the organization that was responsible for mounting the effort in the community – the Lead Local Agency. For each project, we will highlight accomplishments of the demonstration in four potential areas of achievement – the extent to which the project: (1) increased opportunities for youth; (2) involved the community in planning and development of programs; (3) energized the community around positive youth development; and/or (4) had an impact on youth policy.

ARIZONA

The State Grantee: Office of Governor, Governor's Division for Community and Youth Development

The Demonstration Community: The Arizona project is targeted to the ***Murphy School District (MSD)*** located in southwest Phoenix. The total population for the area is 14,654, and is 93% Hispanic with 28.5% (4181) of the population between ages 10 through 24 (2000 Census Data). Four K-8 schools are located in MSD and youth attending high school are bused to another district.

The residents and youth in the MSD neighborhoods face many risk factors such as crime and safety issues, drugs, gangs, poverty, high mobility rate resulting in low community attachment, poor housing, and little availability of public resources. Census data and the schools' Free Lunch programs report that over 90% of the individuals and students in this area are living near or below the federal poverty level. The MSD community is also saddled with a disproportionate share of undesirable facilities, which negatively affect the quality of life of its residents (i.e., jails, toxic waste sites, salvage yards, and an interstate that slices through the district, etc.).

The Lead Local Agency: Camp Fire USA – Greater Arizona Council. Camp Fire USA has been serving Arizona since 1913 making it one of the oldest non-profit organizations in the state.

Camp Fire is Arizona's premier social service agency for youth and their families. It is committed to providing educational and recreational services in under-resourced communities all across the Phoenix Metropolitan area and its programs are estimated to affect over 10,000 boys and girls of all ages and all social and economic backgrounds.

A. Increasing Opportunities for Young People

Youth/Family Camping Retreats at Camp Wamatochick (180)

CMY youth have had the opportunity to attend two camping retreats in Prescott Arizona and experience new outdoor experience and activities such as kayaking, hiking, archery and team challenge courses. The CMY Youth Camp Leadership Team was the primary leaders who planned and led virtually all aspects of the retreat in 2007. Camp Leadership also led Family Camp in July 2007, a camp that included close to 100 persons from CMY Family Clubs.

B. Community Participation in Program Development

Volunteer Hours (5,400):

Since the beginning of the demonstration project over 400 youth from the Murphy community have participated with the project through action clubs, community trainings and forums, community council, service projects and other activities and events. Over 180 of those youth have been involved in leadership roles with CMY providing over 5,100 volunteer hours.

Family Clubs etc. (230 Adults and family Members);

The local demonstration project also involved over 230 adults and other family members by engaging them in community forums, community events, and family clubs in the Murphy School District. Family Clubs are planned by youth and organize parents and families in school communities with an emphasis on community building and integrating community youth and adult service projects.

Community Council (120):

With the assistance of community youth, the local demonstration project created a Community Council that has been in place since October 2005. This council helps guide the demonstration project by planning events, youth opportunities for positive use of time, and other community initiatives. Over 120 youth have been involved with the council over the past two years; a portion of which are currently involved in leadership roles and plan on continuing the Council for their community past the end of FYSB funding.

C. Energizing Residents for Positive Youth Development

Sharing Rally-Cinco De Mayo '06;

Youth members of CMY organized, planned and presented a Community Sharing Rally in May 2006. This day highlighted the efforts of the youth throughout the year, shared findings from the community interviews and asset mapping, and provided fun games and entertainment as recruitment tool and build interest in PYD.

CMY All-Starz Web Site '07:

Through web based training CMY youth created, completed and continue to update their own program website for CMY, that shares information about their local demonstration project and about PYD principles in action.

Community Trainings by Local Demonstration (40 youth, 35 adults)

Throughout the course of the grant the local demonstration organized and presented multiple community trainings that focused on areas including Community Development, Youth and Adult Partnerships, and Facilitative Leadership. Over 35 adults and 40 youth were trained in various topics. Total training hours provided was approximately 1,080.

D. Policy Impacts

“Five Keys to Youth Success:”

Five Keys to Youth Success is a comprehensive state youth plan that addresses five issues that affect youth in Arizona: access to mentors and caring adults; out of school time activities; youth engagement; high school completion; and work readiness.

ILLINOIS

The State Grantee: Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Youth Services and Delinquency Prevention

State Contracted Intermediary: The Youth Network Council, a non-profit organization in Chicago, builds capacity of organizations that provide opportunities and supports for youth and families. It has been engaged by the State as an intermediary to oversee the implementation of the demonstration in the local community.

The Demonstration Community: Illinois focused its demonstration effort on the community of Bronzeville. Bronzeville is located on the South Side of Chicago north of the University of Chicago. It was known historically as an African-American Metropolis dating from the first decades of the 20th century – a home to numerous nationally prominent, African-American owned and operated businesses and cultural institutions. Legendary figures from this community include Ida B. Wells, journalist, civil rights activist and organizer of the NAACP; Richard Wright, author; Bessie Coleman, the first African-American woman pilot; and Louis Armstrong, the legendary trumpet player and bandleader.

Bronzeville’s decline in the 1960’s and 1970’s, paralleled an overall decline of the Chicago economy sparked by difficulties of two major South Side industries, the stock yards and steel mills. Between 1960 and 2000, most major businesses closed or relocated and overtime Bronzeville came to include several of the poorest census tracts in the nation. According to the 2000 U.S. census, more than 35% of residents live below the poverty line and roughly 25% are unemployed. Less than half the community’s youth graduate from high school. The infant mortality rate is almost twice the state average and violent crime occurs five times more frequently than in the rest of Illinois.

At the turn of the 21st century, another wave of change is transforming Bronzeville. The Chicago Housing Authority under its Plan for Transformation has been demolishing all of its gallery style, high-rise housing projects and investing roughly a billion dollars in Bronzeville to replace them with low-rise mixed income housing. At the same time, a Chicago-wide housing trend has begun to bring significant numbers of middle class African-American’s to the community, reversing a pattern of out-migration extending for over 4 decades.

The Lead Local Partner: The Grand Boulevard Federation (GBF), Illinois’ local lead partner, is a broad-based community collaborative made up of representatives from community based institutions such as not-for-profit human service organizations, faith-based organizations, schools,

businesses, community residents, local representatives from city and state government, law enforcement and juvenile court system. BGF's mission is to increase the quality of life for children, youth, families and residents of Bronzeville by advocating for, and influencing policies, funding, programs, and strategies that maximize the effectiveness of the delivery of human and educational services, and enhancing the coordination of, and a access to these services and resources.

A. Increasing Opportunities for Young People

Positive Teen Lounge “Where We Kick It!”, Youth-led Youth Center:

In 2006-2007 PYDI worked towards the goal of increasing positive opportunities for youth by developing and implementing a youth and adult created strategic plan to develop e a teen lounge called "Positive Teen Lounge (PTL)- Where We Kick It!" to be up and running by October 2007 and community sustained by September 2008. Here youth will engage in civic engagement activities, youth-led service learning activities, youth-led programming and social activities.

The project secured a site for PTL at Robert Taylor Park District. Youth leaders negotiated the contract for a rent-free space to be exclusive used for the PTL on Mondays, Wednesdays and occasional Fridays for the 12-month period from August 22, 2007 through September 30th, 2008. In this community based location, which is accessible to public transportation, youth will have a quite place to study and receive tutoring, and have access to: full-court basketball (indoors and outdoors); a swimming pool; a boxing ring; and a game room. Youth have already received several donations for supplies for the PTL as well as secured commitments from several adult advisory board members for the PTL board. Youth have been managing the space since September 22, 2007.

Career Day:

This was a joint activity between PYD and Chicago Youth Programs held August 6th, 2005 at Chicago Youth Programs. Attendees included 13 PYD youth (including PYD youth volunteer); 2 PYD adults (including PYD project coordinator); 5 Employers; 17 guests. The purpose of this event was to introduce youth participants to various careers and to link them with possible employers (e.g., Job Corps; Teen Living Programs; a body builder; Eastern Illinois University; and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).

1st Annual Bronzeville Youth Leadership Summit:

Youth form the project worked on the Positive Youth Development Entrepreneurship and Employment Subcommittee to organize and facilitate a panel entitled, “Entrepreneurship vs. Professional Careers – Exploring Pathways to Career Success” for the Summit held March 31st, 2006 at the Apostolic Faith Church. The panel was a collaboration with two local social service agencies, two high schools and a community church. Funding was provided by United Way and the Kellogg Foundation Youth Initiative. 125+ youth and adults participated. The theme of the youth summit was “Leaders Today, Not tomorrow” and it was created by PYD youth.

Cultural Day:

A cultural day was held on August 19th, 2005 at the Little Black Pearl Workshop. Project youth secured the vendors and performers and provided all of the set up crew. Forty-nine participants included 18 youth in the FYSB project. The event featured: performances by project youth and professional entertainers; ethnic foods from several area restaurants.

Youth Police Forum:

This event, held on August 26th, 2005 at Kennicott Park, was funded in part by a \$500.00 grant from the Mayor Daley Summer Youth Mini-Grant and an anonymous donation of 100 food boxes. Community Participants included police officers from both the City of Chicago as well as Cook County. 55 participants included 18 youth from the FYSB demonstration. The forum included a panel session of officers and youth who fielded questions from the audience. It also included a role play that demonstrated issues of loitering, youth rights and communication between youth and police.

Peer Mediation/Peace Making Circle Train-the Trainer:

With funding from a \$5000.00 grant from the 21st Century Foundation, this event was held in April 2006 at the Hall Branch Library. In a collaboration with the Education and Parent Network, and Cease Fire Initiatives, project youth facilitated a series of trainings designed to educate youth, parents, school principals and community members on strategies to help unlearn violent behavior and become familiar with restorative justice, peer mediation and peace-making circles.

Peer Mediation/Peace Making Circle Training at Price Elementary School:

PYD youth facilitated a training on Peace-Making Circles in May 2006 at Price Elementary School. Participants included youth leaders, project staff, security guards, parents, teachers, an Assistant Principal and the Principal. Thirty nine adults and youth participated.

Youth Employment Campaign:

In January 2006 in partnership with the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization and Southwest Youth Collaborative, thirty-five (35) youth and three (3) adults including five (5) PYD youth and the PYD Project Coordinator traveled to Springfield to meet with elected officials in regards to youth unemployment in Bronzeville.

IOWA

The State Grantee: Iowa Department of Human Rights

The Demonstration Community: Iowa's project is focused on *Iowa City in Johnson County* located in Eastern Iowa. Johnson County is comprised of eleven cities and Iowa City, the home of the University of Iowa, is the largest.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2001 population of Johnson County was 111,230, which is an increase of 15.5% from 1990. Twenty-six percent of the population is under 18 years of age (compared to 31.5% for the state), 37.6% is under age 24, and 90.1% of the population reports their race as Caucasian (compared to 93.9% for the state). Ninety-four percent of the population 25 and older hold a high school diploma (86% for the state), 48% hold a bachelor's degree (21% for the state), and 21% hold a graduate or professional degree. Fifteen percent of the Johnson County population is below poverty (compared to 9% statewide) and 7% of the population ages 5-20 report having a disability.

The Lead Local Agency: Johnson County Board of Supervisors

Sub-grantee Local Agency: United Actions for Youth. Founded in 1970, United Action for Youth (UAY) is a non-profit organization partnering with youth, parents, and the local community to provide services for all teenagers 12-18 years old in Johnson County and surrounding counties in Iowa. The mission of UAY is to assist youth and families in helping themselves to a healthy future by offering youth development, counseling, and prevention programs that make use of young people's talents, creativity and energies. It is a place for youth

to have a voice and give back creatively to their community. Its array of programs are estimated to impact over 2,600 young people annually.

A. Increasing Opportunities for Young People

Youth Center:

In downtown Iowa City, the youth center is a staffed drop-in activity area, with an art studio, recording studio, and a youth volunteer center. In addition, partnerships with several providers expanded opportunities in locations in targeted neighborhoods, relying on Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County and school locations to expand after school programs. In the past four years there have been:

- Over 20 Art Exhibits, produced by youth;
- Multiple weekly recreation events, ropes course, summer workshops;
- 2 Community Garden projects that helped stock the food bank;
- Over 20 youth led Band shows promoting alcohol free choices for youth; several of the shows were in conjunction with adult partner organizations such as Jazzfest;
- Over 40 Art workshops in which youth learned new skills and organized public exhibits;
- Leadership training for peer helping, staffing a state-wide teenline, skills on facilitating community forums, assisting the Chamber of commerce leadership program and reaching out to youth in other communities;
- An Employment collaborative to train high school youth with very few job skills is resulting in job placements for previously unemployed youth;
- Youth have been an active part of Pregnancy prevention—through teen line, speaking at classes, and in organizing a new drama troupe;
- Street outreach to reach runaway and homeless youth in difficult neighborhoods that have high numbers of vulnerable youth has resulted in greater participation in all of the PYD activities.

Community Events Involving Youth:

Youth have visible leadership roles in planning and implementation (i.e. An annual flower show promotes youth services; Each quarter the Downtown Association sponsors gallery walks to local businesses that highlight some of the art work of youth; Organize a spoken word festival to promote reading in the community.

After-School Expansion:

In partnership with the Iowa City Schools, after-school—out of school programs expanded, which included multiple days each week in the summer. Some of this work further expanded anti-bullying, conflict resolution workshops, summer recreation, and projects to help with transitions to junior high and from junior high to high school

Iowa's Promise AmeriCorps Project:

This is a statewide project that supports youth development efforts in 17 communities. Through this project AmeriCorps members are working with local collaborative groups and youth-serving organizations to strengthen or expand a wide range of activities that reflect the five Promises. Members are focusing on after-school programming and youth engagement in community projects.

State of Iowa Youth Action Committee (SIYAC):

Established in 2000 by Governor Tom Vilsack as a way for high-school youth to communicate

and inform legislators on specific issues. SIYAC is a nonpartisan policy-advisory organization consisting of 15-17 high school students from across the state. Several state agencies within the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) have supported SIYAC by offering staff support, serving as mentors, and by using the collective SIYAC voice to help guide statewide projects impacting youth.

B. Community Participation in Program Development

Collaborative Funded Initiatives:

More than 20 funded youth development initiatives were developed with multiple community partners. Some of the most recent include:

- Academic Mentoring Project with the Iowa City schools
- AmeriCorps Communities of Promise statewide project
- Safe and Drug Free Communities – involving youth in designing media messages to their peers and educate the public at large
- Expansion of after-school programs at several area schools, Clear Creek, Regency trailer park, and other neighborhoods.
- Communities Empowering Youth capacity building project to help expand the technology used in youth development and to improve best practices with training.
- Expanded partnership with University of Iowa Ropes Course to broaden the involvement of youth in team building, Challenge Course programs.

Johnson County Youth Development Plan:

Citizen participation increased with the annual review of the County Youth Development plan done each year and aligned with the 4 result areas and matching the 3 FYSB Objectives, and 5 Promises. Additional planning focused on youth resource mapping, conducting youth-led multiple public forums to review data.

Communities of Promise:

Website: www.iowaspromise.org. The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) has adopted the America's Promise framework to communicate to Iowans the value of providing children and youth with the services, opportunities, and supports they need to succeed in life. There are 12 recognized Communities of Promise in Iowa, selected by ICYD. ICYD assists the Communities of Promise with community mobilization strategies and information dissemination on the 5 Promises.

C. Energizing Residents for Positive Youth Development

Community Commitment:

In the ten years since the initial FYSB project began, local funding for youth development from the county went from \$15,000 to over \$200,000 annually and now has its own line item in county budget. In addition there is frequent business sponsorship of events, such as the link with the Downtown association for Gallery Walks and band shows.

Youth Involvement:

Youth helped organize and create a City Youth Commission. They have an expanded role on the County Youth Development Policy Board, where they also help sponsor issue forums (i.e. violence, Search Institute Assets). Youth assisted in creating an Iowa City Chamber of Commerce youth leadership program. The youth in the project also got energized by

participating in several cross-community events. These included Peer Action regional meetings, the annual Risky Business conference for youth and youth workers, the FYSB Annual grantees meetings, and national youth conferences..

D. Policy Impacts

The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD):

Website: www.icyd.org. All of the identified state level achievements in youth development are attributable to the ICYD. The ICYD is a non-statutory network of 10 state agencies committed to improving results among Iowa's youth (ages 6 – 21). ICYD originally formed in 1999 to carry out the Youth Development State Collaboration demonstration grant from FYSB, with the purpose to better align and coordinate state youth policies and programs using a positive youth development results framework. A policy-level Steering Committee of agency administrators and a work group of state program managers comprise the core collaborative team. These state agencies have worked with several regional and community partners to develop a strategic plan for Iowa's youth. Following are accomplishments of the ICYD on policy issues:

- *Leveraged Funds* – ICYD has leveraged more than \$5 million dollars in new state, federal and private funding to support youth development efforts in Iowa in a collaborative manner, including grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Labor, America's Promise, the National Crime Prevention Council, and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.
- *Common Results Framework for Youth Development* – The ICYD state agencies have adopted a common results framework that has been shared with and been adopted in the Johnson County Youth Development Plan. It is outcome driven trying to use and compare data to state and national trends.
- *Learning Supports* – The Iowa Department of Education led the ICYD in the development of a design with six content areas (Supplements to Instruction; Family Supports and Involvement; Community Partnerships; Safe, Healthy, and Caring Environments; Transitions; and Child / Youth Engagement) intended to address the needs of students who encounter barriers that interfere with their learning at school. Ten communities are implementing the design on a pilot basis.
- *Children and Youth Cabinet* – ICYD is working with the Governor's Office to formalize ICYD and to raise the priority of youth development to the department director (cabinet) level.
- *Iowa Youth Survey* – Website: <http://www.iowayouthsurvey.org/>. In the fall of 1999, 2002 and 2005, students in the 6th, 8th, and 11th grades across the state of Iowa answered questions about their attitudes and experiences regarding substance abuse and violence, and their perceptions of their peer, family, school, and neighborhood/ community environments. Survey reports list responses to every question on the survey, providing total percentages and breakdowns by grade and gender. New for the 2005 reports are combined data presented in easy-to-read charts. Thirty-four constructs within nine framework domains are included. Reports are available in State of Iowa, School District, Counties, Judicial Districts, and Regional areas.
- *Capacity Building in Communities* – The ICYD has assisted Johnson County and other communities in developing:
 - Strategies to educate the community and other youth organizations
 - Provide opportunities for best practices sharing (i.e. Learning Supports)
 - Framing messages for targeted audiences
 - Youth development concepts and practice

- Results framework
- Educate state policy makers/executive legislative, and business leaders
- Connections to state and national networks
- Sustainability Planning
- Summarize Iowa Youth Survey Data and other results to be reviewed locally

Iowa City Youth Advisory Commission (YAC):

The City Council in Iowa City, Iowa created the Youth Advisory Commission on November 15, 2005 that is comprised of seven youth between the ages of 15 and 21 years of age, appointed by the City Council. The mission of the YAC is to promote understanding and awareness of Iowa City among Iowa City youth, allow a select group of youth to help make decisions concerning them and their peers, enable youth members to utilize and expand on their leadership abilities, to serve as a mechanism for communication between youth and adults in Iowa City and create a bridge whereon youth and adults can develop partnerships.

Joint Training Opportunities:

The project has greatly benefited from joint training for youth work, whether it was multiple local providers or with providers from other communities in Iowa. Examples of trainings: cultural competency training; Advancing Youth Development training for frontline workers and volunteers; Parents as Teachers and Lifeskills training for those curriculum; a multi-agency youth /adult resource mapping effort; and the Youth Program Quality Assessment that is measuring youth program effectiveness.

Youth Civic Engagement:

In Johnson County youth are firmly embedded in local planning participation, which include the City Steps plan for Iowa City, the transportation plan recently adopted, the work to develop the skateboard park, and the Iowa 2010 community meetings sponsored by the Governor in which he asked several of the youth to help as facilitators.

KENTUCKY

The State Grantee: Kentucky Youth Development Partnership

The Demonstration Community: Kentucky's demonstration effort is focused on ***Lexington in Fayette County***. Fayette County was formed in 1780 in the Inner Bluegrass Region of Kentucky. In 1974 Lexington consolidated the city and county governments into a single system with an estimated population of 260,512 and a total land area of 284 square miles – an average of 917.3 people per square mile. In Lexington-Fayette County, there are 65,226 young people under the age of 20. Children under 18, make up 21.7% of the total population. The ethnic makeup of the 55,533 youth under eighteen years of age is 74.2% white, 18.2% black and 3.9% Hispanic.

Most recent 1999 Census Bureau figures indicated that 12.9 % of the Lexington-Fayette County population was living below the federal poverty line. And the 2003 Kids Count reported the 2000 child poverty rate at 15%. Teen birth rates in the 2003 Kids Count report are stated at an improved 30% which still left Lexington-Fayette with a rank of 54th out of 120 Kentucky counties. The high school drop out rate of 5% was ranked 82nd in the state.

The Lead Local Agency: Partners for Youth Foundation. Partners for Youth is a non-profit 501C(3) organization that was established, by former Lexington Mayor Pam Miller, in response to the 1994 shooting death of an African American youth by a white police officer. Leaders from all segments of the community were brought together to develop effective ways to meet the needs

of Lexington's young people. LEXfusion, Lexington's PFY PYDSLCDP, established a community coalition, which works to improve the lives of economically disadvantaged youth and serve as the clearinghouse for local youth serving agencies.

A. Increasing Opportunities for Young People:

In 2006, 27 young people were involved in community perception mapping in two neighborhoods, and 39 involved in Community Youth Mapping. Both groups used surveys developed by Advancing Education Development, Center for Youth Development and Policy Research. After the mapping, these youth formed Neighborhood Youth Councils (NYC) to address issues unique to their micro-communities. Issues included safety, community image, lack of positive non-school hour programs and activities, and lack of resources available to young people and their families. NYC members were trained in the Project Citizen process for participating in public policy making. Project Citizen strategies include, identifying and prioritizing community issues, identifying potential partners, and advocating for policy changes. Neighborhood Youth Councils have met with the Mayor, had several meetings with council persons, and had presented to the entire city council.

B. Community Participation in Program Development

Partners for Youth engaged over 21 local agencies, including representatives of non-profits organizations, faith-community, government, schools, and community in the development of a three-year project mission and goals. Youth program participants, the Mayor's Youth Council, and Neighborhood Youth Council members participated as equal partners at every stage in the planning process. In addition, young people had an independent meeting to modify and give final approval of the mission and goals. A local Youth Service Providers Network was established to facilitate ongoing communications around intentionality of PYD efforts, including leadership development. Partners For Youth and the Provider Network is also working to implement Quality Counts, Ready By 21, which includes program assessments, workforce development training, and program landscape mapping in Lexington. In addition, Partners for Youth is the lead agent in a National League of Cities Technical Assistance grant for developing a long-term city-wide comprehensive plan for children and youth between the government and public school system.

C. Energizing Residents for Positive Youth Development

LEXfusion works to energize the community by developing a Newsletter to highlight the positive youth development approach, report on PYD champions, and announce program opportunities and city-wide activities for youth. On the behalf of Lexington, Partners For Youth applied for America's Promise, 100 Best Community for Young People designation. Lexington is one of only 27 cities in the United States that has received this designation three times in a row. Partners For Youth also developed a 100 Best Community report card, and hosted a city-wide 100 Best Community celebration to highlight and award youth services agencies. PFY also hosts an annual Spotlight on Youth celebration in down town, that features an opportunity fair, awards to youth / adult champions (individuals) and grass-root groups, and fun activities. Spotlight on Youth also featured a youth talent (visual and performing arts) show. Another way LEXfusion energize residents around the positive youth development approach is by hosting community awareness campaigns to promote the PYD message. LEXfusion members also have a visible presence at community meetings, including neighborhood association meetings. And LEXfusion members participate in community projects, mentor kids in other programs, and provide services to the elderly in their neighborhoods.

D. Policy Impacts

Documenting Youth Resources:

In 2004 Kentucky Conducted a Youth Policy Assessment that collected information about all statewide youth services and programs for young people ages 8-24 outside of the classroom setting. This work gives Kentucky, for the first time, a single source of information about the statewide resources, supports and services available for Kentucky youth ages 8-24. Now, using that information, we can develop a coordinated, comprehensive approach to using the resources we already have in the most effective way possible.

Developing PYD Legislation:

This research led directly to positive youth developed/youth services collaboration legislation signed into law by Governor Ernie Fletcher on April 5, 2006. Senate Joint Resolution 184 (SJR 184): Encouraging the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to create the Kentucky Youth Development Coordinating Council was introduced in the 2006 General Assembly and was passed unanimously by both houses. SJR 184 is a direct result of the KY Youth Policy Assessment conducted by the KYDP and KY Child Now in 2004/05. SJR 184 encourages the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services to create the Kentucky Youth Development Coordinating Council (KYDC). The Council is made of 14 heads of state agencies with youth services, a representative of the University of Kentucky, CES, 4-H Youth Development Program, three young people and ex officio representatives of the Kentucky Senate and House of Representatives. This Council is charged with developing a strategic plan for state youth services targeting young people ages 8-21.

Capacity Building:

The FYSB Demonstration grant has created a sustained capacity in Kentucky to deliver high quality positive youth development training to adults who work with young people throughout the state. The grant has helped create a demand for positive youth development training among state agencies, private nonprofit organizations and communities where there was none prior to the start of the demonstration. In February of 2004 the Kentucky Youth Development Partnership was designated a Building Exemplary Systems for Training Youth Workers Initiative Site by the Academy for Educational Development National Training Institute for Community Youth Work. Since the inception of the demonstration Kentucky has certified nearly 50 trainers to facilitate the Advancing Youth Development Curriculum, and has conducted positive youth development training for 3,131 adult youth service professionals with an average of over six hours per participant.

Leverage funds for purposes outlined in the Demonstration:

The FYSB Grant funds have allow the state of Kentucky to create an infrastructure to support positive youth development and service collaboration that has been able to leverage a total of \$3.9 million funds to directly support this effort over the life time of the grant (8 years). This is 3.25 times FYSB's initial investment.

LOUISIANA

The State Grantee: Louisiana Workforce Commission

The Demonstration Community: The State of Louisiana selected the greater capital area (East Baton and Ascension Parishes) as the local community for their demonstrations effort and gave the project a name – the “Youth Capital Area Network” or *YouthCAN* – to refer to the geographic

area and to encompass the positive spirit of the collaborative project.

The Capital Area (population 489,479) is a very high need community as evinced by 2000 Census data.³

- 13.6% of households earn less than \$15,000 per year (U.S. Census, 2000)
- 20% of the populations over the age of 25 do not have a high school diploma or equivalent (Louisiana Department of Education)
- 65% of the jobs in Louisiana require a 2-year associate's degree or advanced training whereas only 3% of the populations over the age of 25 have the necessary training (Louisiana Department of Labor)
- 18% of households in the local community are headed by single parents (U.S. Census, 2000)
- There are 4,260 people in this area classified as homeless; 923 of them are between the ages of 5 and 17 (U.S. Census, 2000)

The Lead Local Agency: Career Builders of Baton Rouge is an entity trained to function as an intermediary for the state – a local community partner that has the capacity for initiative and innovation and that is capable of accessing funds from multiple funding streams. It is also an organization capable of sustaining the community's involvement in collaborative change.

A. Increasing Opportunities for Young People

Career Max:

Career Max has provided 76 students with a strategic plan for post-secondary and entry into the workforce. The project matches aptitudes with opportunities. Youth guided by a certified career coach as they make decisions surrounding post-secondary education and careers. Participants are out-of-school youth, youth in the RHY program, over aged 8th graders (16 or older), and upper classmen at Istrouma High School.

Dollars and Sense:

This program has impacted 97 youth between the ages of 14 and 19. 23 of the youth have received financial literacy training through which they opened and successfully maintained bank accounts. Some of the seniors (46 to date) have received assistance they would not have otherwise received in applying for college financial aid. Another 51 participants have practiced budgeting for a "mock" business they set up and each month they meet to make key decisions on the how the businesses earnings will be appropriated. Youth were also taken through and intense virtual simulation entitled "Reality Store Express" where they had the opportunity to purchase a home, car, insurance, and more that is needed in young adult life.

Ptec...Just for Girls Summer Camp:

In an effort to expose females to technical careers in the petroleum industry, a non traditional field for women, Career Builders hosts a "PTEC Just for Girls Summer Camp." During the week long camp females from Istrouma High School applied principles of process technology (e.g., heat, pressure, distillation, shredding, filtration, and material separation) to make products that they use on a daily basis (e.g., lip gloss, scented candles, lotion, hair care products, and perfume).

³ United States Census Bureau, 2000 Census Demographic Profiles by Geographic Area; total population of "local community" is the sum of the total populations by area of both East Baton Rouge and Ascension Parishes (www.factfinder.census.gov).

The young ladies worked in teams and presented their products to a panel of judges representing our industry partners from organizations such as Huntsman (formerly Ciba), DEQ, Shell, and BRCC. The winning team was awarded a trip to Galveston Texas to visit the Ocean Star off shore drilling rig. The young ladies also learned valuable lessons in the areas of teamwork, conflict resolution, diversity, and time management.

Youth Oasis:

As a condition of their acceptance into the transitional living program, four youth receiving services from Youth Oasis are enrolled in Career Max and receiving one-on-one career coaching. Currently they are on track to complete the program and pursue some form of post secondary education.

Emergenetics Training:

This program was designed to give YouthCAN participants a better understanding of themselves, their parents, peers, mentors, employers, and the world around them. Emergenetics empowers the youth to make better business decisions, build stronger, more creative and productive teams, and communicate more effectively in their daily lives.

Odell S. Williams Now & Then Black History Museum:

During a visit the Curator of the museum gave the students a detailed overview of the struggles of yesterday and successes of today because of our ancestors. The students were educated about the museum, struggles, advancements, sacrifices, and successes of African Americans in North America. The overall purpose of the visit was to illustrate to the students that each time African Americans made significant strides it was through a collective effort. The students now have a heightened perspective on what community activism is all about. The students were also able to dress in African garb and partake in a tribal dance. A special presentation by a young lady that is a native of Africa really enlightened the students and helped to crush common myths about the continent of Africa. The students felt a sense of empowerment after finding out that their ancestors did not come from a legacy of poverty and shame. The staff at the museum was so impressed with the youth that they asked them to adopt the museum to improve the aesthetics, give it more exposure, and integrate technology to make it run more efficiently.

“Taking a Seat for Justice:”

Students were invited to attend “Taking a Seat for Justice: The 1960 Baton Rouge Sit-Ins” – a documentary by Rachel L. Emanuel, Ph.D. of the Southern University Law Center depicting the historical events surrounding the first sit-in demonstration case to be successfully argued before the U. S. Supreme Court. Sixteen Southern University students conducted the sit-ins at Sitman’s Drug Store, Kress Department Store, and the Greyhound Bus Station lunch counters in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to protest racial segregation laws, putting themselves and their college careers at risk.” The students were also able to “see and hear the outcome of the students’ heroic efforts in the rare audio recording and video footage of Southern University president Felton G. Clark, audio recordings of the United States Supreme Court 1961 hearings of the criminal case, and interviews with the sit-in participants, and their local attorney.” (Taking a Seat for Justice Documentary DVD Cover, Distributed by the southern University Law Center / Freddie Pitcher, Jr., Chancellor). The students also spoke to Mayor Kip Holden before the event. After the screening, the students were able to interview some of the “Southern Sit-In Sixteen” and get autographs.

Parent University:

This program’s primary focus is to help forge relationships between schools, churches and businesses has seen tremendous success as a result of their partnership with Career Builders.

Parent University also provides workshops to empower parents with the tools and information to better serve their kids. Workshops have been well attended with 300+ residents showing up for “Family and Friend Night” on two separate occasions. A community round table was also conducted with Career Builders serving as a facilitator to help ease the tension between long time residents and students and Katrina victims recently relocated in the community.

B. Community Participation in Program Development

YouthCAN Advisory Committee:

The Advisory Committee currently has 36 youth participating in a leadership role along with their parents. This committee is has served as the nucleus for youth visibility, civic engagement, and exposure to enrichment opportunities. A new structure for membership was added to the Youth Advisory Committee. This structure consists of 3 groups of the following: (1) Advisor (Career Builders Staff Member); (1) Parent Liaison (the parent is not allowed to be a liaison for the group their child is in); (2) Volunteers – Youth Advisory Committee Members that have recently graduated from high school; (2) Team Members – High school students; (4) Middle School Students; and (8) High School Students (1) Runaway/Homeless Youth. The students were selected for leadership positions based on their past involvement with activities and their support in the initiatives. Teams were selected based on the work rendered in the past. The students in leadership roles must go through leadership training within the next couple of months to support their role. The new roles aided with the recruitment of new members for YouthCAN, and helped to meet the deliverables set forth for the students and Career Builders. It also increased communication between the students and their peers as they accomplish their mandated goals in YouthCAN.

C. Energizing Residents for Positive Youth Development

YouthCAN Award Ceremony:

Youth were given the opportunity to show their successes from the past year and their plans for the future. They were responsible for assisting with the production of a documentary depicting their accomplishments which was displayed at the award ceremony. One of the goals of the ceremony was to increase participation by adults from the community. By showcasing youth from out targeted area we were able to generate additional support in YouthCAN. The Awards Ceremony was a huge success and from the documentary and other testimonies, others are seeking to have a program such as YouthCAN in their area schools and community.

Play: “Choices: Voices of Our Future:”

Career Builders major event for the summer of 2007 was the play “Choices: Voices of Our Future.” “Choices” is a two act play that features nine YouthCAN members acting in various ensembles to perform ten vignettes about situations in which young people are challenged to make choices that can affect their futures. The vignettes are powerful “role-plays” that touch on decisions about: pursuing higher education, remaining drug free, responsible sex, maintaining a healthy work ethic and others. The performance was taped and will be put on a DVD for use by schools, and youth-serving organizations.

Summer Heat’05, ’06:

The Summer Heat Festival is an annual day-long event initiated by Career Builders and YouthC.A.N. as an opportunity for local area summer program operators to provide information to District 7 youth and their caregivers about their summer offerings. About a dozen organizations, including the Baton Rouge Department of Parks and Recreation, participate by

setting up and staffing information tables, and distributing applications and information materials. Youth are offered on-the spot enrollment in various summer camps and summer enrichment programs – most of which are subsidized and offered at no or low cost to the families. The festival is held on a Saturday afternoon (between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.) in spring and it draws over 1,200 District 7 youth and family members. It is organized as fun event for the entire family – offering free food, music, games and recreation.

YouthCAN Video “07: As part of their ongoing outreach and marketing efforts, Career Builders to and YouthCAN members produced an eleven minute film explaining the goals of the project and providing youth testimony about their experience in the program; the need for positive youth development in the District 7 community; and the difference PYD has made in their lives.

MASSACHUSETTS

The State Grantee: Executive Office Of Human Services

The Demonstration Community: Massachusetts selected the City of Boston and specifically the Grove Hall section of Boston’s Roxbury neighborhood is the focus of the demonstration effort. The Grove Hall section of Roxbury is an area of high need. Boston, Massachusetts’ most populous city, has the highest rate of family poverty, the highest rate of injury and suicide deaths, the largest numbers of homeless people, the highest housing costs and the fourth highest rates for academic failure in the state. Risk factor rates for the Roxbury neighborhood are among the highest within the city of Boston and those same rates in the Grove Hall zip code are among the highest within Roxbury.

Grove Hall has a US Census 2000 population of 25,057 residents. The population is predominantly female, (55.9% vs.44% male), 77.3% black, 19% Hispanic, and 4.9% white. Twenty one percent of the population is foreign born with half of them non-citizens. Twenty eight percent of households speak a language other than English.

There are 3,650 households with children under age 18; sixty five percent of these households are headed by a female with no husband present. In 11% of the households with children under 18, the grandparent is responsible for raising the grandchildren. Twenty four percent of families live in poverty as do 33% of families with children under five and 44% of female-headed households with children under five. Seventy seven percent of residents rent and 67.7% percent have lived in their residence for less than five years.

Of the 18-24 year old population, 35% did not graduate high school. Forty two percent of the population over 16 is unemployed. Grove Hall has the highest number of firearm arrests within the city.

The Lead Local Agency: Youth & Police in Partnership Program (YPP), Children’s Services of Roxbury (CSR). Children’s Services of Roxbury is a community-based organization that has provided a broad spectrum of child welfare and family services and programs to economically disadvantaged infants, children, youth and families, in Roxbury and adjoining neighborhoods, for over 30 years. YPP is a program of CSR, in collaboration with the Boston Police Department, which seeks to: improve the relationship between inner-city youth, residents and the Police Department; and to address community problems.

A. Increasing Opportunities for Young People

State College Tuition Waiver Program:

Utilizing FYSB funds, MA worked with current and former foster youth to initiate, design and advance a State College Tuition Waiver Program for youth aging out of the foster care system. Over 2000 youth have received tuition waivers since the programs inception. Additionally, MA developed a Foster Child Grant Program which currently provides \$1.3M annually in financial aid to over 600 foster youth per year attending college. This effort is one of the most progressive college incentive programs for foster youth in the country.

Teen Dating Violence Campaign:

In partnership with youth and state agencies, MA designed a statewide Teen Dating Violence Campaign. Youth from the foster care system, public health peer leadership networks and the Department of Education Statewide Student Council used FYSB funds to form an unprecedented partnership to implement the campaign, which was cited by the Boston Globe for doing the “important work of building lives and communities without fanfare.” Through the effort, hundreds of teens were trained as peer leaders working to confront teen dating violence and sexually transmitted diseases.

EOHHS/Schools Initiative:

With FYSB funds, MA supported development of the EOHHS/Schools Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to increase school attendance of vulnerable children, especially those in state care, and to help schools better manage challenging student behaviors. The program is coordinated through an unprecedented collaboration between the MA Department of Education, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Juvenile Court, Educational Collaboratives and 18 local school systems.

B. Community Participation in Program Development

Community Roundtables:

Utilizing FYSB funds, youth from the “Youth and Police in Partnership Program (YPP) in Boston are conducting 3-4 “Community Roundtables” per month with youth who were incarcerated in juvenile detention facilities. Over 500 youth are involved in Roundtables each year. YPP youth facilitate discussions and develop skits around issues identified by youth in the facility, such as dating violence, peer pressure, gang recruitment and internet safety. Youth propose and discuss strategies for dealing with these issues.

Know the Law:

With support from FYSB, Boston Police and Boston’s Huntington Theatre, youth from the Youth and Police in Partnership program developed theatrical play entitled “Know the Law.” YPP conducts approximately 10 performances annually to over 1,500 high school and middle school youth. Additionally, YPP assisted in the design and production of a video entitled “You Be the Judge.” The video, which is enacted by youth and focuses on effective decision making, is shown at middle schools and is followed by a panel discussion where youth identify issues and solutions.

“Youth To Youth” Survey

Utilizing FYSB funds, youth from the Boston designed a “youth to youth” survey based upon an America’s Promise model. The survey was implemented in the neighborhoods of Boston that have the highest persistent homicide and shooting rates in the state. The survey focused on identifying gaps and strengthening the community assets related to youth, from a youth perspective. Findings from 100-150 surveys are being shared with community, city and state stakeholders. The results have been used to inform development of new programs and services.

C. Energizing Residents for Positive Youth Development

City of Brockton Blueprints Coalition:

Utilizing FYSB funds, MA supported development of a City of Brockton Blueprints Coalition that is chaired by the offices of the Mayor and local District Attorney. BBC has endorsed an America's Promise model and links government agencies to residents and community organizations through a network of "Promise Teams." This partnership contributed to a \$17M USDOL grant award, and development of an annual "Brockton After Dark" initiative that provides summer opportunities for youth. Brockton was named in 2006 by America's Promise as one of "America's 100 Best Cities for Youth".

Technical Support:

Utilizing FYSB funds, MA provided technical support to the suburban towns of Plymouth, Bedford, and Middleboro. Each of these communities has adopted a youth development approach and has utilized community partnerships to increase opportunities for youth. In recognition of their comprehensive youth-driven services, the town of Bedford was named in 2007 as one of "America's 100 Best Cities for Youth" by America's Promise.

Work with Grove Hall:

MA is now working with residents and community organizations from Boston's Grove Hall neighborhood. Grove Hall is an area with one of the highest homicide rates in the state; it's also an area with engaged residents and strong community/faith based organizations. FYSB funds have been used to support resident-driven initiatives including expansion of mental health resources, school safety initiatives and improved access to substance abuse services. MA is now working with residents to explore principles related to the "Harlem Children's Zone" model, and potential replication in Grove Hall.

D. Policy Impacts

Statewide Youth Policy Framework:

In a partnership between the Executive office of Health and Human Services, child protective services, juvenile justice, public health and labor agencies MA developed an unprecedented vision for youth and a statewide Youth Policy Framework based on an America's Promise model. The vision and Framework have been formally endorsed by several state agencies, communities and youth serving organizations.

Enterprise Technology

MA has been a leader in utilizing enterprise technology to support better decision making. With support of FYSB funds, MA brokered an agreement between child welfare, juvenile justice and MA DOE to share educational records of youth in state custody. They initiated an agreement between the state's juvenile justice agency and Medicaid to share medical and behavioral health information related to youth in state custody; and, they have utilized MassHealth data to identify youth concurrently involved with multiple state agencies through the "One Family One Plan Initiative."

Youth Development Within The Courts:

In collaboration with the Equal Justice Partnership, MA has used FYSB funds to intentionally integrate youth development principles within court system. MA conducted YD trainings for Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, juvenile court judges, and three juvenile courts. MA now requires a youth development approach in all procurements issued by the Governor' Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. MA has also supported the Suffolk County DA and Child

Advocacy Project's development of the Teen Prostitution Prevention Project, a groundbreaking initiative that serves some of the most highly victimized youth in the state.

NEBRASKA

The State Grantee: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

State Contracted Intermediary: At the recommendation of a citizens' task force, The Nebraska Children and Families Foundation was created in 1997 to unite Nebraska communities and government agencies in the mission of protecting children and preserving their families. The Foundation seeks to find the unmet needs and connect these needs to resources by actively developing partnerships and promoting real collaboration. Since its inception, Nebraska Children has focused on prevention services and the goal of having every child reach their full potential and participate as valued members of their communities. To date, Nebraska Children has awarded nearly \$7 million in grants to Nebraska communities and Native American tribes. Nebraska engaged the Foundation as its agent to oversee the implementation of the demonstration.

The Demonstration Community: The proposed community is the Native American community of the Panhandle of Nebraska. The panhandle area covers 14,600 square miles with a population of 90,410 according to the 2000 Census. It has the largest population of Native Americans in Nebraska – predominantly Lakota people residing in four panhandle counties of Box Butte, Dawes, Scotts Bluff and Sheridan. Because there is no federally established reservation in the Panhandle, the Lakota are not federally recognized in Nebraska and therefore do not have access to many services and resources without traveling to the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota.

According to Census 2000, just over 2300 Lakota people (2.2% of the total population) reside in the five towns of Gordon, Chadron, Rushville, Alliance, and Scottsbluff live in the four counties (Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan and Scotts Bluff) of the Panhandle of Nebraska. Most of their extended families reside in the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations in South Dakota, adjacent to the northern Panhandle. The community recreates and participates in cultural activities and celebrations together in the Pine Ridge area as there are few resources within the Panhandle community. The Chadron Native American Center (Dawes County), located in an old church, is the only facility within the Panhandle where Native American families and youth gather. There are no after school programs or recreation centers in any of the four counties.

Pine Ridge is the second poorest reservation in the United States, which places it among the poorest communities in the country. There is a lack of housing, and of the housing that does exist, 30% still lacks running water. The unemployment rate soars at over 70%. The Nebraska Health and Human Services Western Service Area Profile (Panhandle 2003) indicates the following:

- Proportion of single parent families was higher among Native Americans (37.3%) than it was among Hispanic Americans (19.6%) or whites (6.9%) in the Western Service Area.
- The proportions of Native Americans (30.4%) who have less than a high school education is twice as high as whites (14.9%)
- Native Americans have a much higher prevalence of cigarette smoking (54%)
- Native Americans are less likely to be physically active (20%)
- Native Americans are more likely to have no health insurance (22%)

Families move to the Panhandle from this reservation seeking a better life. In return for poor quality and over-crowded housing in the Panhandle, they sacrifice ties to extended family, access to health care, recreation and community life, and many aspects of the culture. Moreover, since they are not federally recognized in Nebraska, they sacrifice even the minimal federal resources available to other Native Americans.

The Lead Local Agency: Native American Health and Human Services Committee of the Panhandle Partnership for Health and Human Services. The Panhandle Partnership for Health and Human Services serves eleven counties in extreme Western Nebraska. This Partnership exists solely to ensure collaborative planning and development of health and human services to these counties. Nearly sixty organizations are represented in the membership.

A. Increasing Opportunities for Young People

Sons and Daughters of Tradition Curriculum:

A major accomplishment of the project is the Sons and Daughters of Tradition – a culturally based educational program that was initiated in the 6th and 7th grades in the Rushville Middle School. The curriculum has now been integrated into all Sheridan County schools for all students in grade 7 and as an elective in grade 8. The program reaches both Indians and non-natives as a means of promoting multi-cultural appreciation and improved race relations.

Lakota Language classes:

Loss of their cultural heritage is a major concern of the Panhandle's Native-American people. Through the efforts of the Circle of Courage, the Lakota community was able to collaborate with Sheridan County to offer Lakota language classes in grades K-12 in Sheridan County School.

State Recognition:

The Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP) recognizes the leadership, community and economic development efforts of communities across the state of Nebraska. Communities that are recognized have planned for the future, set goals, determined priorities and implemented project action plans. The project's Box Butte Youth Council was recognized by Governor Dave Heineman and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for Youth Involvement and Leadership.

B. Policy Impacts

The project in Nebraska was able to achieve several Statewide Impacts and Policy Accomplishments

Development of the Circle of Nations:

The Circle of Nations was founded to bring together youth from Nebraska's four federally recognized tribes, Winnebago, Santee Sioux, Ponca and the Omaha Nation, to enhance leadership skills, build valuable relationships and develop community awareness and involvement.

Governor's Youth Advisory Council:

The Governor's Youth Advisory Council (GYAC), is a group of young Nebraskans ages 14-19 that represents the diverse backgrounds of all Nebraskans and come from communities across the state. GYAC members meet regularly to discuss the challenges and potential solutions to issues that face the state's young citizens. In their roles, GYAC members have reviewed and influenced state legislation and public policy. As an example, GYAC helped empower foster youth by promoting a Foster Care Bill of Rights in 2005.

NEW YORK

The State Grantee: Office of Youth Development, Office of Children and Family Services

The Demonstration Community: The New York project targeted its demonstration efforts at the Section 8 neighborhood in the City of Rochester in Monroe County. Monroe County and the city of Rochester are located on the south shore of Lake Ontario, in the Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York. The County area is 663.21 square miles with nineteen towns, ten villages, the City of Rochester and eighteen school districts. There are eight two- and four-year colleges and universities in the County, seven hospitals, and 16,828 business establishments. Sixty-three percent of the population is enrolled in grades 1-12. The unemployment rate is 5.8%. Median household income is \$56,900 (per MSA 2003). The City of Rochester lies in the center of the County and is the third largest city in the state.

Based on the 2000 Census showed that:

- Monroe County had a population of 735,343 of which 219,773 reside in the City;
- Of the 141,637 youth aged 5-19 countywide; 32,932 resided in the City.
- 76% of city youth under 18 years old lived in poverty; compared to 33% of suburban youth;
- 84% of City youth were eligible for free or reduced lunch; compared to 16.1% of suburban youth and 41.3% Countywide;
- The city of Rochester the population was: 10% Hispanic, 32% African American and 53% White.
- The Monroe County population was: 4% Hispanic, 11% African American and 81% White.

Other data provided additional indications of the levels of community needs in a variety of areas such as:

- Community Economic Deprivation: families living in poverty increased 6.5% since 1990 to a total of 15,236 by 2000 (8% of all county families). Almost three-quarters of those families lived in the city (11,148) representing 23% of all city families.
- Public Safety and Weapon Availability: 16.1% of youth self-reported weapon use (2001 Monroe County. CDC YRBS).
- Family Conflict: The county and city overall rates for domestic violence remain well above the NYS excluding NYC rates (56.1/10,000). Monroe County rate is 100.7/10,000 and City rate is 238.3/10,000.
- Family Management: County rates of children in foster care are above the NYS excluding NYC rates. Monroe 4.8/1,000 in foster care; NYS 3.6/1,000; Monroe 3.3/1,000 admitted; NYS 2.1/1,000 admitted (NYS OCFS 2001 data).
- Academic Failure: There has been a steady decline in the proportion of county 8th graders who meet or exceed the state standards.
- Antisocial Behavior: Middle school students in city schools are suspended at rates that are about 10 times higher than the suburbs.

Sector 8 is located in east-north-east Rochester. It comprises five of the thirty-six neighborhoods in Rochester. Sector 8 includes 7,543 youth 0-18 and 7,135 persons 18-34. Youth under 18 account for about 24% of the total sector population. This sector is one of the high need areas of Rochester. For example, in recent data collected by the Center for Youth Services, one of the zip

codes in this sector had the highest number of shelter intakes. This same zip code has recently been identified as having the highest participation in a new juvenile justice community initiative.

The Lead Local Agency: Community Place of Greater Rochester, Inc. Formed from a merger of three settlement houses (Lewis Street Center, Genesee Settlement House, and Eastside Community Center) in 2001, The Community Place of Greater Rochester has provided cost-effective, high-quality developmental and social programs and services to residents in the northeast sector of Rochester, New York and throughout the greater Rochester area. For over one hundred years, it has offered neighborhood-based supplemental services to youth in the Northeast quadrant of Rochester particularly at Dr. Freddie Thomas High School and Frederick Douglass Preparatory School.

A. Increasing Opportunities for Young People

Job Training:

To date, one hundred and sixty-nine young people have participated in job readiness/work experience/leadership development activities for which they have earned stipends and performed valuable community services. These projects included asset mapping, community gardening, media literacy projects, and community events such as a Health Fair, Family Fun Day, and Thanksgiving Dinner, each of which was attended by hundreds.

Conflict Resolution:

One group of youth was part of a team that developed a puppet-based conflict resolution program that has already been used with hundreds of local youth and will be rolled out to even more, with an associated media campaign.

National Conference:

Youth and adults were recognized at two national conferences. A group presented on the project at the Search Institute conference in November 2007, and a documentary video about the life of Frederick Douglass produced by youth and adults was highlighted at the Underground Railroad Conference in September 2007.

B. Community Participation in Program Development

Community Steering Team:

A Community Steering Team composed of youth and adults came together to identify opportunities to enhance the community and increase opportunities for youth. One hundred thirty-six individuals participated overall and meetings were held twice a month for sixteen months. Seven projects were identified; two are underway; grant funding was secured for two projects.

Asset Mapping Pilot Project:

Due to the infrastructure built through the Youth Adult Partnership Initiative, the coalition was accepted to be part of an asset mapping pilot project through the Connecticut Asset Network and C-CAMP (Community Asset Mapping Project). Over the summer of 2007, fifty-nine youth completed asset mapping surveys with over 160 neighborhood residents. The data has been presented to the City of Rochester and several community associations, and will be used to bring youth and adults together around common interests and skills.

Field Trip:

A cadre of youth and adults traveled to Boston Massachusetts for facilitative leadership training; these individuals will sustain the work of the partnership and increase the collective capacity of the group to work together to get things done.

C. Energizing Residents for Positive Youth Development

Community Events:

Youth and adults worked together to organize and implement several events to energize constituents for positive youth, family and community development, including a Community Health Fair (estimated attendance 350), a series of televised conversations around Love and Forgiveness, a Community Cookout (estimated attendance 250), and a Senior Appreciation Event.

Message Dissemination:

Youth worked as part of a team to produce public service announcements disseminating positive messages about dealing with conflict for younger youth.

D. Policy Impacts

Civic Engagement:

One youth involved in several project activities was asked to serve on the Rochester Mayor's Youth Advisory Group; participating youth also gave input into issues including the city's curfew and the planning for the Rochester Children's Zone.

Juvenile Reentry:

Conversations among project partners occurred around issues of more effective strategies for working with youth returning to the community from juvenile facilities. These strategies, developed by youth for youth, would integrate resources and opportunities for youth with a goal of increasing positive youth outcomes and decreasing the recidivism rate of returning youth. Plans are now in development.

OREGON

The State Grantee: Oregon Commission on Children and Families

The Demonstration Community: Lane County is a large county located in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, approximately 65 miles south of the state capital of Salem. The County has both urban and rural areas, and there has been an increase in the Hispanic, Asian and Pacific Islander populations. Although, manufacturing jobs have increased over the past few years, rural communities' economic base was seriously weakened with the loss of timber related jobs. Lane County is 1 of 17 counties considered a distressed area, based on economic stress. While economic indicators are positive in some areas of the county, a rising poverty level indicates a growing gap between the "haves" and the "have nots." The rate of children living in foster care has increased steadily since 1990, and the number of homeless children (grade 12 and below) in state-supported shelters increased significantly between 1992 and 1999.

The Lead Local Agency: Lane County Commission on Children and Families. The Lane Commission on Children and Families is an 18-member board established in 2003 to promote and enhance a responsive, accessible system of supports that promotes wellness for all of Lane County's children, youth, and families.

A. Increasing Opportunities for Young People

Mini-Grants for Girls:

Rural Communities Mini-Grants to outreach and provide services, supports and opportunities to girls 9-14 who are isolated or in at risk situations. Approximately 150-175 girls were served in six rural communities.

Girls Summit:

Girls Summit for girls and young women to participate in leadership and advocacy conference to take action in their local communities. (1,300 girls and young women attended this Summit.)

Training Scholarships:

Stipends or scholarships provided to youth to attend various regional, state or national leadership training or conferences; and participate in state level efforts (e.g. policy development, project planning and implementation).

Compassion Capital Grant:

A local partner (Looking Glass Family and Youth Services in Eugene) submitted and secured a federal Compassion grant: Community Empowering Youth in the amount of \$750,000 for three years with support from state and local partners including OCCF interested in meeting the needs of homeless and runaway youth. As a result, the Eugene Youth Action Board (local PYD pilot) will received \$150,000 to engage and provide opportunities for young people to assist in meeting the objectives of this project grant.

B. Community Participation in Program Development

Youth Celebration:

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) planned and executed a youth celebration in downtown Eugene, OR comprised of 13 time-slotted events including: music, rap and dance performances as well as poetry, awards presentations and an open Mic – all orchestrated by and featuring Eugene's young people. The Celebration also featured an Art Exhibit of works contributed by young people. Youth instructors taught arts and crafts. And more than dozen youth-serving organizations displayed literature and provided program information about their offerings and opportunities.

Regional Influence:

Twenty-two (22) out of 36 counties included positive youth development strategies and activities in their comprehensive plans for children and youth 0-18 years of age. Local citizens (youth, lay citizens, public and private agencies, faith based and civic groups, etc.) and professionals help identify priorities to meet the needs of youth and families.

C. Energizing Local Constituents for Positive Youth Development

Public Awareness Campaign:

Launch Oregon Positive Youth Development Public Awareness Campaign (Get Real: Connect with Youth) that targeted over 96% of the household through radio, television and other promotional strategies in the metropolitan areas and distributed to key markets statewide.

State-level TrainingPartnerships:

Establish state level partnerships to leverage resources for statewide Positive Youth Development Training and Youth Summits to promote and engage youth, local citizens, organizations working together to address community issues (e.g. adolescent pregnancies, alcohol and drug prevention, etc.) Over 4,500 youth and adults received positive youth development training at the state and within local communities.

D. Policy Impacts

Passage of HB 2202 that directed the Oregon Commission on Children and Families to meet with state and local partners to specifically develop recommendations to meet the service needs of homeless and runaway youth in Oregon.

2007 Legislature approved 1 million dollars of new funds in the OCCF budget to coordinate a system and/or better address the need of homeless and runaway youth in local communities.

Adoption of Oregon Positive Youth Development benchmark to measure PYD attributes among 8th and 11 graders on an annual basis.

Movement toward a Children's' Collaborative:

The Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) – comprised of state agency heads, education, local public and private organizations, and legislators – has agreed on a shared “vision” for children and youth (up to age 24) and families in Oregon. Current OCCF members are appointed by the Governor but the Commission is planning to invite other key agency heads in order to become a “Children Collaborative” that will make policy recommendations, coordinate efforts, and be the voice for children, youth and families in the state.

CONCLUSION

This report is not put forward as an evaluation of the PYDSLDC Demonstration nor is it intended to present the full story of the experiences of the youth and adults who contributed to and/or participated in these achievements and events. Instead, the report highlights only a few selected outcomes, from the grants awarded in these demonstrations, as a means of illustrating the array of results pursued and achieved through the collaborative model FYSB has espoused. And while a formal evaluation is needed to accurately assess the outcomes and impacts of this work, FYSB believes that the observations reported above do provide sufficient evidence to suggest that these collaborative efforts are promising approaches to the positive development of the nation's youth.