



Department of Community  
and Human Services

# YOUTH TOPICS NEWSLETTER

IN THE AUGUST 3 EDITION:

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CAREERS/VOLUNTEERISM

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## EVENTS

### **2016 Assembly for Health Equity and Prosperity (August 4 – 5)**

The Institute for Alternative Futures, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and leaders representing health, business, non-profit, philanthropy, education, faith, housing and other sectors are convening an [assembly](#) at the University of Maryland, College Park to create and promote an action plan for achieving health equity and prosperity throughout the nation. Online registration for the event is closed. If interested in learning more about this event or wish to inquire about on-site registration, please contact [Jonathan Peck](#) or [Kelly Gourdin](#).

### **Rebuild Your Professional Career in the U.S. (August 5)**

A professional resource fair for those with a degree from outside of the United States and an interest in accounting, engineering, entrepreneurship, healthcare, informational technology, international contracting or teaching will be held from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Schlesinger Center on the NVCC Alexandria Campus (4915 E. Campus Drive). Learn about certification and licensing procedures; meet and hear internationally trained professional testimonials, and network with employers and service providers. Space is limited; [reserve](#) a seat online.

### **Youth Arts Festival (August 6)**

The festival will showcase the talents of youth around the city and serve as a forum of expression for both visual and performing arts. The event from 1- 5 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center (2701 Commonwealth Ave.) is free of charge and will include artists, music, entertainment, and food vendors.

### **Mind/Game: The Unquiet Journey of Chamique Holdsclaw (August 10)**

A [screening](#) of the film profiling the mental illness and near suicide of “the female Michael Jordan” is scheduled for 2 – 3:30 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Labor (200 Constitution Avenue NW). The free event will be followed by a moderated conversation with Chamique Holdsclaw and Academy-Award nominated filmmaker Rick Goldsmith. [RSVP](#) by August 4.

### **Financial Literacy Workshop (August 10, 24)**

The Youth Career Academy of the City of Alexandria Workforce Development Center is hosting a [workshop](#) from 10 – 11:30 a.m. to help 16 to 24 year olds better understand credit, budgeting and money management. Pre-register [online](#) or contact Tiffany Gray (703.746.6046) or Emily Coopwood (703.746.5997).

### **Second Thursday Art Night (August 11)**

Enjoy an Endless Summer evening at the Torpedo Factory Art Center (105 N. Union St.) Attend exhibition receptions and meet the artists who have work on view in *Dotted Space* in Target Gallery, *Landschap* and *Taking Shape* in The Art League Gallery, *Decathect: a verb* in The Associates Gallery, and *Magic and Color* in Sites 2 & 3. *The Glimpses*, an Alexandria folk rock/Americana duo, performs all evening. Outside, sit side-by-side with some of the Torpedo Factory’s artists to paint plein air by the waterfront.

### **Annual Alexandria Youth Leadership Conference (August 15 – 17)**

The conference affords rising ninth through twelfth grade students the opportunity to participate in meaningful workshops that will improve their leadership skills and help them become a youth leader in Alexandria. The free

event at Shiloh Baptist Church (1401 Duke Street) is scheduled for 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Register [online](#) or complete the [Youth Leadership Conference 2016 Registration form](#) and send to kim.hurley@alexandriava.gov.

### **Alexandria Girls Soccer Clinic (August 23-25)**

The **event** sponsored by Casa Chirilagua, Alexandria Soccer Association, and Alexandria Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities will take place at Four Mile Park Soccer Field (4109 Mt. Vernon Avenue) is from 9 a.m. – Noon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>; 4 – 7 p.m. on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The registration deadline is August 19. To register, contact [Joe Regotti](#) (703.746.4502).

### **Getting Strategic about Advancing Your Volunteer Program (August 25)**

Hosted by Volunteer Alexandria, the training session will cover how to educate leadership about the value of volunteer programs as well as how to earn a more influential seat at the decision-making table. The training will be held at the office of Volunteer Alexandria (123 N. Alfred St.) from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

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## **CAREERS/VOLUNTEERISM**

### **Volunteer Are the Heart of Alexandria**

Nonprofit organizations are encouraged to nominate their volunteer stars for an award given by Volunteer Alexandria to show their appreciation for selfless commitment to volunteering. All nominees will be acknowledged at the event from 6 – 8:30 p.m. at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. [Nominations](#) are due September 1.

### **Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards**

Based on the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam*, or “repair of the world,” the [Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards](#) celebrate Jewish teens who have demonstrated remarkable leadership and are actively engaged in projects that embody the values of *tikkun olam*. Teen projects may benefit either the Jewish or global community. Up to fifteen teens will be acknowledged for their visionary project with an award of \$36,000 to be used to further their project or education. Nominees must be between the ages of 13 and 19 at the time of nomination, be working to repair the world in a leadership capacity, be volunteering without compensation, and self-identify as Jewish. While complete application packages are due on January 4, 2017, all nominations must be received no later than December 18.

### **English Language Specialist Program**

The US Department of State [recruits](#) U.S. academics and professionals in the fields of teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) and applied linguistics to deliver and maintain quality English programs overseas. The English Language Specialists assist U.S. Embassies in delivering and maintaining quality English language programs overseas and promoting mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries. U.S. Embassies identify and define the English Language Specialist assignments, which may include teacher training, curriculum and textbook development, or host institution program evaluation. In some cases, digital video conferences or webinars are used to deliver trainings or consultations.

### **Princeton Arts Fellowships**

The Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University is accepting [applications](#) from early-career poets, novelists, choreographers, playwrights, designers, performers, directors, filmmakers, composers, and performance artists who would find it beneficial to spend two consecutive academic years at Princeton. The normal work assignment will be to teach one course a semester, but fellows may be asked to take on an artistic assignment in lieu of a class such as directing a play or creating a dance with students. An \$80,000-a-year stipend is provided through the program. Fellowships are not intended to fund work leading to an advanced degree. Online applications are due September 19.

### **African Humanities Program Fellowships**

The [African Humanities Program](#) of the American Council of Learned Societies seeks to reinvigorate the humanities in Africa through fellowship competitions and related activities in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. In partnership with the Carnegie Corporation of New York, AHP offers African scholars an integrated set of opportunities to develop their individual capacities and to promote the formation of scholarly networks. Fellowship stipends give recipients an academic year free from teaching and other duties for the completion of their Ph.D dissertation or to revise it for publication, or in support of the first major research project after the Ph.D. Applications are due November 2.

### **Pre and Postdoctoral Training Awards**

The Pre- and Postdoctoral Training Awards and Medical School Gap Year Research Training Awards [program](#) of the Autism Science Foundation is inviting applications from graduate students, medical students, and postdoctoral fellows interested in pursuing careers in basic and clinical research relevant to autism spectrum disorders. Special consideration will be given to projects focused on gender issues in autism. The one-year awards are \$25,000 for pre-doctoral and medical students and \$35,000 for postdoctoral students. The deadline for applications is November 18.

### **Physician-Scientist Training Award**

The Damon Runyan Cancer Research Foundation is accepting applications for an annual [program](#) that provides physicians who wish to pursue careers in cancer research with the opportunity for a protected research training experience under the mentorship of a highly qualified mentor after they have completed their clinical training. The award will provide up to \$460,000 over four years in financial support. In addition, the foundation will retire up to \$100,000 of any outstanding medical school debt owed by the grant recipient. Physician-scientist applicants (M.D.s only) must have completed their residencies and clinical training, be a U.S. Specialty Board eligible prior to the award start date, and be able to devote at least 80% of their time and effort to Damon Runyon-supported research. Applications are due December 1.

### **ACS Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences**

The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation [award](#) recognizes significant accomplishments by individuals in the United States who encourage disadvantaged students to choose careers in chemical sciences and engineering. Eligible nominees may come from any professional setting, including academia, industry, government, or an independent facility. The award consists of \$5,000 and a certificate. A grant of \$10,000 will be made to an academic institution, designated by the recipient, to strengthen its activities in meeting the objectives of the award. Up to \$1,500 for travel expenses to the meeting at which the award will be presented will be reimbursed. Applications must be received by November 1.

### **Healthcare System Reporting Fellowships**

The Association of Health Care Journalists Reporting Fellowships on Health Care Performance support U.S.-based journalism projects that hold the promise of informing and educating the public. The [fellowship](#) provides funding for seminar trips, including food, lodging and travel within the United States, a project allowance of up to \$4,000 and a \$2,500 fellowship award for the successful completion of the project. Candidates should be experienced journalists with expertise in health reporting. Applications are due October 10.

### **Psychology and AIDS Leadership Awards**

Two [awards](#) will be granted each year — one in the category of Emerging Leader and one in the category of Distinguished Leader. Successful candidates will have made significant contributions in the areas of policy/advocacy, research; service provision, and teaching/mentoring. Nominees should be "emerging" or "distinguished" leaders in one or more of the areas of influence. Emerging leaders are psychologists who have received their doctorate within the past ten years, have made substantial contributions to the field of HIV/AIDS, and show promise of an extensive, influential career. Distinguished leaders are psychologists who have worked for ten years or more after receiving their doctorate. Nominations are due September 1.

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## **RESEARCH & RESOURCES**

### **ACPS Back-to-School Supply Drive**

The FACE Center aims to provide supply filled backpacks to 3,000 ACPS students before school starts on September 6. [Help](#) is needed in order to reach that goal.

### **ACPS Announces Free and Reduced School Lunch Qualifications**

ACPS has announced its [policy](#) for providing free or reduced price meals for children served under the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs for the 2016-17 school year.

### **Special Education Video Series: Public Safety Considerations for Children with Autism**

The ACPS Special Education Parent Resource Center has compiled a [series of videos](#) about topics of interest to parents of students with special instructional needs. View the final video in the series in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Amharic](#) and [Arabic](#).

## **Get Ready to Save: Three-Day Sales Tax Holiday**

Virginia has announced a [three-day sales tax holiday](#) from 12:01 a.m. on Friday, August 5 to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 7. Shoppers will be able to purchase qualifying school supplies, clothing and footwear without paying sales tax.

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## **EDUCATION**

### **A Persistent Divide: New Federal Data Explores Education Disparities**

According to new federal [data](#), a deep gulf between the educational experiences of traditionally disadvantaged student groups and their peers on a broad range of indicators persists in U.S. public schools.

### **Instructional Improvements Can Help Close the Racial Discipline Gap, Study Finds**

A new [study](#) by researchers from the University of Virginia, Rutgers University, and the University of British Columbia looked at 86 middle and high school teachers from five Virginia schools in a randomized controlled trial that examined the effects of a two-year teacher-coaching program (the teachers were unaware of the study's purpose). The conclusion was personalized professional development in instructional improvement can lead to reduced and more equitable disciplinary referrals—posing a possible solution to the racial discipline gap in schools, where black students are more frequently and more severely punished for the same infractions as their non-black peers.

### **Fairfax County Pushes for Equity in Public Decisions**

One Fairfax is designed to help county decision-makers identify and improve policy and institutional strategies not only to eliminate gaps, but to increase success for all. Such strategies will address disparities in such wide-ranging areas as juvenile justice, education, employment, self-sufficiency, health, and child welfare. Seen as a driver for the county's future economic success, the [county-wide focus on equity](#) is an integral component to improving educational, health, and life outcomes for all youth in Fairfax County. The resolution is intended as a joint effort between the Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County School Board, with the School Board slated to review the resolution later this month.

### **More US Schools Accused of Denying Education to Immigrants**

Civil rights lawyers have [sued](#) a third U.S. school district over what they call a practice of denying older refugee and immigrant students a meaningful education by steering them to alternative high schools. The plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit filed in Pennsylvania are refugees ages 17 to 21 who came to the U.S. from Myanmar, Sudan and other war-torn countries. The American Civil Liberties Union said the Lancaster School District has steered at least 30 students over three years to a disciplinary high school, denying them the classes and services offered at the traditional high school.

### **Study Says District of Columbia Parents Picked Schools Based on Race, Distance**

A new [study](#) by Mathematica Policy Research found parents in the District of Columbia's school system made decisions about where to send their children to school based on how the schools' racial makeup matched their own children along with distance and academic performance. Researchers analyzed data from 22,000 applicants in the 2014 school lottery in Washington, D.C. for 200 traditional public and charter schools. The paper revealed similar findings as other studies—academic performance and distance are major factors in school decisions. But the researchers went deeper to find to what extent the racial makeup of the school and distance played as factors. Middle school parents were willing to travel a half-mile farther to go to a school if 50% of students are the same race as their children. But they were willing to drive even farther to avoid having their children be in a small minority—say a school where 10 versus 20% of the students are in the same group.

### **Schools Prepare to Confront Questions on Race and Policing**

As the nation responds to the aftermath of another spate of high-profile police-related shootings, educators are wading, once again, into [thorny issues](#) of police violence, bias, and America's still unfinished struggle with race.

### **Appeals Court Backs School Resource Officer in 7<sup>th</sup> Grader's Arrest, Handcuffing**

A divided federal appeals court has [upheld](#) a school resource officer's arrest and handcuffing of a New Mexico 7th grader for disrupting his class with "fake burps." A panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit ruled 2-1

that the officer was immune from liability because it was not clearly established that the student's classroom disruptions were not in violation of a New Mexico law that prohibits interference with the "educational process" at any public or private school.

### **Trends in State and Local Expenditures on Corrections and Education**

A [policy brief](#) by the U.S. Department of Education examines state-by-state trends to compare the extent to which state and local governments are investing in education and in corrections.

### **Federal Budget Process Explained in Four Slides**

The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) has developed a downloadable primer on the federal budget process. Explaining the who, what, when and how of the federal budgeting process in [four slides](#), APHSA summarizes key terms and committees, and outlines the appropriations process from budget request to passage.

### **Early Childhood Care & Education**

#### **Child Care in America: 2016 State Fact Sheets**

The [fact sheets](#) provide community leaders and policymakers with important data regarding the state of quality child care and early learning in their respective states.

#### **The Early Childhood Workforce Index**

A [report](#) by The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at the University of California, Berkeley establishes a baseline description of early childhood employment conditions and policies in every state as well as tracks progress on a state-by-state basis.

#### **Coalition Offers \$2 Million Grant for "Moonshot" STEM Early-Ed. Projects**

A coalition of government agencies, private companies and nonprofits is offering a \$2 million grant for "[moonshot](#)" ideas to enrich early childhood STEM education. The coalition of more than 280 partners was created with the "moonshot" goal of bringing 100,000 qualified STEM teachers to classrooms across the nation by 2021.

#### **New Toolkit for Generating Public Dollars for ECE**

The North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation and North Carolina Budget and Tax Center created a [toolkit](#) featuring local funding mechanisms that can be used to generate revenue to expand investment in early childhood programs. The toolkit highlights current federal and state funding streams used to pay for early education programs and is a guide for citizens and advocacy groups on how local governments make budget decisions.

#### **New York City Will End Suspensions for Students in K-2**

The New City school district will [end suspensions](#) for students in kindergarten through second grade and employ alternative, "age-appropriate" discipline methods.

#### **Parenting Matters: Supporting Parents of Children Ages 0-8**

Decades of research have demonstrated that the parent-child dyad and the environment of the family—which includes all primary caregivers—are at the [foundation](#) of children's well-being and healthy development.

### **Technology**

#### **Online Algebra Worse for High-Achieving Students, Study Finds**

High-achieving North Carolina 8<sup>th</sup> graders who took Algebra 1 online [performed worse](#) than similar students who took the course in a traditional classroom, according to a new study from researchers at Northwestern University.

#### **Baltimore Maker Education Goes Mobile in Open Works Van**

One of the country's largest maker spaces unveiled a [mobile option](#) in the form of a van. "We went on a listening tour and found out how people might want to use this van for education, to improve their neighborhoods, and for workforce development," said Open Works general manager Will Holman at the unveiling. Models from around the country also influenced the van's design, which includes a large blank space on its side to be used as a whiteboard and portable 3-D printers.

### **STEM and Special Ed. Teachers Could Receive Thousands of Dollars to Teach**

As districts across the country struggle to fill hundreds of specialized teaching positions before school starts, some are turning to [one-time bonuses](#) to sweeten the deal.

### **More STEM Programs Needed to Expose Families to Careers, Says PTA Paper**

While families play a prominent role in helping their children choose professions, many parents are unaware about opportunities in STEM careers. According to a new [paper](#) by the National PTA, few engagement programs are available to help them find out.

### **Vouchers Put Some Parents in Squeeze on Special Education Rights**

Under Ohio's Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program, the mother of a child diagnosed with having dyslexia and dyscalculia as a 1st grader had to [waive](#) her daughter's individual right to special education services under federal law in return for accepting a voucher for enrollment in private school.

### **U.S. Issues Federal Guidelines to Prevent Discrimination Against Students with ADHD**

The U.S. Department of Education has issued [guidelines](#) aimed at preventing schools from discriminating against the growing numbers of students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. In a letter to school districts as well as a "know your rights" document on its website, the department said schools must obey existing civil rights law to identify students with the disorder and provide them with accommodations to help them learn.

## **Teachers**

### **Teacher Burnout May Be Linked to Students' Stress, Study Finds**

A [study](#) by the University of British Columbia and published in the journal *Social Science & Medicine* found a possible connection between teachers' burnout levels and students' cortisol levels, a hormone that indicates stress.

### **U.S. Teachers Have Middling Literacy and Numeracy Skills: Report**

When compared to both their peers internationally and fellow American college graduates, a group of researchers concluded U.S. teachers have [middling](#) math and literacy skills. Boosting salaries would be one way to attract higher-skilled individuals into teaching.

### **N.C. Bill Could Prevent Teachers From Practicing Civil Disobedience**

A North Carolina [bill](#) currently going through the legislature states that teachers who are "at the scene of ... disorderly conduct" could lose or not receive their teaching licenses, prompting outrage among educators.

### **U.S. Schools Need More Teachers to Be 'Ambassadors', Report Says**

Two recently released [national surveys](#) reported that the overall level of engagement and job satisfaction among educators is fairly low. According to a Gallup Business Journal two-part series that analyzed existing Gallup data, U.S. school districts need more "brand ambassadors," or people who love their children's schools and go out of their way to promote and advocate for the district.

### **Renowned Educator Rafe Esquith, Fired for Misconduct, Returns to a Classroom**

The nationally renowned elementary teacher Rafe Esquith, who was fired by the Los Angeles Board of Education last year amid allegations of misconduct, is [back in a classroom](#). Esquith was suspended last spring after joking that his fifth graders might have to perform in their next Shakespeare play naked if they did not raise enough money for the production—a reference to a passage in *Huckleberry Finn*, which the class was reading.

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## **YOUTH WELL-BEING**

### **Embracing Pokemon Go: Some Youth Organizations Jump in the Game**

Middlesex Community College in Bedford and Lowell, Massachusetts, has added two weeklong [Pokemon Camps](#) to its lineup of summer camps for youth. Some YMCAs and Boys & Girls Clubs are drawing attention to the Poke Stops (in-game markers and hot spots for Pokemon activity) in their area.

### **As Pokémon Go Becomes a Sensation, Ed. Experts Weigh Pros and Cons**

Educators say they see opportunities to [capitalize](#) on students' love for the game in the teaching of subjects like social studies, local history, math, mapping, and literacy.

### **Teachers Explore Uses of Pokémon Go With Autistic Students**

Parents of children with autism and experts have said that the real-time experiential aspect of the game and its visually-stimulating content can be the [encouragement](#) children on the spectrum need to go out, explore, and make friends.

### **Can Screen Time Be Educational for Toddlers?**

Some TV shows, games and apps are more developmentally appropriate for preschool children than others. And just as important as the choice of media is the [role](#) parents play in how their children consume it.

### **Researchers Draw Link Between Physical Activity, Academic Success**

A [consensus statement](#) published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine* suggests physical activity can also contribute to students' academic success.

### **Children's Concussion Rates May Be Wildly Underestimated in U.S.**

According to a [study](#) published online in *JAMA Pediatrics*, a vast majority of children with concussions go to primary care doctors rather than the emergency department, which may lead to youth-concussion rates being drastically underestimated.

### **Majority of Americans Think Tackle Football Is Unsafe Before Age 14**

Nearly four-fifths of Americans believe it is inappropriate to introduce tackling into football for children under the age of 14 and a majority believe it is unsafe for children to participate in tackle football prior to high school, according to [a new poll](#) released by the University of Massachusetts-Lowell's Center for Public Opinion.

### **National Federation to Limit Number of Throws for H.S. Baseball Pitchers**

The National Federation of State High School Associations' board of directors approved a [rule change](#) that requires each state's member federation to adopt a limit on the number of pitches that baseball players can throw during a game.

## **Youth Development**

### **A Growth Mindset May Counteract Effects of Poverty on Achievement, Study Says**

Having a growth mindset may help buffer students from low-income families from the effects of poverty on academic achievement, researchers found in a large-scale, first-of-its kind [study](#) of 168,000 Chilean 10th-graders.

### **11 Ways to Share Power with Youth**

Studies by the Search Institute have found that [sharing power](#) is the area most strongly associated with multiple positive outcomes for young people.

### **Are Educational Factors Linked to Better Birth Outcomes for Teen Moms?**

Information regarding 763 private and public school students who had delivered one baby during adolescence was assessed to determine whether and how academic performance and educational aspiration impact [birth outcomes](#) for young moms and their infants. Among participants who did not identify as African American, higher educational aspiration was related to a higher birth weight. Among African American moms, neither academic performance nor educational aspiration was linked to changes in birth weight or gestational age at birth.

### **Reading Difficulty in Young Children Linked to Later Trouble with the Law**

"The literature shows a [clear correlation](#) between a grade-level reading problem and, later on, incarceration in the juvenile justice system," said Ralph Smith, managing director of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, a national collaboration of foundations, nonprofits, business leaders, and communities focusing on school success for children in low-income families.

### **Three Skills to Improve Deep Reading Comprehension**

According to a [study](#) published in the *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, three key skills – academic language, perspective taking, and complex reasoning – can predict how well a student does with the kind of deep reading comprehension required in secondary school and beyond.

### **Using Data to Keep High-Risk Students in the Classroom**

The Spokane School District uses [data](#) to track students at risk of dropping out, determine early warning signs, and take action to help.

### **Child Mind Institute Explores Issues that Affect Girls More Often Than Boys**

Girls [develop differently](#) from boys, especially after they reach puberty. They experience different pressures which make them vulnerable to different emotional and behavioral challenges.

### **Cyberbullying: What Schools Can Learn From Leslie Jones' Twitter Harassment**

Ghostbusters star and Saturday Night Live cast member Leslie Jones took a break from Twitter this week after an ad hoc internet mob harassed her with racist and sexist messages. Jones spent a day retweeting the hurtful posts to draw attention to the issue, calling it her "personal hell."

## **Health**

### **One-Third of Young Adults with Any Mental Illness Received Mental Health Services in the Past Year**

According to data from the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, among adults with any mental illness (AMI), young adults aged 18 to 25 are [less likely](#) to receive mental health services than adults aged 26 to 49 or adults aged 50 or older (33.6 vs. 44.2 or 49.9%, respectively).

### **YEF Council, YEF Institute Exploring Ways Cities Can Help Children Deal With Trauma**

A major Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study found that ACES can lead to serious health and mental health problems later in life. The study also found that children are resilient and with strong support structures in place can overcome the trauma they faced. Cities like Walla Walla have been leading the way in helping their children successfully deal with trauma, and both the Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute) and YEF Council are exploring ways to help cities move forward in this area. To see the CDC's ACES study, [click here](#). To see presentation slides prepared by Frank Farrow of the Center for the Study of Social Policy for the YEF Council, [click here](#). To learn more about Walla Walla's efforts, [click here](#).

### **Conversations About Historical Trauma**

The pain that many children from a variety of cultures experience today may be related to the pain that their parents, grandparents, and ancestors experienced historically. The National Child Traumatic Stress Network published three two-page briefs. [Part One](#) highlights the genocide and disenfranchisement of American Indian tribes, for example, the boarding school experience of children from 1860 well into the 20th century. [Part Two](#) adds to the Conversations with a discussion of the multi-faceted effects on African Americans that the experience of slavery, the institutionalized segregation and violence that followed emancipation, and the ongoing struggles for racial justice continue to manifest. [Part Three](#) explores the experience of other cultural groups—the survivors of the Jewish Holocaust, the Japanese American WWII camps, and events affecting Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

### **Overcoming Defenses in Child Abuse Cases**

The Association of Prosecuting Attorney's Child Abuse Prosecution Project has released its Summer Edition of [Lex Enfants](#), which contains cutting edge information regarding all aspects of investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse and neglect.

### **Youth in Sex Trade Not All Young Girls with Pimps, Study Shows**

A new [report](#) from the Center for Court Innovation [found](#) that the "prevailing narrative" of young girls controlled by pimps does not fully capture the lives of youth involved in the sex trade. They interviewed nearly 1,000 youth ages 13 to 24 who trade sex for money, housing, food or other goods in six U.S. cities. Many of the youth interviewed are male or transgender, most do not have pimps, and many feel they have chosen their lives, if from among very limited options.

## **Los Angeles Trying New Tactics to Help Children, Many in Foster Care, Who Are Sexually Trafficked**

“At the age of 10, I met a man that said he was going to love me, care for me, everything that I wanted someone to do, because I had no one,” Withelma “T” Ortiz Walker Pettigrew said. But “love” and “care” turned out to have harrowing strings attached. “From the age of 10 to 17, I was [employed](#) here in California, from San Diego all the way up to Washington”. By “employed,” Pettigrew means she was sexually abused for money as a victim of child sex trafficking.

## **Foster/Homeless Youth**

### **Former Foster Youth Get to Keep Housing Vouchers Longer Under New Legislation**

The [Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act](#) (HR 3700) would make changes to federal rental assistance programs, such as expanding renters’ access to higher-income neighborhoods and streamlining the rules for rent determinations. For former foster youth, the relevant provisions are in changes to the [Family Unification Program](#) (FUP), which provides housing vouchers to families that risk involvement by a child welfare agency or are unable to bring a child home from an out-of-home placement because of inadequate housing. Under current law, eligible former foster youth ages 18 to 21 can participate in the program for 18 months. The legislation would extend eligibility to age 24 and increase support to 36 months.

### **Health Coverage for Homeless and At-Risk Youth**

Homeless and at-risk youth are likely to be eligible for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act (often referred to as the ACA). The ACA vastly [simplifies and expands access](#) to affordable health care, including for low-income and homeless youth, and allows states to expand eligibility for Medicaid, a health care program for low-income individuals.

### **How Can Programs Use Mobile Phones and Social Media to Serve Homeless Youth?**

Researchers explored mobile phone and social media use among runaway and homeless youth living in one of four situations: in a shelter, on the street, camping, or in a house/apartment. They [found](#) nearly half of youth surveyed (46.7%) owned a mobile phone, with nearly two-thirds (64.6%) of those who had phones owning smartphones. Cell phone and smartphone ownership did not vary significantly based on one’s living situation. Most participants used social media, with 71.8% regularly using Facebook. By contrast, only 12.2% used Twitter and less than 10% used other social media platforms.

### **The Foster Care Transition Toolkit**

The U.S. Department of Education released a [toolkit](#) that includes tips and resources intended to help foster youth access and navigate social, emotional, educational, and skills barriers as they transition into adulthood. It features advice on financial aid and money management; mentoring opportunities; job and career support, and health care resources.

### **Federal Clearinghouse Supports Strong Fathers, Families**

In an ongoing effort to make fathers part of the conversation around strong families, the Administration for Children and Families supports the dissemination of dad-related [research and innovative strategies](#) by the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.

## **Youth Employment**

### **Whole Foods and Whole People: Detroit Food Academy Helps Kids Develop More Than Job Skills**

Last year, 250 Detroit students attended an after-school program in which they shopped for groceries, chopped vegetables and planned food events. They learned skills that would serve them well in the food-service industry. But in this program, known as the [Detroit Food Academy](#), kids learn far more.

### **New Jobs for the Future Resource on Two-Generation Approaches**

There is a growing recognition that traditional investments that focus only on adults or children are less effective than those that address families as a whole. By contrast, [two-generation approaches](#) consider the needs of both vulnerable children and parents together in the design and delivery of services and programs to support positive economic, educational, health, safety or other outcomes that address intergenerational poverty. Jobs for the Future developed an overview of the research, best practices, and research available to practitioners and local communities

interested in two-generation approaches. The [guide](#) highlights critical strategies and practices, spotlights example programs, and identifies additional resources to inform and support local action on this issue.

### **Youth Workforce Development**

The U.S. Department of Education's Place-Based Initiative Pilot Team and Performance Partnership Pilots recently released a [new resource](#). A [recent study](#) reports that the employment rates actually decreased for black males and Latinos from 2005 to 2015, going in the opposite direction of the overall trend in youth employment.

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## **WEBINARS**

The [webinar](#) explores the conditions that contribute to youth affiliation with armed groups, including racialized structural and economic violence, individual and community traumatization, and high-risk behavioral adaptations to chronic violence. Findings of research with gang-involved youth and anecdotal evidence are used to elucidate the pathway by which American children may join armed groups and the traumatic effects of gang involvement. Speakers draw parallels between gang-involved youth in the United States and child soldiers in other countries as well as US youth who have been trafficked in other contexts. They also describe current promising approaches to trauma-informed intervention and make recommendations for intervention, research, and system reform.

### **Building Resilience in Foster Youth (Podcast)**

Resilience has become a popular concept, but what defines this quality in foster youth? According to Amnoni Myers, BSW, who grew up in the foster care system and who now counsels foster youth as they transition out of the system, “Resilience is knowing when you’re falling and knowing how to catch yourself.” When her clients at Family Matters of Greater Washington in DC ask for her help, Myers understands they are demonstrating resilience. In a [podcast](#) with host Brian Houston, PhD, Director of the Disaster and Community Crisis Center at the University of Missouri, Myers discusses ways in which resource parents can help their foster youth build their inner resilience.

### **How to Address Racial Inequities in Your City (On Demand)**

In response to the tragic events that occurred recently in Baton Rouge, Falcon Heights, and Dallas, NLC hosted a [webinar](#) to help cities deal with the challenges of race and equity in their communities and commit to solutions. The webinar shares ideas for city responses, highlights what’s working in several cities, and offers tools and resources from both NLC and the federal government that are available to all cities.

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