



- ****DYCD Calendar and Events:** Summer Learning Pilot RFA due February 10 at 5:00 pm
- ****Spotlight News:** First graduation ceremony of “My Community and Us” held; OST Transition to High School staff informs representatives of Chicago’s After School Matters program; DYCD presents at the JobsFirstNYC CBO Network meeting; CEO films the successful Young Adult Literacy Program; NYC hosts the national CLIP convention; Migration Policy Institute staff meets to learn about DYCD’s services for older immigrant youth
- ****Program Updates:** Youth Connect E-Blast redesigned; NYC Youth Board meeting focuses on the labor market
- ****Funding Opportunities:** Foundation and grant opportunities
- ****Announcements:** Of general interest
- ****Government Resources:** Information from New York City, New York State and the federal government
- ****Additional Resources:** General reference information
- ****Opportunities for Scholarships and Awards:** Scholarships and awards for those qualified

DYCD CALENDAR AND EVENTS

** **February 10 at 5:00 pm** – closing date for the Summer Learning Pilot Request For Applications (RFA.) The Fund for Public Schools (FPS), in collaboration with the NYC Department of Education (DOE) and the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), invites elementary, middle, and K-8 schools and youth development organizations to form partnerships to deliver creative, engaging, and fun summer learning programs that support academic growth and youth development, promote attendance and engagement, involve families as partners, and encourage health and fitness. To view the application, go to:
<http://www.nycgrads.org/admin/document.doc?id=21> .

SPOTLIGHT NEWS

** **DYCD Commissioner Participates in “My Community and Us” Celebration**

On Friday, February 3, Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav spoke at the first graduation ceremony of the “My Community and Us” collaborative. Hosted by State Senator Malcolm Smith, this celebration followed a year-long series of workshops and mentoring sessions for faith-based organizations located throughout the City. DYCD is a partner in this initiative, designed to help organizations identify and access resources needed to help them through this economy.

****DYCD Meets with Chicago’s After School Matters Staff to Share OST’s Transition to High School Model**

On Tuesday, January 31, Commissioner Mullgrav and members of the Out-of-School Time (OST) staff met with representatives from Chicago’s After School Matters initiative, including newly-appointed CEO Ray Orozco and Chief Officer of Strategy and Innovation David Sinski. After School Matters is Chicago’s version of OST, with a focus on high school age students. They were interested in learning about DYCD’s experience with the new OST Transition to High School model as they consider their programming in the future, and were particularly intrigued with our “counselor-advocate” model for ninth graders. We look forward to continuing the dialogue with our counterparts in Illinois.

****JobsFirstNYC Presentation Links Youth Employment, Education and CBO Support**

On Tuesday, January 31, Megan Keenan, Senior Policy Advisor, spoke at the JobsFirstNYC CBO Network meeting, about DYCD’s youth workforce development programs and priorities. Her remarks focused on the importance of paid work experiences for youth, tying education and employment together, and providing comprehensive support for the youth in our programs. The audience was made of up CBO representatives that serve disconnected older youth.

****CEO Films DYCD YALP for Upcoming Documentary**

On Wednesday January 25, the Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) filmed the DYCD Young Adult Literacy Program at Union Settlement House (USH) as part of a documentary that CEO is producing. CEO Executive Director Veronica White was filmed in conversation with Richard Reeves, Coordinator of USH's DYCD Fatherhood and YALP Programs. The producer also interviewed a YALP student who has made great strides in his eighteen months with YALP, including being selected for a paid internship as a result of his exceptional attendance.

****CLIP Stakeholders Develop Strategies for College and Career Readiness and Success**

January 23-25, New York City was the site for the national convening of Communities Learning in Partnership (CLIP), a four city initiative funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation out of their post-secondary success portfolio and managed by the National League of Cities (NLC). The Graduate NYC! College Readiness and Success Initiative is the implementation partnership in New York City that aims to double the number of NYC students who receive college degrees. The Graduate NYC! College Readiness and Success Initiative, led by the DOE and CUNY, brings together DYCD, MOIA, as well as other City agencies and community based organizations around strategies of college and career readiness and success, including access, student advisement, academic alignment and financial aid. Commissioner Mullgrav participated in the opening dinner, where representatives from the Gates Foundation, NLC and 15 cities discussed their post-secondary success strategies. The meeting also focused on strategic uses of data, building community commitment, developing sustainable partnerships and pursuing systems change.

****DYCD Informs Migration Policy Institute on Older Youth Immigration Services**

On Wednesday, January 18, Commissioner Mullgrav and members of her staff met with Margie McHugh, Sarah Hooker and Randy Capps from the Migration Policy Institute to discuss how DYCD provides services for immigrant youth. With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Institute is looking at how the nation's work-preparation institutions can facilitate the educational advancement and economic mobility of immigrant youth aged 16 – 26. Information was shared not only on DYCD programs for immigrants, but also on our workforce development, literacy and NDA programs.

PROGRAM UPDATES

****A New Look for the Youth Connect E-Blast**

DYCD has redesigned the "Youth Connect E-Blast" - giving it a facelift, but providing the same great information and resources with a new and fresher look for the New Year. If your organization has an event, an employment opportunity, or some meaningful information that you would like featured and shared with over 10,000 subscribers, email us at: youthconnect@dycd.nyc.gov or call Youth Connect at (800) 246-4646 Monday to Friday, 9:00AM-7:00PM.

****Labor Market Expert Presents at the NYC Youth Board Meeting**

On Wednesday, January 25, DYCD hosted 2012's first Youth Board/Youth Council meeting of the year. The agenda included an overview of DYCD's preparation for SYEP 2012 and a presentation by Lesley Hirsch, Director of the Labor Market Information Service. She focused on the labor market for adults aged 18 – 24, growth sectors and occupations in New York City, and areas where service gaps exist for this age group in preparing for employment.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

****FOR YOUTH****

The **E-Line Media** and **The Joan Ganz Cooney Center** are sponsoring *The National STEM Video Game Challenge* to motivate interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning by tapping into students' natural passion for playing and making video games. The 2012 Challenge features the following categories: **Middle School** - for students in grades 5-8; **High School** - for students in grades 9-12; **Collegiate** - undergraduate and graduate students design original games for children in pre-K - 8 that teach STEM concepts and/or foster an interest in STEM subject areas and **Educator** - licensed professional educators at the pre-K-12 level and individuals who are currently teaching or engaging children through a youth serving, 501(c)(3)non-profit organization. Educators are invited to design games for youth in grades pre-K - 12 that teach key STEM concepts

and/or foster an interest in STEM subject areas. Entries can be created using any game-making platform including, but not limited to, written concepts, Gamestar Mechanic, Microsoft's Kodu Game Lab, GameMaker and Scratch. The Middle School and High School Category winners will each receive AMD-based laptops, game design software packages and other tools to support their skill development. Each winner's youth sponsoring organization will receive cash prizes and educational software (there will be a total of \$80,000 in prizes for youth and youth sponsoring organizations). A prize pool of \$30,000 will be awarded to the Collegiate Category. The deadline to apply is March 12. For more information on this Challenge grant, go to: <http://www.stemchallenge.org/about/Default.aspx> .

The Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education, the National Science Teachers Association, and the College Board invites applications for their *Fourth Annual Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge*. The program is designed to educate, empower, and engage students (grades K-12) and teachers across the United States to become "Agents of Change" in identifying and solving environmental problems. The application deadline is March 15. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.wecanchange.com/>.

The **Dr. Pepper Snapple Group** and **KaBOOM!** are offering grants of \$15,000 to qualifying organizations to use toward the purchase of playground equipment that will be built using the KaBOOM! community-build model. The program is open to municipalities, neighborhood associations, schools, day care centers, and non-profit organizations in the United States without a playground or with existing equipment that has become unsafe for children to use. Applicants must own the land or possess a long-term lease and must obtain permission from the land owner to construct a playground. The scope of the project must include a total playground equipment purchase of between \$24,000 and \$40,000. Criteria used in the competitive selection process include a demonstrated need for a playground in the community; the anticipated impact the project will have on the community; its impact on low-income areas; capacity to engage the community in planning and building the playground; capacity to generate matching funds to support and complete the build within the grant period; and demonstrated enthusiasm for the project and commitment to fulfill the requirements of the grant. Grantees will plan their projects and share best practices and challenges through the KaBOOM! website. Applicants must demonstrate their ability to maintain the playground, fulfill commitments of the grant, and keep the project planner page up to date. The project must be completed within a year of receiving the grant award. The grant application deadline is March 16. Complete program information, project planning resources, and grant application procedures are available at the KaBOOM! website: <http://kaboom.org/> .

The **GTECH Corporation** runs a national community investment program, *After School Advantage*, which provides afterschool programs at non-profit community agencies and public schools with state-of-the-art computer labs. These computer centers are designed to provide minority and at-risk children aged five to 15 with a meaningful, yet fun, learning experience during the critical afterschool hours, as well as to bridge the digital divide among at-risk children. GTECH donates up to \$15,000 in state-of-the-art computers, on-line technology, computer software and volunteer hours to each after-school program in inner-city communities where the Company's offices are located nationwide. Organizations in need of a computer lab can apply on a rolling basis to become part of the program. For complete application guidelines for this program, go online to: http://www.gtech.com/about_gtech/proposal_guidelines.asp .

****PREVIOUS YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS****

The **W.T. Grant Foundation's** *Youth Service Improvement Grants* program supports community-based organizations working to improve the lives of children and youth in the five boroughs of New York City. These awards are designed to help organizations improve the programs and services they offer to youth between the ages of 8 and 25. The program is focused on small to medium-size organizations that have already had some success, but lack the funds to make needed improvements. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must have 501(c)(3) tax-exemption; be a community-based organization that provides services to youth located in the five boroughs of New York City (public/private schools are not eligible); serve youth directly (staff must have direct contact with youth at the point-of-service); and have an operating budget between \$250,000 and \$5 million. In the case of organizations that serve youth only, this is the total organizational budget. In the case of multi-purpose organizations (i.e., those not exclusively focused on youth), the organizational operating budget must be less than \$20 million, and the budget for services to youth (direct and indirect costs) must be between \$250,000 and \$5 million. The maximum award amount is \$25,000. Applications for YSIG awards are solicited twice a year. Applications are being accepted for the spring 2012 cycle. The application deadline is March 14. Updated funding guidelines, application instructions, and examples of funded programs are available at the W.T. Grant Foundation Web site: <http://www.wtgrantfdn.org/> .

The **Bikes Belong Coalition**, a national coalition of bicycle retailers and suppliers working to "put more people on bikes more often," offers grants to organizations that strive to improve bicycling in the United States through the building of trails and paths, or through promoting general bicycling advocacy and awareness. Eligible projects include paved bike paths, lanes, and rail-trails as well as mountain bike trails, bike parks, BMX facilities, and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives. The organization's grants program accepts applications in two categories -- facilities and advocacy. For the facilities category, Bikes Belong will accept applications from non-profit organizations whose missions are bicycle and/or trail specific. Applications also will be accepted from public agencies and departments at the national, state, regional, and local levels; however, Bikes Belong encourages these municipalities to align with a local bicycle advocacy group that can help develop and advance the project or program. For the advocacy category, Bikes Belong will only fund organizations whose primary mission is bicycle advocacy. Applicant organizations must have non-profit status or an eligible fiscal sponsor. Bikes Belong does not fund individuals. The application deadline is February 29, 2012 Visit the Bikes Belong Coalition Web site for complete program guidelines, application materials, and information on funded projects: <http://www.bikesbelong.org/> .

For the past fifteen years, the **ING Unsung Heroes Awards program** has recognized K-12 educators in the United States for their innovative teaching methods, creative educational projects, and ability to positively influence the children they teach. Since honoring the first "unsung hero" in 1996, ING has awarded nearly \$3.8 million to nearly 1,600 educators across the country. Educators are invited to submit grant applications describing class projects they have initiated or would like to pursue. Each year, one hundred educators are selected to receive \$2,000 each to help fund their innovative class projects. Three of those individuals will be chosen to receive awards of an additional \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$25,000. All awards must be used to further the projects within the school or school system. All K-12 education professionals are eligible to apply. Applicants must be employed by an accredited K-12 public or private school located in the U.S. and be a full-time educator, teacher, principal, paraprofessional, or classified staff member working on a project with demonstrated effectiveness in improving student learning. The submission deadline is April 30, 2012. Complete program guidelines, the application form, and information on previously funded projects are available at the ING Web site: <http://ing.us/about-ing/citizenship> .

The **Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp.**, is accepting applications for its *Community Grant Program*. The program was created to support frontline educators and will subsidize small, concrete projects to improve inner-city education in Boston, Hartford, Providence, or New York City. Eligible applicants must be a "frontline educational worker" who is involved in education or a related field in one of the noted communities eligible for grants. There is a rolling deadline. To obtain additional information and an application, visit: <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/communitygrant.asp>.

The **UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation** is accepting applications for grants that provide funding to children who need critical medical treatment, services or equipment not covered or not fully covered by their parents' health benefits plans. Types of services covered by the grants include (but are not limited to) speech therapy, physical therapy, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and prescriptions. Awards of up to \$5,000 per applicant are available. Children 16 years old and under are eligible to apply. Families must meet economic guidelines, reside in the United States, and be covered by a commercial health benefit plan. Applications accepted on a continual basis. To apply, visit: http://www.uhccf.org/apply_applicant.html .

The **Verizon Foundation** supports the advancement of literacy and K-12 education through its free educational website, Thinkfinity.org, and fosters awareness and prevention of domestic violence. Non-profit organizations are eligible to receive grants. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. The Verizon Foundation receives thousands of competitive applications each year. While they cannot respond favorably to every request, they are available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week via their website. They pledge a 72-hour acknowledgement and response to your electronic inquiry. Contact the Verizon Foundation for more information: 800-360-7955, Verizon.Foundation@Verizon.com, <http://www.verizonfoundation.org> .

Office Depot supports local non-profit organizations that directly affect the health, education and welfare of children. Office Depot is accepting applications for its *Taking Care of Kids & Schools* grants program. Funds should be used to directly provide services. For financial donations, organizations must be a nonprofit with an established track record of community advocacy. The maximum award is \$10,000. Special consideration will be given to programs that serve a diverse population in local or regional communities; build social, academic, leadership, and/or life skills in early adolescents (primarily ages 13-18); show positive results against a demonstrated community need; and reach at-risk children in working families. The application deadlines are rolling. For more information, go to: <http://www.community.officedepot.com/local.asp> .

WaysToHelp.org invites teens in the United States to apply for grants to fund their community service ideas across any one of 16 issue areas. Apply for a grant by visiting any issue area. Select "See Ways to Help" followed by "Apply for a Grant." Applications are short - just 5,000 words or less - and should summarize: how the project will involve others, who it will help, what effect it's expected to have, when it will start and how the funds will be used. The deadline is open - grant requests are reviewed and responded to on a monthly basis. Topic areas include: Environment, Democracy & Equality, Health, and Community Issues. For more information, go to: www.waystohelp.org.

****FOR COMMUNITIES****

The **Eisner Foundation** is accepting nominations and applications for the \$100,000 *Eisner Prize for Intergenerational Excellence*. Launched in 2011, the annual prize is designed to recognize excellence by an individual or a non-profit organization in uniting multiple generations, especially seniors and youth, to bring about positive and lasting changes in their community. The cash prize is intended to spur innovation in this field and to reward those who have committed to excellence in uniting multiple generations for the betterment of the country. The prize is an attempt to identify this work, to reward it, and to see long-term if it can be replicated. Non-profit organizations may nominate themselves. Individuals interested in pursuing the prize must be nominated by another person or organization. The deadline for nominations is March 16. For complete prize program guidelines, the nomination form and information on the 2011 prize winner and finalists, visit the Eisner Foundation Web site: <http://www.eisnerfoundation.org/>.

The **Rite Aid Foundation** is committed to helping people in the communities Rite Aid serves lead happier, healthier lives. The foundation supports specific programs that focus on health and wellness and have a health-service component. The Rite Aid Foundation does not provide general operating support. 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations are eligible to apply and must be located in a Rite Aid community. On average, grants range from \$1,000 to \$20,000. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis; the next review date is April 1, 2012. Contact: The Rite Aid Foundation, P.O. Box 3165, Harrisburg, PA 17105, 717-972-3940, or view information online at: <http://www.riteaid.com/company/community/foundation.jsf>.

Through the *Our Town Program*, the **National Endowment for the Arts** will provide a limited number of grants for creative projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core. All Our Town applications must reflect a partnership that will provide leadership for the project. These partnerships must involve two primary partners: a non-profit organization and a local government entity. One of the two primary partners must be a cultural (arts or design) organization. Additional partners are encouraged and may include an appropriate variety of entities such as state-level government agencies, foundations, arts organizations and artists, non-profit organizations, design professionals and design centers, educational institutions, real estate developers, business leaders, and community organizations, as well as public and governmental entities. Our Town projects should represent the distinct character and quality of their communities and must reflect a systemic approach to civic development and a persuasive vision for enhanced community vibrancy; clearly defined civic development goals and objectives that recognize and enhance the role that the arts and design play at the center of community life; an action plan aligned with the project vision and civic development goals; and a funding plan that is appropriate, feasible, indicates strong community support, and includes a well-conceived sustainability strategy. Projects may include planning, design, and arts engagement activities. Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$150,000 each. The application deadline is March 1. Visit the NEA Web site for complete program guidelines, application procedures, examples of funded projects, and details on upcoming Our Town webinars: <http://www.nea.gov/>.

The **New York State Department of Labor, Division of Employment and Workforce Solutions** has released a *Youth Works Training Request for Applications* for organizations to provide work readiness and occupational skills training, Work Readiness Credential testing, job matching and placement services to their current population of certified youth who are not yet work-ready. Community-based organizations in New York City are eligible for funding. The application deadline is March 30. <http://www.labor.ny.gov/workforcenypartners/fundingopps/youth-works-rfa/t&p-rfa.pdf>.

The **New York State Department of Labor, Division of Employment and Workforce Solutions** has released a *Youth Works Placement Request for Applications* for organizations to recruit and assist youth to become certified for the New York Youth Works Program; and prepare certified youth for employment by providing them with job placement services with certified businesses, including: career exploration and occupational assessment; resume

preparation; job matching and referral; interview preparation; and follow-up and workplace mentoring. Community-based organizations in New York City are eligible for funding. The application deadline is March 30. For complete information, go to:

<http://www.labor.ny.gov/workforcenypartners/fundingopps/youth-works-rfa/placement-rfa.pdf> .

****PREVIOUS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS****

The **Migration Policy Institute's** National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy has announced that it is accepting applications for the *2012 E Pluribus Unum Prizes*. The **J.M. Kaplan Fund** provides support for the awards in order to focus attention on successful integration initiatives and to model programs for others around the United States who might also undertake such efforts. The national awards program provides \$50,000 prizes annually to exceptionally successful immigrant integration initiatives. The program is designed to highlight and reward outstanding efforts that help immigrants and their children join the mainstream of U.S. society or that bring immigrants and native-born Americans together to build stronger, more cohesive communities. The program is open to individuals, non-profit and community organizations, businesses, religious groups, and government entities, agencies, and officials operating in the United States. Awards are given for existing initiatives that can be evaluated according to the award selection criteria (significance, impact, and influence) based on their operations to date. The awards are not intended to support the launch of new initiatives. Prize money must be used by each awardee to advance their integration initiative. The application deadline is March 15. Complete program information, selection criteria, and application instructions are available at the awards program Web site:

<http://www.jmkfund.org/grantprograms.html> .

The **Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services** will provide up to \$1,160,000 in grants (\$290,000 maximum per project) for the *Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals (JOLI)* program to address the economic needs of low-income individuals and families, including low-income refugees, asylees, Cuban/Haitian Entrants, certain victims of human trafficking, and Special Immigrant Visa (SIVs) holders, through the creation of employment and business opportunities in low-income communities. JOLI funding may be used to provide technical and financial assistance in order to create sustainable new jobs and business opportunities for recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), and other low-income individuals whose income level does not exceed 100 percent of the Federal poverty level. OCS seeks to fund projects that implement strategies for fostering self-sufficiency for low-income families and achieving sustained employment opportunities in low-income communities. The JOLI program seeks to fund projects that address the personal and community barriers that must be overcome to help low-income individuals become self-sufficient. JOLI projects funded under this announcement should be focused on one of three program strategies: new business ventures; business expansion and/or self-employment/microenterprise. Non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) status are eligible for funding. Community or faith-based organizations that meet these same requirements are also eligible and encouraged to apply. The proposal submission due dates are: FY 2012-03/30/2012; FY 2013-03/29/2013. For additional information, go to:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2011-ACF-OCS-EO-0163> .

The **Kresge Foundation's Arts and Culture program** has announced the final call for preliminary grant applications for its *Facility Investments and Building Reserves program*. Eligible organizations may apply for both facility investment and building reserve grants, or building reserve grants only. Facility investment grants will prioritize renovation and repair projects. (On occasion, this grant may be awarded for new construction that includes exemplary environmental sustainability practices.) Building reserve grants are designed to seed or enhance an organization's building reserve fund for the ongoing maintenance and replacement of an organization's facilities. The program does not fund reserves solely for equipment. Eligible applicants are non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations in the United States whose primary mission is arts and culture. Non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations that have a long-term agreement to operate a government-owned facility are eligible. Start-up organizations or those with less than two full years of operation, and organizations that are both owned and operated by a government entity are not eligible to apply. Grant amounts will be dependent on the type of project and the size, scope, and business model of the organization. Some grants may be designed as matching or challenge grants. In general, multiyear institutional capitalization grants will not exceed \$1 million and/or a period of three years from the time of the grant award. Preliminary grant applications are due March 1, 2012. Complete program information, application guidelines, and the application form are available at the Kresge Web site: <http://www.kresge.org/> .

Wells Fargo supports organizations working to strengthen communities by addressing vital needs and issues in the areas of community development, education and human services. In New York State, the counties of Dutchess, Manhattan, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester are eligible to apply. Funding priorities for New York

include: organizations and programs that work to eliminate the pre-K - 12th grade achievement gap in public education through curriculum-based or school-sponsored programs, support for post-secondary education, academic and community outreach to Pre-K - 12 children, social and human care organizations involved in issues including child care, day care, health services and education, social services, and basic needs assistance, cause-related sponsorship requests will also be considered. Eligible organizations include non-profits, as well as qualified tribal and governmental agencies, including public school systems. There is a rolling deadline for funding. For additional information, go to: https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/ny_guidelines .

The **RGK Foundation** is committed to supporting innovative projects in the areas of health, education, human services and community affairs. The foundation strives to advance knowledge, improve society and help realize human potential. Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funds. Letters of Inquiry are accepted on an ongoing basis. Contact: The RGK Foundation, 1301 W. 25th St., Suite 300, Austin, TX 78705, 512-474-9298 or go to the website: <http://www.rgkfoundation.org> .

The **Merck Family Fund** supports work by communities with few resources who are confronting significant social, economic and environmental challenges. The two areas of focus for the fund are to a) create green and open space, and b) support youth as agents of social change. Suggested programs include: involving youth in the design, operation, and evaluation of a project; training youth to learn skills, develop relationships, and gain experience while making a positive impact on the community; supporting youth to research issues of concern, design strategies for change, and implement action plans; and identifying youth as important stakeholders in the health and well-being of the community. The deadline is rolling and new requests for support should be made by a letter of inquiry. For additional information and guidelines, go to: <http://www.merckff.org/grantguidelines.html> .

****MINI-GRANTS****

The **National Gardening Association** and **Jamba Juice** announces funds for programs designed to provide students with opportunities to observe and explore fruit and vegetable production and obtain a deeper understanding and appreciation for these foods in their diet. Independent school districts, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations and Local Educational Agencies are eligible to apply for funds. Twenty awards are available for up to \$500; the application deadline is February 15. Contact the National Gardening Association at (800) 538-7476, or go to: <http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants/its-all-about-fruit-and-veggies/> for additional information.

The **Scotts Miracle-Gro Company**, a multinational lawn and garden care company, is accepting applications for its *GRO1000 Grassroots Grant awards*. As part of the GRO1000 program, the company's commitment to build a thousand community gardens and green spaces by 2018, Grassroots Grants will be awarded to organizations across the United States working to create edible gardens, flower gardens, and public green spaces at the neighborhood and community levels. Applicants must be U.S.-based non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations. Groups and projects without 501(c)(3) status may apply using an eligible fiscal sponsor. Grants will be awarded based on community need, scope of project, and long-term sustainability of the project. Grants will range from \$500 to \$1,500. The application deadline is February 24. Complete program information and the application form are available at the Scotts Miracle-Gro website:

<http://thescottsmiraclegrocompany.com/corporateresponsibility/community/index.html> .

Citizens Committee for New York City will partner with the **Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board (M-SWAB)** and the **Manhattan Borough President's Office** to offer the 2012 round of *Composting Grants!* Grants of up to \$750 will be awarded in 2012 to community groups to start, expand and grow neighborhood composting programs. Groups eligible for funding include Manhattan community associations, community gardens, friends of park groups, housing development organizations, nonprofits, public schools, colleges and universities, hospitals and private businesses. For more information and application materials, please call Saleen Shah at (212) 822-9566 or request an application when you email sshah@citizensnyc.org. All proposals must be submitted or postmarked by Monday, March 19.

Disney Friends for Change Grants offer young change-makers an opportunity to receive a \$1,000 grant to help make a lasting, positive change in the world. Areas include protecting the planet, providing meals to those who need it or giving kids the resources they need to star in their own play, be an athlete or an artist. Youth ages 5-18 are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 grant. Deadline for applications is February 29. For more information, visit: <http://www.YSA.org/grants/disney-friends-change-grants> .

J-Serve, the International Day of Jewish Youth Service, is designed to provide teens with the opportunity to fulfill the Jewish values of *gemilut chasidim* (acts of loving kindness), *tzedakah* (just and charitable giving), and *tikkum olam* (the responsibility to repair the world). With support from the **Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation**, and in an effort to empower communities around the world to participate and grow their J-Serve efforts, YSA is offering micro-grants to support J-Serve projects that take place on April 22, 2012. A limited number of micro-grants of up to \$500 each will be awarded for community projects committed to creating service opportunities that bring Jewish teens together to participate in a J-Serve project. Projects that are creative and innovative, especially those that are first-time events in a community, as well as projects conceived and planned by teen project leaders (with adequate adult supervision), will receive preferential reviews. Micro-grant applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, and grants will continue to be awarded as long as funding remains available. Visit the YSA Web site for complete program guidelines and application procedures: <http://www.jserve.org/> .

The **Campaign for Disability Employment (CDE)** is looking for creative, fun, compelling videos of all genres that reflect the diversity of skills that people with disabilities offer, challenge misconceptions about disability and employment, and/or highlight employers' inclusive employment programs and practices. The CDE will recognize winners in up to three specific categories (General Public, Youth and Employer), and the public will be encouraged to select a People's Choice winner. The deadline for entry is March 30, 2012. Videos should be one to three minutes in length (depending on the category entered) and reflect one or more of the campaign's key themes, which are outlined on the contest website, www.WhatCanYouDoCampaign.org/videocontest. Individual and group entries are encouraged. Applicants must be United States citizens to enter. Winners will receive a chance to participate in the CDE's public outreach activities, and several selected videos may be showcased on the campaign's website and at future CDE events. Other prizes may be awarded. More information and the official contest rules are outlined on the competition website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****February 22** – The **Foundation Center** and the **Arts and Business Council of New York** present: *Creating a Nonprofit Business Plan that Works*. It will be held from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Foundation Center, 79 Fifth Avenue between 15 and 16 Streets, 2nd floor, New York, New York. This is a special workshop in which the panelists will explain the components of a professional business plan, how to tailor it to a particular mission, and techniques for carrying out the plan in order to attract funders, and generate the earned income an organization will need to carry out its mission. The workshop is free, however, space is limited. Registrants requiring ASL signers or other disability-related services are asked to contact the Foundation Center at least two weeks in advance. For further information, please call (212) 620-4230.

****February 22 through 23** – The **New York City Arts in Education Roundtable**, a community of organizations that improves, advances, and advocates for arts education, holds its annual *Face to Face Conference* at The Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School in Astoria, New York. Through a variety of panels, workshops, reports, and other presentations, the conference provides the opportunity for participants to learn more about arts in education. Face to Face 2012 offers something for a variety of audiences: arts administrators, teaching artists, school personnel, parents, and representatives of community-based organizations. Presenters will share best practices in arts education; discuss local, state, and national, and international policies; and address enduring issues such as quality, assessment, sustainability, and professional development. The last day to register online for the conference is February 16, 2012: <http://www.rsvpbook.com/event.php?418386> .

****February 28** – The Education and Research Foundation of the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan New York will present a symposium: *Thinking Out of the Box: Meeting Challenges with Creative Leadership* from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. It will be hosted by Baruch College School of Public Affairs, 55 Lexington Avenue at 24th Street, 14th floor. The keynote remarks, *The Art of Thinking Big: Lessons from Grassroots Leaders* will be delivered by Maria Mattola, Executive Director of the New York Foundation. The cost is \$25. Pre-registration is required and seating is limited. For additional information, contact: Luana Lewis, SVP – Programs and Services, BBB Education and Research Foundation, 212-358-2842, llewis@newyork.bbb.org .

****March 5 and March 6** – From 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, *the 16th Annual Fordham Forum on Domestic Violence: Healing or Hurting? The Hopes and Hazards of Mixing Mental Health and the Courts* will be held. The Keynote Speaker is Professor Mary Ann Dutton, Georgetown Medical Center. Topics will include: Custody and Visitation; Forensics; Therapeutic Jurisprudence; Vicarious Trauma; Parental Alienation; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. It is

sponsored by the Appellate Division, First Judicial Department, Supreme Court of the State of New York; Fordham Law School; the Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence; and the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts at Fordham Law School, 140 West 62nd Street, NY, NY 10023 For additional information, contact: Feerickcenter=law.fordham.edu@reply.bronto.com .

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

****NEW YORK CITY****

The **NYC Department of Sanitation** is now registering emergency snow laborers who can be called upon to remove snow and ice citywide from bus stops, crosswalks, and from step streets in sections of the City after heavy snowfalls. The rate of pay begins at \$12 per hour and increases to \$18 per hour, after completing the first 40 hours, each pay week. Interested individuals can register at any DSNY garage between the hours of 7 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday. The Manhattan District 12 garage is located at 301 West 215th Street between 9th Avenue & the Harlem River in Inwood. The District 10 garage is at 110 East 131st Street between Lexington & Park Avenue and the District 9 garage is at 125 East 149th Street between Bronx Gerard Avenue & Walton Avenue. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, be eligible to work in the United States, and be capable of performing heavy physical labor. All applicants must bring their social security card and a photo copy of it; two (2) small photos (1 1/2" square) and two (2) original documents and photo copies that prove identity and employment eligibility, such as a driver's license; federal, state or local identification; school identification with photo, or passport, at time of registration. For more information on how to register to become an emergency snow laborer, call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/sanitation.

The **NYC Department of Design and Construction/Office of Community Outreach and Notification (OCON)** with support from **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** and **Department of Transportation (DOT)** would like to offer your students an opportunity to take part in a new learning exploration. *The Neighborhood Infrastructure Curbside Education (NICE) Program*, is an ongoing initiative inviting students to learn about the "city beneath the city" from an engineering and environmental perspective. Recently on the Fulton Street Phase II Project, archaeological discoveries were found from the 18th and 19th century. Included in the findings were two wells and several hundred pieces of broken pottery, glass, and other household items. If you are interested in participating in this rare and exciting initiative, please contact: Lisa Robbins, Citywide Coordinator/ NICE Program, NYC Department of Design & Construction, Office of Community Outreach & Notification, 718-391-1471 Or robbinsl@ddc.nyc.gov .

In partnership with **The Daily News**, **CUNY** and the **Department of Education**, **The New York Urban League** is proud to announce the release of *A Parent's Guide to College*. The free guide is designed for caregivers of students who are the first generation in their family to attend college. *A Parent's Guide to College* will examine all facets of college preparation from entering 9th grade through the critical senior year of high school, as well as examining local options of the CUNY and SUNY system and HBCUs. This guide will help parents, grandparents and caring adults take an active role in the academic path of a child. To order copies (free), go to: <http://www.nyul.org/parentguide> .

The NYC government offers individuals and small businesses an online resource to help find affordable health insurance. **NYC Health Insurance Link** provides unbiased, current information on plans from every carrier in NYC. Users will also find educational information on health insurance basics and a comprehensive section on health reform legislation covering reforms already in effect and others that will take place between now and 2014, click [here](#) for more information.

New York City's first official prescription drug discount card is *BigAppleRx*. This card is free and available to anyone in New York City regardless of age, income, citizenship or health insurance status. *BigAppleRx* will be accepted at more than 2,000 city pharmacies, and may be used by anyone who lives, works or visits the City. Card users will save an average of 47 percent on prescription medications. Contact www.nyc.gov and instantly download and print the card, access educational information about prescriptions, compare drug prices and locate the nearest participating pharmacies. **HealthTrans Access** – one of the nation's largest discount drug programs – will assist the City in administering the program.

The **City Council** has announced that any organization applying for its discretionary funds in amounts that

total more than \$10,000 must be prequalified by the city agency that oversees the services for which the organization is requesting funding support. Organizations that are already pre-qualified need not reapply or recertify. To learn more, go to: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/downloads/pdf/pql_faq_and_instructions.pdf .

If you would like to report a tip regarding suspected human trafficking, call 911. If you would like more information about human trafficking or would like to learn about how you can help, call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/humantrafficking.

311 recently expanded its on-line presence. **311 On-Line** not only gives you information on a wide range of City services and regulations, from alternate-side parking to licensing to bulk item disposal, but you can also make a complaint on anything from heat to housing and even those annoying yellow curbs that don't mean anything! Just visit nyc.gov and click on the 311 icon on the right side of the screen. The 311 homepage lists general categories to browse to help you find what you're looking for. You can type a keyword (like "noise complaints"!) into the search bar on the top. An app is now available for your iPhone that allows you to report certain troublesome conditions or problems, and even upload photos and video to make it clear exactly what you're talking about. You can obtain the app by searching "NYC 311" in the App Store on your iPhone. Functionality on non-iPhones is coming soon.

****NEW YORK STATE****

New York State's Office of Children and Family has released a 28-page booklet to guide youth in foster care through the health care system. The booklet covers informed consent, rights to privacy and to refuse medication, and information about how to get and pay for medical care. To download the pdf file, go to: http://www.youthsuccessnyc.org/PDF/2011_medical_guide_for_foster_youth.pdf .

****U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT****

Taxpayers who earn \$57,000 or less can prepare and e-file their federal tax returns for free using the **Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Free File Program**. Free File is offered through a public-private partnership between the IRS and tax software companies. Free File can help you do your taxes fast; it's safe and it doesn't cost anything. Nearly 100 million Americans – that's 70 percent of the nation's taxpayers – can use the free brand-name software and secure e-filing offered by private-sector companies. You must access Free File through the IRS website. At www.irs.gov/freefile, there's an online tool which allows you to give a little information about yourself then guides you to the software for which you are eligible. Or, you can review a complete list of companies and their offerings and make a selection. Software products also are available in Spanish. Each company sets its eligibility requirements, generally based on income, age or state residency. However, if your adjusted gross income was \$57,000 or less in 2011, you will find at least one tax software product to use. Some companies provide state tax return software – sometimes for free and sometimes for a fee. Some states also have a relationship with the Free File Alliance; those states are listed on the companies' websites. For people who make more than \$57,000 or who are comfortable preparing their own tax return, the IRS offers Free File Fillable Forms. It also must be accessed through www.irs.gov/freefile.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has an on-line training tool to provide information and guidance to help non-profit organization's keep their exempt status intact. It consists of five interactive courses addressing tax-exempt status, unrelated business income, employment issues, the Form 990 tax return, and other required disclosures. For more information, visit: <http://www.stayexempt.org/> . In addition, IRS has a resource library for nonprofits that includes forms and publications applicable to nonprofit organizations as well as case studies. This is an excellent source to educate your organization on IRS requirements and compliance standards. For more information, visit: <http://www.stayexempt.org/ResourceLibrary.aspx> .

The **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** has announced an initiative called "Connect to Compete" to bring low-cost broadband and computers to millions of low-income Americans. This effort will offer families eligible for the National School Lunch Program discounted monthly broadband Internet and a laptop or desktop computer, and free digital literacy training. "Connect to Compete" will begin in select cities in spring 2012. For more information, e-mail info@connect2compete.org or go to: <http://www.fcc.gov/blog/low-cost-broadband-and-computers-students-and-families> .

The **U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy** released its new [Integrated Employment Toolkit](#). The Toolkit offers a collection of resources, reports, papers, policies, fact sheets, case studies, and discussion guides from a variety of sources to accommodate the full range of users and increase capacity and understanding about the value and potential of integrated employment. It is organized by different

audiences or perspectives. Within each audience, there are key, commonly asked questions to guide the user to the appropriate materials. The Toolkit is free and is available online at: <http://www.dol.gov/odep/ietoolkit/>.

Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis announced an innovative partnership that leverages the combined audience and expertise of officials from the **U.S. Department of Labor, Facebook, the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, Direct Employers Association** and the **National Association of Colleges and Employers** to provide crucial employment resources to job seekers through the use of social networks. As part of the announcement, Facebook officials launched a "social jobs partnership" page that highlights available training programs, educational opportunities and job search resources, which can be accessed at <http://www.facebook.com/socialjobs>. Facebook also made a commitment to drive traffic to the page through targeted online public service announcements that will appear to users in geographic areas experiencing high unemployment. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/opa/OPA20111538.htm>. For students who are blind, visually impaired or have a physical or learning disability, **Learning Ally** provides the nation's largest online accessible audio library of core curriculum textbooks and literature, helping students achieve academic success and prepare for the workplace. Founded in 1948 as **Recording for the Blind (RFB)**, the organization's original mission was to enable blinded World War II Veterans to attend college. Produced in high-quality digital format, Learning Ally audiobooks can be accessed on mainstream devices like the Apple iPad and iPhone, as well as MP3 players, Mac and PC computers and CDs. For more information, go to: <http://blog.govdelivery.com/usodep/2011/10/students-with-visual-and-learning-disabilities-thrive-with-accessible-audiobooks-from-learning-ally.html>.

This *College Preparation Checklist* is from **Disability.gov** for students (of all ages) who haven't attended college or trade school, and parents of students in elementary and secondary school. It includes a "to do" list, starting with elementary school, to help students prepare academically and financially for education beyond high school. Each section is split into subsections for students and parents, explaining what to do. It also has publications and other websites that might be useful to them. To learn more visit: https://www.disability.gov/education/student_resources/preparing_for_college.

The **U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing** recently released **EyeNote™**, a free downloadable application (app) that helps individuals who are blind or have low vision denominate U.S. currency. The app uses image recognition technology to determine a note's denomination and, in a matter of seconds, provides an audible or vibrating response. EyeNote recognizes all Federal Reserve notes issued since 1996. EyeNote is available for Apple iPhones (3G, 3Gs, 4), the 4th Generation iPod Touch and iPad2 through the Apple iTunes App store. Free updates will be offered whenever new U.S. currency designs are introduced. Research indicates that more than 100,000 individuals who are blind or have low vision currently own an Apple iPhone. For more information about the EyeNote app, read this list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or visit www.eyenote.gov.

The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) released a report which makes specific recommendations to better prepare America's K-12 students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) subjects and also to inspire those students—including girls, minorities, and others underrepresented in STEM fields—to challenge themselves with STEM classes, engage in STEM activities outside the school classroom, and consider pursuing careers in those fields. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast-stem-ed-release.pdf>. To view the report, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/pcast/docsreports>.

FindYouthInfo.gov is the U.S. government website that helps organizations create, maintain, and strengthen effective youth programs. Included on the website are youth facts; funding information; tools to help: assess community assets, generate maps of local and federal resources, and search for evidence-based youth programs; and up-to-date information on the latest youth-related news. To view the website, visit: <http://www.findyouthinfo.org>.

Plug-In To eCycling is a partnership program between the **U.S. EPA** and leading consumer electronics manufacturers, retailers, and mobile service providers that foster and promote opportunities for individuals to donate or recycle their electronics. For information on how to eCycle your old cell phone, computer, or TV, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/osw/partnerships/plugin>.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The **South Street Seaport Museum**, supported by the **Museum of the City of New York**, is now open again! It is located at 12 Fulton Street in the Seaport District (between Water Street and South Street). The museum is open Wednesday – Sunday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Admission is \$5, free for children under 9. For more information, go to: <http://www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org>.

The **Lower Eastside Ecology Center** is opening a permanent drop-off location for electronic waste! Starting January 31st, they are making responsible disposal of working and non-working electronics easier than ever before. Bring unwanted electronics to the Lower East Side Ecology Center's new permanent e-waste collection center in Gowanus, Brooklyn at 469 President Street (at Nevins Street), 718-858-8777. Any New York resident, small businesses (max. 50 employees), and non-profit organization can drop-off unwanted electronics for free. If your equipment works, let them know and they will try to give it a second life. Whether your equipment gets reused or recycled, they guarantee data security. Come by the warehouse to peruse their selection of affordable electronic equipment and parts. Drop-off hours are: Tuesday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Wednesday: 12:00 noon – 7:00 pm, Thursday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Friday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Saturday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Sunday-Monday: closed.

ReelAbilities-NY Disabilities Film Festival is the largest festival in the country dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories and artistic expressions of people with different disabilities. Go to: <http://newyork.reelabilities.org/> for more specific information on this great film festival.

A toolkit developed by **Gap Inc., McKinsey & Company, Corporate Voices for Working Families**, and the **Taproot Foundation**, provides step-by-step instructions designed to guide companies on options for supporting, training, and employing disconnected youth. It was created for companies with some experience in non-profit engagement or community involvement. To view the toolkit, visit: <http://www.dol.gov/summerjobs/pdf/Toolkit.pdf>.

The **New York Peace Institute** (formerly Safe Horizon Mediation) has been in existence for over 30 years and is a nationally recognized leader in the field of conflict resolution. The organization provides direct mediation services, mediation training, and customized consulting for organizations. Mediation is a free service in which people can resolve disputes with the assistance of a neutral professional mediator, for such issues as noise, harassment, child custody, housing, Special Education, and criminal and civil matters. For additional information, go to: <http://nypeace.org/>.

The **Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York (NPCC)** recently launched a *Nonprofit Outsourcing Clearinghouse (NOC)* program to help nonprofits reduce costs, increase productivity, and improve operational quality through the use of outsourced services. A primary component of this program is the creation of a publicly searchable database of outsourced service providers. Nonprofits can use this tool to compare vendors within eight areas: Information Technology, Bookkeeping & Financial Management, Fundraising, Marketing & Communications, Risk Management, Human Resources, Purchasing and Legal Services. NPCC is also running a consulting program for organizations that wish to receive an in-depth consultation on their back-office functions. Nonprofits interested in this consultation should contact Amy Karson at mnoc.npcc@gmail.com.

Research has shown that when women with children are incarcerated, their arrests and imprisonment substantially increase the chances that their children will be placed in foster care. The goal of *When a Parent is Incarcerated: A Primer for Social Workers* released by the **Annie E. Casey Foundation** is to provide relevant and practical information for public child welfare agencies and social workers when working with incarcerated parents. This primer also outlines the many compelling reasons why child welfare agencies should develop programs and policies specifically to address the needs of this subset of children in the child welfare system. To download the report, go to: <http://www.aecf.org/KnowledgeCenter/Publications.aspx?pubguid=%7B5F4FB9E9-8CD1-41EA-89B2-E3985D08F4FF%7D>.

The roughly two million children being raised in LGBT families are harmed by outdated laws which assume that American families are comprised of married heterosexual couples raising their biological offspring as well as the various forms of discrimination faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, a report from the **Movement Advancement Project, Family Equality Council** and **Center for American Progress** argues. According to [All Children Matter: How Legal and Social Inequalities Hurt LGBT Families](#) (134 pages, PDF), legal and social inequities work against LGBT families attempting to provide children with stable, loving homes, economic security, and health and well-being by limiting opportunities for adoption, restricting access to

government safety-net programs, and denying them formal legal ties, death and disability benefits, health insurance coverage, and visitation rights. Published in partnership with **COLAGE**, the **Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute**, and **National Association of Social Workers** and funded by the **Arcus** and **Gill** Foundations, among others, the report calls for legal recognition of LGBT families, equal access to economic protections and health care, more effective anti-discrimination and -bullying laws, and more and better support services for LGBT families.

The **Community Service Society (CSS) of New York** provides ongoing volunteer opportunities for older adults 55+ plus who are concerned about recidivism and incarceration. CSS is looking for volunteers who believe in second chances and who would like to make a difference in the lives of people with conviction histories as they seek to stabilize their lives and become contributing members of their community. For more information, contact: Hazel Beckles Young Lao, Project Director, Community Service Society Retired Senior and Volunteer Program, Record Repair Counseling Project, 105 E 22nd Street Rm 702, New York, New York 10010 (T) 212 614 5556 (F) 212 614 5569 hbeckles@cssny.org

The **Harvard Family Research Project** recently released *Measurement Tools for Evaluating Out-of-School Time Programs: An Evaluation Resource* to help practitioners and evaluators find evaluation instruments that match their program and evaluation goals and characteristics. Originally published as part of the *OST Evaluation Snapshots* series in 2005, the resource has been re-designed and updated to be a dynamic web tool that includes measurement tools and assessments used by programs and studies profiled in Harvard Family Research Project's OST Research and Evaluation Database. To view the evaluation tools, go to: <http://www.hfrp.org/out-of-school-time/publications-resources/measurement-tools-for-evaluating-out-of-school-time-programs-an-evaluation-resource2> .

A report commissioned by **The Wallace Foundation** and published by the **National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families** identifies 27 cities across the country, including Newark, NJ, that are among the most advanced in their efforts to coordinate afterschool opportunities for children and youth. The report, *Municipal Leadership for Afterschool: Citywide Approaches Spreading Across the Country*, highlights a growing trend in communities nationwide: the emergence of comprehensive, citywide afterschool systems for children and youth. Read the [executive summary](#), download the [full report](#), or view profiles of the cities featured in the report. Urban planners, community developers, and policy makers could maximize the impact of neighborhood planning and revitalization strategies by incorporating a broader understanding of what robust artistic and cultural vitality requires, a report from the **Urban Institute** and **Leveraging Investments in Creativity** argues. According to the report, *Building Community: Making Space for Art* (20 pages, PDF), neighborhood residents value not only mainstream cultural institutions but also a wide array of amateur and professional activities in unconventional venues, yearn to participate by creating as well as appreciating various forms of art, and benefit from engaging in arts and cultural activities in the form of enhanced health, social, and educational outcomes as well as greater economic development and civic engagement. Funded by the **Ford**, **Kresge** and **Surdna** Foundations, the report highlights the roles of artists working at the intersection of arts and other fields such as education, health, and social justice; the ecology of artist-focused, community-based, ethnically specific, and intermediary organizations; and the need for arts spaces that are integrated into the community. To download the report, go to: http://www.linnet.net/sites/all/files/2011_Urban-Institute_Building-Community.pdf.

The **National Collaboration on Workforce and Disability for Youth's** InfoBrief, *Bullying and Disability Harassment in the Workplace: What Youth Should Know*, is now available online. This InfoBrief aims to help youth, including youth with disabilities, recognize signs of bullying in the workplace and to recognize how bullying differs from disability harassment. The brief offers examples of bullying situations at work and offers strategies to help address the issue. Much is understood about the negative consequences of bullying at school, but youth should also be made aware that bullying does not end at school. It is often encountered at work as well. To view the brief, go to: <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/information-brief-29> .

A report, *Successful K-12 STEM Education: Identifying Effective Approaches in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)*, developed by the *Committee on Highly Successful Schools or Programs in K-12 STEM* by the **Education and the National Research Council**, is the committee's recommendations to making "strategic decisions about improving STEM education," focusing on the science and mathematics parts of STEM. To view the report, visit: https://download.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13158.

An afterschool program that features a central coordinating body and a single set of quality standards; a network of developmentally appropriate, school- and community-based programs structured around a neighborhood "campus"; and strong roots in the school context can improve outcomes for middle school youth, a new report from **Public/Private Ventures** finds. Based on a two-year evaluation funded by **The Wallace Foundation**, the report, [*AfterZone: Outcomes for Youth Participating in Providence's Citywide After-School System*](#) (109 pages, PDF), found that participation in the program led to improvements in school-related outcomes such as attendance and math grades, while greater emotional engagement was associated with improvements in social and personal skills. At the same time, the report notes, while overall impact with respect to school-related outcomes was one-and-a-half times that of typical afterschool programs, participation was often limited to short periods, emotional engagement weakened in the second year, and non-school-related benefits were smaller than expected.

Lend a Hand: A Guide to Volunteering for Youth, developed by the **National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth**, lists the many ways community members can volunteer to help young people throughout the year. To view the publication, visit: <http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/publications/lend-a-hand>.

Visit the first career website for NYC youth workers: <http://www.AfterschoolPathfinder.org>. Pathfinder is the place where New York's youth workers, trainers and employers connect online and share job, training, educational and career opportunities. [Pathfinder](#) was developed and is operated by **The After-School Corporation TASC**, with the support of **DYCD**, **The Wallace Foundation** and the **Booth Ferris Foundation**. Site users can search job openings for New York City after-school and youth programs, and receive job alerts; post or find training opportunities, and receive training alerts; advertise for staff, and find tools to create winning cover letters and resumes. The site's most exciting feature, however, is an inter-active tool that lets a user describe his or her job and educational experiences, and plot an individualized path toward a career working with youth. [Pathfinder](#) is a useful professional development tool. Return to the website regularly to explore its many features and to get up-to-date information.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

A program of the **Colin Higgins Foundation**, the *Colin Higgins Youth Courage Awards* annually honor lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, queer, and questioning youth who have transformed their experiences with bigotry and discrimination into opportunities to inspire others by taking action, rallying support, building community, and working to change the systems and institutions that impact their lives. Unlike scholarships based on grade-point average or written essays, the Colin Higgins Foundation looks to communities across the United States to nominate and lift up LGBTQ youth activists who inspire them and play critical roles in their schools, organizations, and community spaces. Nominations should describe obstacles the nominee has faced due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, how the nominee has overcome these obstacles through community-level activism for LGBTQ rights, and how the award could transform the life of the nominee and help them achieve their dreams. Nominees must be 21 years of age or younger and must be U.S. citizens. Self-nominations are not accepted. Three award winners will be selected to receive \$10,000 each. Awardees also will receive an expense-paid trip to the 2013 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conference. The nomination deadline is February 29. Complete program guidelines and nomination forms as well as information on previous awardees are available at the Colin Higgins Foundation Web site: <http://www.colinhiggins.org/main.cfm>.

ING invites applications from K-12 educators for its *Unsung Heroes Awards Program*. The program is designed to recognize educators who utilize new teaching methods and techniques that improve student learning. 100 finalists will receive \$2,000. Three of the top finalists will receive \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$25,000. K-12 education professionals who are employed full-time by an accredited K-12 public or private school in the United States are eligible to apply. The application deadline is April 30. For more information, visit: <http://ing.us/about-ing/citizenship/childrens-education/ing-unsung-heroes>.

Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) is offering summer internship opportunities in public health for underrepresented minorities. The ten week summer program runs from May 28 through August 3. Eligible participants are: students who have completed at least two years of college or recent college graduates and are African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students. This Center for Disease Control (CDC) funded initiative provides a unique opportunity for qualified undergraduate students to gain meaningful experiences in public health settings. Accepted students will be introduced to the field of public health by taking courses in several disciplines at our Medical Center campus. Students are also placed in an internship, which may focus on health policy, environmental health, behavioral

health, epidemiology, or another public health field. The deadline for submitting completed applications is February 14. For more information about SPHSP, please visit http://www.odaps.cumc.columbia.edu/programs/about_sphsp.html.

Youth Communication is sponsoring an award to promote a more positive image of New York City foster youth among agency staff, youth workers, and the general public. Any current or former foster youth in the New York City foster care system born in 1991 or later is eligible to apply. Applicants must write two essays to enter this contest, and can be nominated by any adult (including teachers, mentors, agency staff, youth workers, religious leaders, foster parents, or biological parents). Twenty young people will be awarded prize money at a ceremony in June 2012. Five Grand Prize winners will receive \$1,000 each, and 15 additional winners will receive prizes of \$400 to \$600 each. The prize money can be spent however the winner likes, although it is recommended that it be spent on education-related activities. The entry form must be submitted by March 1. For more information, go to: http://www.representmag.org/pdf/awards_for_youth_in_foster_care/14th_annual_represent_awards_for_youth_in_foster_care_app.pdf.

The **Caring Institute** is accepting nominations for its annual *Caring Awards*. Nominees should exemplify caring and serve as worthy role models for others. Award criteria include length of service, scope and impact of work, challenges overcome, and imagination and innovation. All winners will be honored at a special ceremony, and young adult winners receive funds for college. Individuals from nine to 99 years old can be nominated. Deadline for application is March 1. For more information, visit <http://www.caring-institute.org/caringawards.html>.

The **Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes** honors outstanding young leaders who have focused on helping their communities and fellow beings and/or on protecting the health and sustainability of the environment. The maximum award amount is \$2,500. Youth ages 8-18 are eligible to be nominated. Deadline to receive nominations is April 30, 2012. For additional information on this award, go to: <http://www.barronprize.org/>.

Build-A-Bear Workshop® launches its ninth annual search for *Huggable Heroes®* - inspiring young leaders who have a commitment to serve, help others, and make a difference in their community. The 10 selected Huggable Heroes will each receive \$10,000 (\$7,500 in the form of an educational scholarship from Build-A-Bear Workshop and \$2,500 from the Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation to be donated to the 501(c)(3) charity or Canadian cause of their choice). The deadline to submit application is February 27. For additional information, visit: <http://bit.ly/yTh9Sb>.

Applications are now being accepted for the **National Summer Learning Association's 2012 Excellence in Summer Learning Award**. Each year, the award is presented to two or more exemplary summer programs: apply on behalf of your program, or by spreading the word to excellent summer programs who may not know of this opportunity. Learning Award applications are available online now, and due February 10. The benefits for winners include national media exposure as well as a showcase at the national conference. Read all about the application process at http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=excellence_summer. All programs that apply receive detailed written feedback on their program, highlighting both strengths and opportunities for improvement based on the Association's quality standards. Contact: Larry Smith, Program Quality Manager, 410-856-1370 ext. 408 (office). 443-509-0551 (cell), 410-856-1146 (fax), lsmith@summerlearning.org for further information.

The **American Legacy Foundation**, which works to reduce tobacco use among priority populations in the United States, is accepting applications for the Dr. Alma S. Adams Scholarship for Outreach and Health Communications. The foundation prioritizes populations including residents of low-income communities, U.S. racial/ethnic minorities (African American, Alaska Native, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander), gay/lesbian/bi-sexual/transgender communities, and other populations that have significantly higher than average smoking prevalence rates. Two \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies at an accredited institution of higher education in the U.S. The awards will be granted on the basis of the applicant's record of commitment to community service on behalf of an underserved community, preferably related to tobacco prevention and/or control, and their use of the visual arts, media, creative writing, or other creative endeavor to convey culturally appropriate health messages aimed at raising awareness of tobacco's harmful impact. Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2012. For additional information, go to: <http://www.legacyforhealth.org/>.

