

- Continued and ongoing high level collaboration among a consistent group of State, local and RHY program representatives of the project.

- Involvement of parents, guardians, other caring adults and youth in all phases of development and implementation of the youth development strategies.

- Ongoing dialogue, communications and participation with and among residents from the neighborhoods and communities targeted by the effort.

Background: For a number of years, FYSB has been promoting a youth development philosophy and has produced a framework for implementing a positive youth development approach. The framework can be used by program developers, program managers and youth service professionals in developing and implementing service models and approaches that will redirect youth in high risk situations toward positive pathways of development. We have identified four key principles that are important in the development of young people as they move toward a successful and productive adulthood: (1) A sense of industry and competency, (2) a feeling of connectedness to others (particularly to caring adults, especially parents), and to society, (3) a belief in their control over their fate in life, and (4) a stable identity.

FYSB supports the youth development approach and believes it is crucial that positive developmental opportunities be made available to all young people during adolescence, a time of rapid growth and change. Adolescents need opportunities to fulfill their developmental needs; intellectually, psychologically, socially, morally and ethically. Youth benefit from experiential learning and they need to belong to a group while maintaining their individuality. At the same time, they want and need adult support and interest. They also need to express opinions, challenge adult assumptions, develop the ability to make appropriate choices and learn to use new skills.

When young people are not given positive outlets for growth, they may find potentially damaging alternatives. Gang membership, for example, may address an adolescent's need for safety and "belonging to" a group, close friendships and opportunities for exercising decision-making skills and responsibility. However, it also places young people at high risk for drug use and exposure to violence and crime. In contrast, positive developmental opportunities meet adolescent needs while decreasing their exposure to

destructive influences and reducing their involvement in risky behaviors.

A rapidly changing society and a decreasing sense of community have reduced or eliminated many of the traditional ways that young people receive the support they need to move toward maturity and self-sufficiency. Additionally, increasing violence and hopelessness in many neighborhoods threaten young people's welfare and make developmental opportunities scarce in some communities. In such environments, a commitment by a community to creating programs and services that meet young people's developmental needs is critical.

Programs with a youth development focus offer young people the skills, knowledge and community support they need to function effectively. The youth development approach is designed to focus on the positive outcomes desired by young people, not the negative outcomes that adults hope to prevent. The distinction may appear subtle, but it is a significant shift in policy and practice. Youth development moves the dialogue from one that focuses on youth with problems to one in which youth are seen as resources. In addition, youth development envisions a community effort to determine and provide, in concert with youth, the assistance and support youth need to grow into healthy adults. With all of these principles in mind FYSB began to invest resources in helping States make a difference in the lives of their young people.

Beginning in 1999, the nine State agencies listed below were awarded grants by FYSB, under the Youth Development State Collaboration Demonstration Project, to establish collaboration efforts around youth development at the State level.

- Department of Economic Security, State of Arizona
- Department of Human Services, State of Colorado
- Office of Policy and Management, State of Connecticut
- Department of Human Rights, State of Iowa
- Department of Human Resources, State of Maryland
- Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Health and Human Services, State of Nebraska
- Office of Children and Family Services, State of New York
- Commission on Children and Families, State of Oregon

In 2001, a second cohort of four States agencies was also funded to pursue the goals of this demonstration as follows:

- Bureau of Youth Services and Delinquency Prevention, State of Illinois
- Indiana Human Resources Investment Council, State of Indiana
- Louisiana Workforce Commission, State of Louisiana
- University of Kentucky, Cooperative Extension 4H Program, State of Kentucky

In the ensuing years, these States' activities have included: Assessing existing statewide policies and procedures to determine how best to integrate youth development principles into current approaches; providing training on the youth development approach; involving young people in program and policy development; organizing region, State, or community-wide conferences and forums; making subgrants that promote youth development activities; creating new outlets for sharing information on youth development such as home pages on the Internet's World Wide Web; developing and supporting statewide coalitions of agencies serving runaway and homeless youth; and identifying data to measure positive outcomes.

The limited competition among the same 13 State organizations with demonstration projects solicited in this competitive area seeks to build on their prior work accomplishments to create new and stronger partnerships between the State agencies listed above and one local jurisdiction or Tribe, as a potential model for identifying effective practices that can guide future State and local intergovernmental partnerships and collaborative efforts to promote the positive development of young people.

Eligible Applicants: This competition is limited to the 13 State organizations that are currently participating in the Youth Development State Collaboration Demonstration Project funded by FYSB. They are: Arizona (AZ), Colorado (CO), Connecticut (CT), Iowa (IA), Illinois (IL), Indiana (IN), Kentucky (KY), Louisiana (LA), Massachusetts (MA), Maryland (MD), Nebraska (NE), New York (NY), and Oregon (OR).

Funding: Depending on the availability of funds the Family and Youth Services Bureau expects to make up to 13 awards to support State and local collaborations according to the following schedule:

- Year 1 Planning Phase Grant: FYSB expects to award up to \$120,000 to each grantee to support the 12-month Planning Phase.
- Years 2-5 Implementation Phase Grants: Over the next four years, FYSB expects to award up to \$1,000,000 (\$250,000/yr) to each grantee to support