



# ***After School News and Notes***

... from the New York State Center for School Safety

## **All Aboard! Engaging Youth, Families and the Community**

The ESD/SVP and 21st CCLC programs gathered for training and technical assistance several times this spring. Participants were asked to share their best ideas for successful after school programs. Those promising practices were collected and categorized according to the ten arenas of quality indicators identified in the [NYSAN Quality Assessment Instrument](#). This month we have selected examples of practices from the areas of parent/family and community partnerships as well as youth engagement strategies. We are also sharing some great resources for supporting the administration and organization of your programs.



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## **Parent/Family/Community Partnerships**

*A quality program establishes a strong partnership with families and communities in order to achieve program goals.*



**"Parent Report Cards" lists activities & events the parents or families can do with their child/ren:** Ideas include reading to children or taking them to the library to get a library card, etc. This is not to grade parents but serves as a guide to provide a framework of activities for parents on what to do. Ask the parents to hand in the "card" to the principal, give them a small gift, & start a Parent Honor Roll.

**Barbershop & beauty parlor:** Develop a relationship with the local hair care community (individually or union). Ask permission to display parent information regarding programs, services, and events. Recognize the business in the school's newsletter & the district's website.

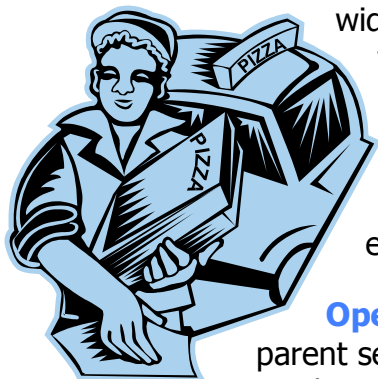
**Family Bags:** Partner with a supermarket or local businesses to create “family bags”. Suggestions to include in the bags are as follows: Community information (baseball, football, and soccer league information, community events and resources, etc.), school info (test schedules, school events, school calendar, etc.), or parent information (parent magazines, parent tips, etc.). Create a label such as: "Courtesy of xxxx (after school program name) & the xxxxx (Company Name) - We Care About Families". Include a little gift (like a pen or pad) in the bag.

**Develop fathers’ activity groups** to discuss issues & school concerns & to develop parenting skills.

- Dogs with Dad
- Pancakes with Pop
- Young Father’s Program (teen dads)
- Dads Do Count
- Bowling for the Boys

**Collaborate with Faith-Based Organization (FBO) churches** by asking for space in bulletins or bulletin boards to advertise programs & activities. It is informative for FBO members and is a communication tool for the school district.

**Develop a community appreciation program.** School ambassador certificates are provided to all community business organizations or persons that donate for parent involvement events. Plaques are delivered in person & pictures are taken & placed in district-wide newsletter that goes out to all district families & the school website.



**Coordinate with local pizza parlors & restaurants** (who deliver) to tape flyers or post cards on the pizza boxes or delivery bags to advertise programs, parent services, & events. It is a free easy outreach tool.

**Open school(s) to families to use computers & libraries** to offer parent services and computer courses; and partner with other agencies to provide workshops on home ownership, resume’ writing, using the Internet, ESL or conversational English. This strengthens family relations & creates family friendly environment, provides opportunities to recruit parents as volunteers & informs them about school & student concerns.

**“Active Parenting Series”** This is a 6-week, video-based training program for parents that includes a Best Practices curriculum. Classes start with a meal followed by a program from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Food brings parents back, and the networking continues long after the series finishes.

**Monthly parent meetings** are held the 3rd or 4th Thursday evening of the month, from August to May. Dinner, childcare, & transportation (private vehicle or city bus) are provided to enable parent(s)/guardian(s) participation. Participants brainstorm ideas for guest speakers to use and topics to be discussed throughout the course of the school year. Participants are trained to facilitate these meetings.

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# Youth Participation/Engagement

*A quality program provides opportunities for youth to participate in planning, to exercise choice and to engage in a rich variety of offerings. Here are ideas on how to make this work:*



**Academic achievement was improved by engaging students** in activities that gave them responsibility and therefore, a reason for coming to school. We involved VICA Club students in a GIFT Tree program & gave them the job of directing & implementing it. Their parents came in to help wrap all of the projects that the students shopped for with the money they raised themselves. Students found great satisfaction in doing for others even less fortunate than they.

**The After School Educational Middle School Program (AEP)** is for high-risk students who have been in trouble & ready to drop out of school or anticipate suspension. We have 20 students who have been in school 90% of the time. Their test scores have improved 80%. There have been no behavioral problems in the school year! There is 100% family involvement.

**Monthly Incentive Program** – We give out incentives to youth who attend the program at least 3 times a week over a month. Incentives include: McDonald's coupons, movie tickets, arcade tickets, & t-shirts. It has kept enrollment consistent throughout the school year.

**Please Stand Up! Program:** This is a reality program where students learn how to respond to incidents rather than just being bystanders. Areas covered are: Bullying, conflict, hatred, gangs, weapons, relationships, & suicide. For more information: [www.pleasestandup.org](http://www.pleasestandup.org)



**Jobs & Life Skills Training Program:** This program is for students who are high risk and/or want to drop out of school to earn money. It teaches the skills to secure a job, to stay in school, & to ultimately graduate. They learn how to complete job applications, "shine" at job interviews, and realize how important education is to business success.

**"Town Meeting"** Students come together to discuss concerns, daily events, and problems. This highlights events in their life that bring joy, support their love of life, and their many challenges; and it helps them plan for their afternoon.

**Did you know?** Service-learning students are significantly more likely to say they intend to vote and they enjoy school. A new study finds that service-learning is effective when it is implemented well: it lasts at least a semester, is linked to standards, involves direct contact with service recipients, and includes challenging activities for reflection. When these conditions aren't present, the approach is no more effective than conventional social studies classes. You [can download the PDF version of this study](#) online.

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# Administration/Organization

*A quality program has a well-developed infrastructure and sound fiscal management to support and enhance worthwhile programming and activities for all participants. Here are resources that you can use to ensure your program will continue to serve students, families and the community*

**The Verizon Foundation has launched an online initiative** designed to help nonprofit organizations operate more efficiently. The [online center](#) provides FREE access to a national database of technology resources that include an online library, research papers, articles and specialists who can assist non profits in running their business operations more efficiently.

**Free Search Tools to Nonprofits.** [Google](#), through its new Public Service Search section, is offering nonprofit organizations two free search tools for use on their websites: SiteSearch, for searching within sites; and WebSearch, enabling users to search the Internet by keyword. These services offer unlimited queries and allows for customization. No banner ads or other paid advertising show on search result pages. For more information, visit [their website](#).

**Pitching Stories, Creating News: Media Relations for Nonprofits** - Margot Friedman of Dupont Circle Communications just finished training a small nonprofit in launching a media relations department. To help other programs, she is posting [free materials online](#), including the article "How to Create News and Pitch Stories".

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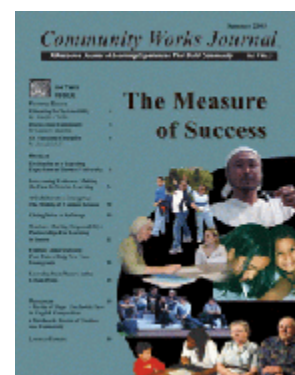
## Catch up on your summer reading!

The [Prevention Researcher](#), April 2005 issue, titled "Involving and Engaging Youth", contains articles with specific suggestions for ways organizations can attract and sustain participation of youth in after school programs.

["Finding the Right Hook: Strategies for Attracting and Sustaining Participation in After School Programs"](#). The May 2005 issue of The School Administrator magazine offers promising recruitment and retention strategies to school administrators seeking to boost participation rates in their school-based after school programs.

Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP) edited the of the [Spring 2005 issue of the New Directions for Youth Development Journal](#) which focuses on participation in youth programs: enrollment, attendance, and engagement. The issue draws on the latest research and evaluation literature and provides research-based strategies on how to define, measure, study, and increase participation.

[The Summer 2005 Issue of Community Works Journal](#) is Now Available! This issue, titled "The Measure of Success" is packed with articles on identifying outcomes and evaluating programs.



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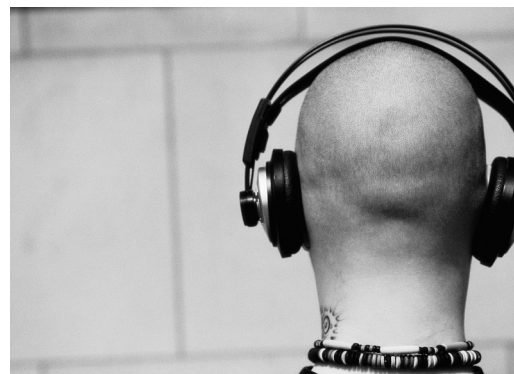
# Grant Opportunities

**The Palmer Foundation seeks to empower young people to reach their potential and become responsible contributors to their families and communities.** Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations. **Deadline for Letters of Intent: July 31, 2005.** For further information, visit their [website](#) or contact Diane Pavela at 262-842-0079.



**The Do Something Organization is offering its annual Brick Awards for Youth** who have created "sustainable, positive change" for their community in the areas of health, community building, and the environment. The award is divided into two categories: three winners in the 18-year-old and under group will receive a \$5,000 grant to be awarded to a nonprofit of choice, and an additional \$5,000 college scholarship. The 19 to 25 year old winners will receive \$10,000 to be directed to their chosen nonprofit organization. All award recipients will attend the Brick Awards Gala in New York City to celebrate their accomplishments. **Deadline for application: November 1, 2005.** Applicants must apply on the web, through [Do Something's website](#)

**Music Television (MTV) and the Youth Venture organization have teamed up to offer "Think MTV" Venture Grants** to support young people trying to make a difference in their community. Each week, a grant of up to \$1,000 will be given to a group of youths with a compelling and sustainable community service project in the area of education, discrimination, global issues, sexual health, or the environment. The grant is expected to further these projects and enable groups to establish leading organizations, clubs, or businesses to address a need in their community. Groups of two or more individuals over 13 years of age are eligible to apply. In addition to the \$1,000 grant, recipients will gain access to resources and tools from Youth Venture, as well as educational and networking opportunities. **Applications accepted on a rolling basis through Dec. 31, 2005.** For more information, visit their [website](#).



**The Janus Foundation announces programs that focus on:**

1. At-risk youth through education
2. Community service and volunteerism

The aim is to help communities reach greater levels of self-sufficiency, and impact the lives of many in each community. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations. The Foundation attempts to provide funding to nonprofits when they need it most. Therefore, the **grant selection committee meets each month to evaluate all proposals and there is no deadline for submission.** They typically respond to all proposals within 90 days of receiving them. For more information, visit their [website](#)



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# Summer Events

## **The Center for Popular Economics 26th Annual Summer Institute: Special track on: Health and Economic Justice**

July 31-August 6, 2005, Amherst College, Amherst, MA

CPE's Summer Institute is a week-long, intensive training in economics for activists, educators, and anyone who wants a better understanding of economics. We focus on the how the economic system impacts our lives, communities, and work every day. Although activists from all over the world attend the Summer Institutes, classes and workshops are taught in English. No background in economics is required. Each year we choose an issue area that we focus on in the workshops, panels, as well as in the core classrooms. This year's special track is on Health and Economic Justice. We will explore the relationships between health, poverty, race, and gender from a national and international perspective.



**Fees:** The fee for tuition and meals is \$785 and the fee for lodging in dormitory facilities at Amherst College is \$150. (An extra night's lodging is available for Saturday, July 30 for \$35 to assist participants taking advantage of less expensive airline tickets.) A fee for meals is included in the tuition. We provide free childcare during all Institute programs. We charge nominal fees for children's meals and housing. If you feel that you cannot afford these fees, we strongly encourage you to apply for a scholarship. In past years around 80% of participants received scholarship assistance.

**Academic credit:** Academic credit is available through the UMass-Amherst Continuing Education Department. For more information email: [programs@populareconomics.org](mailto:programs@populareconomics.org) or call us at (413) 545-0743. Summer Institute Brochure and registration form are available on their [website](http://www.populareconomics.org).

## **The 2005 National Urban Service-Learning Institute**

For a great training opportunity, consider attending the Second Annual National Urban Service-Learning Institute on August 18-19, 2005, in Chicago, Illinois. Get the answers to questions such as: How can the principles of service-learning be applied in inner-city environments? What are the issues and opportunities that educators and students face in urban areas?

This National Urban Service-Learning Institute will focus on applying the principles of service-learning in inner-city environments. Join them as they bring together community voices to discuss service-learning outreach and application techniques that help students achieve excellence in urban settings. The schedule is designed to allow for small-group interactions and large-group gatherings.

Registration and payment must be received by Thursday, August 5, 2005. To register and learn more, visit their [website](http://www.nusl.org).

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# Upcoming National Events: Mark Your Calendars!

## **Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services 20th Annual Region II Conference, "Trauma to Triumph: A Tour of Hope"**

September 21-23, 2005 - Ellenville, New York

Sponsored by the Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services

(212) 966-6477 E-mail: [empstacoal@aol.com](mailto:empstacoal@aol.com) [www.empirestatecoalition.org](http://www.empirestatecoalition.org)

## **National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education, and Families 2005 National Summit on Your City's Families**

September 25-28, 2005 - San Antonio, Texas

Sponsored by the National League of Cities

(202) 626-3014 E-mail: [iyef@nlc.org](mailto:iyef@nlc.org) [www.nlc.org/iyef](http://www.nlc.org/iyef)

## **Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) Conference, "Sparking a Renaissance: Making Children a National Priority"**

September 28-30, 2005 - Providence, Rhode Island

Sponsored by CWLA

(202) 638-2952 E-mail: [dwhite@cwla.org](mailto:dwhite@cwla.org) [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)

## **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Maryland Children's Alliance, American Prosecutor Research Institute, Southern Regional Child Advocacy Center, and North East Regional Child Advocacy Center, Annual Mid-Atlantic Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect**

October 3-6, 2005 - Ocean City, Maryland

Sponsored by Maryland Children's Alliance (MCA)

(410) 313-2630 E-mail: [register@mcaca.org](mailto:register@mcaca.org) [www.mcaca.org](http://www.mcaca.org)

## **National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) 7th Conference on Preventing Crime, "Silver Successes, Golden Opportunities," and Outreach to New Americans (ONA) 11th National Refugee Crime Prevention Seminar, "Gain Power By Helping to Create Safer New American Communities"**

October 8-11, 2005 - Washington, D.C.

Sponsored by NCPC

(202) 466-6272 E-mail: [mjwanmery@ncpc.org](mailto:mjwanmery@ncpc.org)  
[www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)



## **2005 Partnership for After School Education (PASE) National Conference: Shaping Our Future in Out of School Time**

November 20 - 22, 2005

Sponsored by PASE

(212) 571-2664 Register online! <http://pasesetter.org/events/events.html>

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# Reporting Requirements – 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC

**The APR is now online! Here are some frequently asked questions:**

**Q. How do we know what our impact categories are?**

A. The State determines the impact categories. This year's categories include Grades, State Assessment Current Year, and Teacher Survey. Grantees can see these categories by clicking on the APR tab>click on "Centers" and view the impact categories selected by the State for your program.

**Q. It seems that the categories of State Assessment Cross Year Aggregated and State Assessment Cross Year Disaggregated are not relevant to NY State grantees, is this assumption correct?**

A. The assumption is correct: New York State grantees will not be completing the State Assessment Cross Year Aggregated or the State Assessment Cross Year Disaggregated.

**Q. Grades 4 and 8 Math Assessments, Math A, and English Regents scores are not expected until perhaps late August or even September according to the School District. What do we do if we don't have the scores in time?**

A. Use the test scores you have received & enter zero for the ones you don't receive in order to meet the APR completion deadline of September 1, 2005.

**Q. Are report card quarterly grades required for all students participating in our program for evaluation purposes? For example, a grade 3 student would not be involved in a state assessment. Therefore, what data would be suitable to use to measure academic progress for the grade 3 student?**

A. Report card grade improvement status is required for all children. The state assessments are in a different section and only relate to 4th and 8th grades at this time.

**Q. Where do we get the teacher surveys?**

A. The revised Teacher Survey can be accessed, on the [Learning Point Associates website](#): Click on the "Home/Help" tab at the top of the screen; scroll down to "Users Guide & Forms" and click on "Teacher Survey – Revised March 2005".

**Q. Our original objectives did not include percentage improvement figures. We are now questioning whether and how we should adjust our objectives.**

A. It is best if your objectives are quantifiable, otherwise it is difficult to identify if you are meeting them. You can make such adjustments to your objectives online by modifying the objectives in the grantee profile.

**Q. How can I count concurrent activities?**

A. The APR "Form C: Activities" has been expanded this year to include sections for both school year and summer programs. Otherwise, the form is the same as last year. Form C is most easily completed when the Typical # Hrs./Week is calculated separately from the next columns, "What % of participants served participated in the service/activity?"





**Q. I can't find my user name and password, how can I obtain them again?**

A. Email to request your user name/password: Sherry Runk at [srunk@mhric.org](mailto:srunk@mhric.org)

**Q. When is the deadline?**

A. The deadline for completing the APR for the 2004-05 reporting period is **September 1, 2005**. Don't wait until the last minute to complete this information.

**Q. What is the website address again for the APR?**

A. [www2.learningpt.org/ppics](http://www2.learningpt.org/ppics)

**Q. I have more questions. Who should I contact?**

If you have any questions regarding why you have been asked to complete the 21st CCLC APR for the 2004-05 school year or questions about how to report on specific aspects of your program, you should contact [Candace LaRue](#), [Linda Woodward](#), or [Sherry Runk](#).

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## ESD/SVP Reporting –



### **The Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention Renewal Application is now [online](#)**

The paperwork has been reduced significantly to 3 pages. Page 1 and 2 are the same as always. The Program Abstract must be only one page and it has to be double spaced.

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## **New York State Center for School Safety**

[The New York State Center for School Safety \(NYSCSS\)](#) is a state government coordinating agency and information clearinghouse. The Center supports schools, families, communities and government organizations in creating safe and healthy environments. We are one of three statewide centers and eight regional centers that make up the [Student Support Services Network](#). The Student Support Services Network is supervised by the [Student Support Services Program](#) (formerly the CHAPS program) of the New York State Education Department.

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**After School News and Notes is produced by the New York State Center for School Safety.**

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Please contact [Candace LaRue](#) or [Sherry Runk](#) at the New York State Center for School Safety with ideas for types of articles and resources you would like to see in future issues.