

HUD FEDERAL INTERAGENCY YOUTH INITIATIVES

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is a federal partner in several federal interagency initiatives that promote the well-being of children and young people, with the overall goal of improving the outcomes of the most vulnerable, at risk youth. Approximately 1/3 of the population living in public housing and housing choice voucher households are young people. Research shows that low income young people face a myriad of challenges in reaching their full potential in comparison to non-low income youth. Without the necessary coordinated efforts and support needed to address the needs of this particular population, this population will not successfully transition to adulthood. The resulting impact on society and tax payers is costly. It is for this reason, that the Department, as well as all federal youth serving agencies has improved efforts to better serve this population. HUD's participation in the below interagency efforts aligns with its Strategic Plan Goal 3: "Using housing as a platform to improve the quality of life for families".

- 1. Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs (IWGYP)** - The IWGYP consist of 12 Federal Agencies that administer youth programs and seeks to promote achievement of positive results for at-risk youth through the following activities: promoting enhanced collaboration at the Federal, state, and local levels, including with faith-based and other community organizations, as well as among families, schools and communities, in order to leverage existing resources and improve outcomes; disseminating information about critical resources, including evidence-based programs, to assist interested citizens and decision-makers, particularly at the community level, to plan, implement, and participate in effective strategies for at-risk youth; developing an overarching strategic plan for federal youth policy, as well as recommendations for improving the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of youth programs, using input from community stakeholders, including youth; and producing a Federal website to promote effective community-based efforts to reduce the factors that put youth at risk and to provide high-quality services to at-risk youth. www.FindYouthInfo.gov.

These activities are described in Executive Order 13459, as well as in the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. There is no programmatic funding attached to this efforts, however each agency – including HUD – has an existing Memorandum of Understanding evidencing agency financial and leverage support. HUD is currently a non-funding partner, however, leverages staff time and its outreach efforts to disseminate any/all deliverables resulting from this working group.

- 2. National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention** – In October 2010, at the direction of the President, the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education officially launched the *National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention* (the "Forum"). The Administration created the Forum as a context for participating localities to share challenges and promising strategies with each other and to explore how federal agencies can better support local efforts to reduce youth

violence. Participating cities have, since this launch, worked collaboratively together and with federal partners to develop or enhance comprehensive plans to prevent youth and gang violence in their city, using multi-disciplinary partnerships, balanced approaches and data-driven strategies. Participating localities include Boston, Camden, Chicago, Detroit, Memphis, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Salinas, San Jose, Long Beach, Cleveland, Louisville, Seattle, and Baltimore. Technical Assistance funding to support the Forum is made possible to funding appropriated directly to the lead agency, Department of Justice. <http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/youth-topics/preventing-youth-violence/about-national-forum>

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3. **Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (Council)** - The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act establishes the Council as an independent body within the executive branch of the federal government. The Council's primary functions are to coordinate federal juvenile delinquency prevention programs, federal programs and activities that detain or care for unaccompanied juveniles, and federal programs relating to missing and exploited children. The Council, which is chaired by the Attorney General, meets quarterly and at the call of its Chair. There is no federal funding attached to this Council.

The Council's Responsibilities: coordinate federal juvenile delinquency programs, programs and activities that detain or care for unaccompanied juveniles, and programs relating to missing and exploited children; examine how programs can be coordinated among federal, state, and local governments to better serve at-risk youth; make annual recommendations to the Congress with respect to "coordination of overall policy and development of objectives and priorities for all federal programs and activities that detain or care for unaccompanied juveniles; review the programs and practices of federal agencies and report on the degree to which federal agency funds are used for purposes consistent with the requirements of the JJDP Act; review and make recommendations with respect to joint funding proposals undertaken between OJJDP and any agency represented on the Council; and review the reasons why federal agencies take juveniles into custody and make recommendations to improve federal practices and facilities for holding juveniles in custody.

4. **Interagency Reentry Workgroup/Juvenile Reentry** – comprised of 12 federal agencies with the intent on coordinating and identifying policy and programmatic areas to enhance efforts surrounding reentry. The Juvenile Reentry sub working group is a product of the reentry council.
5. **Children of Incarcerated Parents (COIP)** – originally formed under the leadership of the White House Domestic Policy Council in 2012; now led by the Dept. of Justice's Reentry Council – www.findyouthinfo.gov. The following link highlights the accomplishment the COIP working group over the

past year, and next steps: http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/SnapShot_Children_Incarcerated_Parents.pdf.

- 6. My Brother's Keeper – led by the White House.** Despite areas of enormous progress in this country, the gates of opportunity have not fully opened for all in America. For decades, opportunity has lagged behind for boys and young men of color. Boys of color are too often born into poverty and live with a single parent. And while their gains contributed to the national high school graduation rate reaching an all-time high, in some school districts dropout rates remain high. Too many of these boys and young men will have negative interactions with the juvenile and criminal justice system, and the dream of a college education is within grasp for too few.

That's why, on February 27, 2014, the President took action, joining with philanthropy and the private sector to launch an initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people who are willing to do the hard work to get ahead can reach their full potential — using proven tools and focusing on key moments in their lives where we can help make a difference.

<http://mbk.ed.gov/background/>

- 7. Interagency Working Group on Disconnected Youth – led by OMB.** A federal interagency effort that focuses on coordinating state/local resources to improve outcomes for youth who are not in school, not working, and/or disconnected from society in general. www.findyouthinfo.gov
- 8. HUD/HHS/Dept. of Labors Youth Summer Employment effort:** A formal interagency partnership to promote hiring young people living in HUD-assisted households; supports partnerships with public housing authorities; and encourages the use of CDBG funding to support summer employment. See attached signed interagency letter of agreement. There is no funding attached to this effort, however, the use of HUD CDBG funding to support summer youth employment efforts is encouraged.
- 9. HUD/USDA partnership to promote Summer Meals Program and year round food and nutritional programs:** Provides school-age children living in HUD-assisted households with access to nutritional meals beyond the school year and school hours. HUD works jointly with USDA to enable PHAs to become sponsors of the Summer Meals programs, and/or to provide appropriate feeding locations such as community facilities. PHA cost reimbursements for administering the program is made possible through USDA. www.summerfood.usda.gov.
- 10. HUD/Greatschools:** A HUD partnership with GreatSchools – a national non-profit – to provide parents with the tools and resources they need to access better schools and on choose the right school for their child. By typing in a zip code, parents have access to school performance factors and profiles in their neighborhood. Overall goal is to improve educational outcomes for low-income

young people, and to empower parents to be more actively involved in their child's learning experience. There is no funding attached to this effort.
www.greatschools.org

11. HUD/FirstBook: Provides free or low cost brand new books to low income families with school-age children. Aims to improve reading literacy for kids living in low income households. There is no funding attached to this effort.
www.firstbook.org

12. HUD/ABCmouse.com: ABCmouse.com, developed by Age of Learning, Inc. (www.ageoflearning.com), is the leading and most comprehensive online curriculum for young learners. Available on computers, tablets, and smartphones, ABCmouse.com helps children ages 2-7 build a strong foundation for future academic success. The curriculum encompasses reading and language arts, math, science, social studies, health, art, and music. ABCmouse.com is available on a low-cost subscription basis for use at home, and is free to schools, libraries, Head Start programs, and community centers—including public housing authorities. **Public Housing authorities can visit www.abcmouse.com/communitycenters to obtain ABCmouse.com for free.**

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