

February 2010 - **NASET** Resources Review

In this issue you will find resources in the following areas:

- Assistive and Educational Technology
- Autism
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- Dyslexia
- Early Intervention Resources
- Family and Community Resources
- Funding in Special Education
- Life Skills
- Reading Instruction
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- Work Related Topics for Adolescents with Disabilities

Assistive and Educational Technology

Assistive Technology Act.

Our page on the Tech Act received some very low ratings from visitors...and it's no wonder. Hopefully, you'll find the new one more to your liking!

<http://www.nichcy.org/Laws/Other/Pages/AssistiveTechnologyAct.aspx>

Are you using Windows Vista? Tweak it for students with disabilities.

The Ease of Access Center in Vista gives powerful tools to people with visual or auditory disabilities so they can use a computer more effectively. This 3-minute video will show you how to tweak the system to great effect.

<http://www.5min.com/Video/Tweak-Windows-Vista-for-People-with-Disabilities-210066013>

How to find technology communication tools for the classroom.

<http://www.howtothings.com/education/how-to-find-technology-communication-tools-for-the-classroom>

How to develop an elementary school technology plan.

http://www.ehow.com/how_5816230_develop-elementary-school-technology-plan.html

Educational Technology in Public School Districts

Report

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010003>

This First Look report, from the National Center for Education Statistics within the Institute of Education Sciences, presents data from a fall 2008 district Fast Response Survey System (FRSS) survey on the availability and use of educational technology, including information on networks and Internet capacity, technology policies, district-provided resources, teacher professional development, and district-level leadership for technology. The data are the results of a national

district-level survey that is one of a set that includes district, school, and teacher surveys on educational technology.

Autism

How to's...autism.

This video, How to Help a Child with Autism, is 3+ minutes long and was made in collaboration with TACA (Talking about Curing Autism).

<http://www.wonderhowto.com/how-to/video/how-to-help-a-child-with-autism-281661/>

Behavior Management

Behavior Suite updated.

NICHCY's Behavior Suite is a collection of five separate resource pages on addressing behavior challenges in children and youth. Find the behavior expertise you need, connect with resources to improve behavior at home and behavior at school, read about assessment of behavior, developing a behavior intervention plan, and offering positive behavioral supports to students. All begin at:

<http://www.nichcy.org/Pages/behaviorsuite.aspx>

Dyslexia

How-to's....dyslexia.

http://www.ehow.com/topic_1352_coping-with-dyslexia.html

Early Intervention Resources

Learning about child development.

The website How To Do Things is a fascinating treasure trove of how-to's on an unbelievable range of subjects. We've sprinkled links to many of its offerings throughout this newsletter. The one identified here will connect you to sites and resources intended to help you learn about child development.

<http://www.howtodothings.com/education/how-to-learn-about-child-development>

Detect hearing loss early via the EHDI program.

EHDI (Early Hearing Detection & Intervention) programs are located in states and territories and are designed to identify infants with hearing loss.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/default.htm> (in English)

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/spanish/default.htm> (in Spanish)

How autism emerges: Patterns of onset in the first years of life.

A 44-minute video from the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center.

<http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/site/newsandevents/podcastandvideo/page.aspx?id=1764>

Early signs of a learning disability: LDA on early childhood.

Children who may have a disability often exhibit signs that their development is not typical at a very early age. The presence of significant delays in specific areas of development, when other

skills are age appropriate, could indicate that a child has a learning disability. This resource page at the Learning Disabilities Association of America will connect you with helpful resources to help you understand the early signs of learning disabilities, early assessments, and ways to help children.

http://www.ldanatl.org/aboutld/parents/early_childhood/index.asp

Early childhood mental health services: Four state case studies.

This in-depth policy analysis from Project Forum provides a background of the early childhood mental health (ECMH) focus of many organizations and legal elements of why it is essential that children with disabilities be included in a comprehensive mental health system.

<http://projectforum.org/docs/EarlyChildhoodMentalHealthServices-FourStateCaseStudies.pdf>

Preschool games guide.

What's more mischievous than a bored preschooler? Whether you're a teacher or parent, an arsenal of games can bring peace back to your group. This guide will provide you a list of games for the next time your kids get a little antsy.

http://www.ehow.com/topic_7813_preschool-games-guide.html

Spanish-language health resources Knowledge Path.

This Knowledge Path was compiled by the Maternal and Child Health Library at Georgetown University. It points to current, high-quality Spanish-language health resources for health professionals and consumers.

http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_spanish.html

Family and Community Resources

In January: National Mentoring Month and the Martin Luther King National Day of Service: Whatcha gonna do?

Lots of ideas and connections to be had in the Resource Center's December 2009 newsletter.

<http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/files/YourResourceConn-Dec09.pdf>

Looking for info on Section 504?

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights law designed to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. NICHCY hears from many folks searching for more info on how Section 504 applies to children with disabilities. Here are a number of resources on the subject:

- FAQs from the horse's mouth.
What the U.S. Department of Education has to say.
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html>
- More from the U.S. Department of Education.
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/edlite-FAPE504.html>
- Section 504 and children with AD/HD.
<http://www.help4adhd.org/en/education/rights/504>
- Using Section 504 to help children with disabilities in school.
<http://www.elc-pa.org/pubs/downloads%202009/UsingSection504inSchoolfinal.pdf>
- From Wrightslaw.
<http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/sec504.index.htm>

Benefits for children with disabilities.

This booklet describes the kinds of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and health benefits for a child with a disability and explains the evaluation of disability claims for children.

- In English | <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10026.html>
- In Spanish | <http://www.ssa.gov/espanol/10926.html>

Benefits from the EPSTD program.

EPSTD stands for Early & Periodic Screening & Diagnostic Treatment, a Medicaid program that provides for comprehensive and preventive health screening for individuals under the age of 21, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Since one in three U.S. children under age six is eligible for Medicaid, EPSTD offers a very important way to ensure that young children receive appropriate health, mental health, and developmental services.

- Learn about the EPSTD program.

<http://www.hrsa.gov/epsdt/>

- The Knowledge Path on EPSTD.

http://www.mchlibrary.info/knowledgePaths/kp_EPSDT.html

- Find services in your community.

http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_community.html Find out about government benefits available in your state for eligible children.

What's nice about this site is that you pick your state from a map or drop-down menu and are given a long list of government benefit programs that your state is operating, with specific emphasis on those for low-income families. You can view the benefit details of those programs in your state and determine your own eligibility for them, right there on the website.

http://www.govbenefits.gov/govbenefits_en.portal?nfpb=true&pageLabel=gbcc_page_locate_state&nfls=false

Vehicle purchase/modification funding resources.

Easter Seals Project Action lists resources for funding if you need to modify a vehicle, or purchase a new one and make it accessible.

http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/vehicle_funding.pdf

The PTA's reference guide to state laws on family engagement in education.

The National PTA gives key facts, background, analysis, noteworthy statutes, and policy recommendations for state PTAs and other family and child advocates for crafting successful school-family engagement legislation at the state level.

http://www.pta.org/State_Laws_Report.pdf

Reading Planet for your kids.

The RIF Reading Planet is a colorful and interactive website where children (ages 6 to 15) can explore a fun, online world of books as they engage in reading and writing games and activities.

<http://www.rif.org/kids/readingplanet.htm>

Tips on communicating with a non-verbal child.

<http://www.howtodothings.com/health-fitness/how-to-communicate-with-a-non-verbal-child>

New mediation and resolution sessions guide.

The Advocacy Institute partnered with the Children's Law Clinic at Duke

Law School to develop a new guide for families and advocates on preparing for mediations and resolution sessions.

<http://www.advocacyinstitute.org/resources/Preparing.for.SpEd.Mediation.Resolution.Sessions.pdf>

Upcoming LDA conference: February 17-20, 2010.

The Learning Disabilities Association of America's 47th Annual International Conference will be held in Baltimore, MD. <http://www.ldaamerica.org/conference/index.asp>

11th Annual National Fatherhood & Families Conference: February, 23-26, 2010.

To be held in Los Angeles, California.

This national professional development conference is intended for parents, practitioners, managers, senior and executive management from nonprofit, faith based, higher education, corrections, law enforcement, child support, Head Start, Healthy Start, probation, and so many more professions.

<http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=301456883&u=3356563>

How to toilet train...

• a child with disabilities? Here's one article:

http://pediatrics.about.com/cs/parentingadvice/a/sp_needs_potty.htm And here's another:

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/potty-training-children-with-disabilities.html>

• a child with autism?

<http://www.teacch.com/toilet.html>

• a child with cerebral palsy?

<http://www.originsofcerebralpalsy.com/04-care/01-bathing-toilet.html>

• a child with developmental disabilities?

<http://www.dcs-cde.ca.gov/rsc/toilettraining.pdf>

• a child with developmental disabilities?

<http://www.consultantlive.com/display/article/10162/1425974?verify=0>

• a child with OCD?

http://www.ehow.com/how_5750595_potty-train-toddler-ocd.html

Funding in Special Education

Forecast of Funding Opportunities under the Department of Education *Discretionary Grant Programs for Fiscal Year 2009-2010*

<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html>

This document lists virtually all programs and competitions under which the U.S. Department of Education has invited or expects to invite applications for new awards for fiscal year 2009-2010 and provides actual or estimated deadlines for the transmittal of applications under these programs. The lists are in the form of charts organized according to the Department's principal program offices and include programs and competitions previously announced as well as those to be announced at a later date.

FY 2009-2010 Discretionary Grant Application Packages

<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html>

This site, from the Department of Education, provides information on grant competitions that are currently open.

Global Youth Service Day

<http://www.yusa.org/grants/announcements/get-ur-good-grants-launched>

Youth Service America, partnering with Miley Cyrus, has launched “Get Ur Good On,” small grants to support projects celebrating Global Youth Service Day, April 23-25, 2010, and will award 100 \$500 grants to projects addressing important community issues such as poverty, education, and environmental sustainability. Deadline: February 22, 2010.

National Federation of the Blind Scholarship Program

<http://www.nfb.org/scholarships>

Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 National Federation of the Blind Scholarship Program. Each year at its national convention in July, NFB gives 30 scholarships to recognize achievement by blind scholars. The scholarships are available to blind students who will be enrolled in college or a graduate program beginning in the fall of 2010, including incoming freshmen. Scholarships range in value from \$3,000 to \$12,000. In addition to a scholarship, each winner will receive assistance to attend the 2010 National Federation of the Blind Annual Convention in July, providing opportunities for networking with active blind persons in many different professions and occupations. Deadline March 31, 2010.

Shared Planet Youth Action Grants

<http://tinyurl.com/ydnuexb>

The Starbucks Foundation has an open application period for its Shared Planet Youth Action Grants, which provide young people (ages 6-24) a continuum of services in social entrepreneurship and aid them in developing creative approaches to address pressing concerns. With these grants, Starbucks uses the spirit of innovation to inspire young people to take action and to create positive solutions to real local needs they see in their neighborhoods. Deadline for application: February 5, 2010.

Powered by Service Offers Funding to Seed Youth-Led Service Projects

<http://tinyurl.com/y817j44>

Grants will be awarded to young people around the world who are conducting service projects that encourage youth to become involved in addressing problems facing their communities. Grants presently are being accepting only from Atlanta GA, Detroit MI, Los Angeles CA, Milwaukee WI, New Orleans LA and New York NY, but other communities will be added at intervals. Deadline: Open.

Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge Invites Students and Teachers to Address Environmental Issues

<http://wecanchange.com/>

Students and teachers in grades K-8 will be awarded grants and publicity for their solutions to classroom environmental issues. Grades K to second will seek to create solutions to environmental issues in their classroom, grades third to fifth in their school and grades six to eight in their community. Student and teacher/mentor prizes, which vary according to grade level, include savings bonds, school grants, trips, TV appearances, and more. Deadline: Elementary-level entries is January 31, 2010; the deadline for middle-school entries is March 15, 2010.

Travelocity's Travel for Good Volunteer Travel Opportunities

<http://tinyurl.com/2v7sh2>

Travelocity's Travel for Good offers funding quarterly for its Change Ambassadors Grant to help support Americans who wish to travel to participate in volunteer opportunities (volunteer vacations). Two grants of \$5,000 each will be awarded to individuals or groups going on volunteer vacations; applicants must demonstrate a previous commitment to volunteering and financial need. Deadline: not applicable.

Financial Aid On Disabilityinfo.Gov

<http://www.disabilityinfo.gov/digov-public/public/DisplayPage.do?parentFolderId=84>

This Web site includes links to scholarship applications for students with various disabilities for graduate and undergraduate as well as vocational studies.

Got Grants?

<http://www.teachersourcebook.org/tsb/articles/2009/03/16/02grants.h02.html>

Successful education grant writers offer advice on how to access teacher-learning funds.

Michigan State Library of Financial Aid

<http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/3disable.htm>

Michigan State's comprehensive list of financial aid resources for students with disabilities can be found at their Web site.

Scholarships4students.Com

http://www.scholarships4students.com/special_scholarships.htm

Scholarships4students's Web site includes a list of scholarships for students with disabilities, by disability category.

National Scholarship Providers Association

<http://www.scholarshipproviders.org>

The National Scholarship Providers Association (NSPA) web site offers information on NSPA scholarships for Latino students and for students formerly in foster care. A new NSPA product, the Scholarship Data Standard, allows students to complete an online scholarship application and then re-use the information with other scholarship providers without retyping their data.

Charles Lafitte Foundation: Grants for Education & Child Advocacy

<http://www.charleslafitte.org/education.html>

The Charles Lafitte Foundation Grants Program helps groups and individuals foster lasting improvement on the human condition by providing support to education, children's advocacy, medical research, and the arts. Maximum award: varies. Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations. Deadline: rolling.

Plum Grants

<http://www.dosomething.org/programs/plum-grant-guidelines>

Individuals who have recently created a sustainable community action project, program or organization and need \$500 to further the growth and success of the program are eligible to apply for a Plum Youth Grant. Plum grants are given out weekly. Deadline: None.

Nonprofit Music Programs

<http://www.guitarcentermusicfoundation.org/grants/index.cfm?sec=info>

The Guitar Center Music Foundation's mission is to aid nonprofit music programs across America that offer music instruction so that more people can experience the joys of making music. Maximum Award: \$5000. Eligibility: 501(c)(3) organizations. Qualifying applicants are established, ongoing and sustainable music programs across the United States that provide music instruction for people of any age who would not otherwise have the opportunity to make music. Deadline: N/A.

Live Monarch Educator Outreach Program

<http://www.lmf-educator-award.com/index.html>

The Live Monarch Foundation Educator Outreach Program provides funding for U.S. teachers to enroll in the National Campaign to bring monarch butterflies into the classroom. This program provides education and materials to strengthen the monarch's 3,000-mile migratory route within North America by creating self-sustaining butterfly gardens and refuges. Materials will be provided for each participant to raise a virtual butterfly and start a real butterfly garden with professional instruction on each level of its maintenance and care. Maximum Award: n/a. Eligibility: teachers and classrooms in areas on the monarch migratory route. Deadline: rolling.

Disaboom Scholarship Directory

<http://www.disaboom.com/scholarships>

Disaboom recently launched a scholarship directory for students with disabilities, listing over 125 scholarships.

Federal Student Aid Grant Program Fact Sheet

<http://tinyurl.com/yfbe5tb>

Disability.Gov has created a fact sheet that provides an overview of the major federal student aid grant programs. The federal government provides grant funds for students attending colleges, including career colleges and universities.

Grants, unlike loans, do not have to be repaid. (A Spanish version is at:

<http://tinyurl.com/yz2zheg>.) Available in pdf (1 page, 164 KB).

Funding Education Beyond High School

<http://tinyurl.com/yk7uot7>

The US Department of Education's Guide to Federal Student Aid (2009-2010) provides information for students and families on applying for federal student aid to pay for post-secondary education. This guide explains the application process, the various federal loans, grants, and work-study programs available, and how to apply for them. Education creates opportunities and is an important step toward success. Available in pdf (64 pages, 2.95 MB).

NASFAA and Casey Family programs: Guide to Financial Aid Assistance to Students from Foster Care and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/ProvidingEffectiveFinancialAid.htm

This guide provides information for those who help youth from foster care and unaccompanied homeless youth to secure financial aid for postsecondary education or training programs. It describes how to respond to new FAFSA questions 55-60 that will determine federal financial aid status for these students. A section on sensitive communications is also included. This guide will be useful for financial aid professionals, independent living coordinators, guidance

counselors, financial aid counselors, social workers and advocates who are helping youth to secure the maximum allowable financial aid.

Scholarships and Internships for Latino Students with Disabilities

<http://www.proyectovision.net/english/opportunities/scholarships.html>

The World Institute on Disability (WID) has a five-year grant to establish the National Technical Assistance Center for Latinos with Disabilities living in the United States, through Proyecto Vision. Proyecto Vision's website has a list of scholarship opportunities for college students who are Latino and who are living with disability.

Life Skills

How to teach life skills in special education.

<http://www.howtodothings.com/education/a4393-how-to-teach-life-skills-in-special-education.html>

Reading Instruction

Reading interventions in grades K-3: From research to practice.

This report summarizes high-quality research studies and synthesizes their findings on the effects of extensive reading interventions and related implications for practice for students with reading problems or learning disabilities in an RTI setting.

<http://www.centeroninstruction.org/files/Extensive%20Reading%20Interventions.pdf>

A comprehensive K-3 reading assessment plan: Guidance for school leaders. This document from the Center on Instruction provides guidance to school leaders about a comprehensive assessment plan as a critical element of a school-level plan for preventing reading difficulties.

<http://www.centeroninstruction.org/files/K-3%20Reading.pdf>

Secondary Education Resources

How to improve study skills in middle school.

<http://www.howtodothings.com/education/a2964-how-to-improve-study-skills-in-middle-school.html>

How about study skills and strategies for high schoolers?

<http://www.howtodothings.com/education/a2470-how-to-improve-study-skills-for-high-school-students.html>

Approaches to tiered intervention for helping significantly struggling learners in high school.

This report defines RTI models, explores benefits and challenges faced at the high school level, shares a snapshot of implementation at the high school level, and outlines the necessary resources needed to support this work.

http://www.betterhighschools.org/docs/NHSC_RTIBrief_08-02-07.pdf

Check out the National High School Events Calendar.

The National High School Center's calendar includes meetings and conferences, workshops, and

dialogues that are relevant to high school improvement. If you have an activity to add, you can! http://www.betterhighschools.org/event_calendar.aspx

Systematic reviews of research on postsecondary transitions: Identifying effective models and practices.

This report focuses on transition programs for youth to postsecondary education. It's from the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE). <http://tinyurl.com/yftk7z2>

Work Related Topics for Adolescents with Disabilities

NCWD/Youth Releases Policy Brief on Supporting Youth with Mental Health Needs

<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/policy-brief-02>

Last fall, NCWD/Youth released a policy brief entitled “Supporting Transition to Adulthood Among Youth with Mental Health Needs: Action Steps for Policymakers.” This policy brief provides specific recommendations to aid policymakers across youth-serving systems to better serve youth with mental health needs. The following recommendations appear in the report:

- provide multidimensional, integrated services tailored to young people’s needs
- collaborate and coordinate across state and local agencies
- broaden eligibility criteria for mental health services
- involve youth and families in policy development
- leverage various federal and state funding sources
- build the competencies of career education and workforce professionals
- design and fund pilot demonstrations that evaluate promising practices

This policy brief is one in a series that NCWD/Youth published based on four major reports released in the last few years focusing on transition-age youth with mental health needs.

NCWD/Youth Partners with NAWDP to Promote Professional Development

<http://www.nawdp.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Certification>

NCWD/Youth is pleased to announce an expanded partnership with the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP), a national voice and membership organization for professionals in the workforce development field. This partnership will build on the Youth Service Professionals’ Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (YSP/KSA) initiative led by the National Youth Employment Coalition and the Institute for Educational Leadership. NAWDP will be working with NCWD/Youth to promote this work by identifying training opportunities to implement the new YSP/KSA, promoting the YSP/KSA modules to its members, and creating a streamlined connection between the YSP/KSA modules and NAWDP’s Certified Workforce Development Professional Credential and Youth Service Endorsement. NAWDP’s Youth Service Endorsement is based on the 10 KSA areas and this new partnership will further align the professional development efforts of both organizations. Youth service professionals and organizations will benefit from expanded training opportunities, increases in staff competencies, and clearer pathways to professional certification.

NCWD/Youth to Convene Youth Service Professionals Advanced Training Webinar Series

http://www.dynamicinstitute.com/Catalog/catalog_pkgdetail.cfm?ID=469

NCWD/Youth, in partnership with Dynamic Works Institute, will conduct a series of five

webinars from January to March 2010 aimed at providing youth service professionals with advanced training opportunities based on its work over the last nine years.

Youth Service Professionals Advanced Training Series:

- It's Not Crazy Making: Helping Youth with Mental Health Needs Avoid Transition Cliffs February 10, 2010; 2:00 – 3:30 pm EST
- Can't Ask, Afraid to Tell: Disability Inquiries and Disclosure in the Workforce Development System February 24, 2010; 2:00 – 3:30 pm EST
- Locked Up but Not Locked Out: Serving Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System March 10, 2010; 2:00 – 3:30 pm EST
- Everybody Learns, Everybody Works: Creating Inclusive Workforce Development for Youth with Learning Disabilities March 24, 2010; 2:00 – 3:30 pm EST

ODEP to Convene Listening Sessions in Early 2010

<http://www.disabilitylisteningtour.com>

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) is hosting a series of listening sessions in early 2010 intended to provide opportunities for the public to provide input to senior federal officials on more effective ways to employ women, veterans, and minorities with disabilities, as well as on what currently works to increase employment for all people with disabilities. ODEP seeks input particularly from individuals and consumers (including youth and adults with disabilities, parents, and caregivers), employers (both public and private), and service providers and advocacy organizations (including independent living centers, One-Stops, and state rehabilitation programs). In addition to taking comments at the in-person regional sessions listed below, ODEP also accepts comments online.

Listening Sessions:

- Chicago, IL – February 11, 2010
- San Francisco, CA – February 16, 2010
- Atlanta, GA – February 24, 2010
- Boston, MA – March 3, 2010

Mathy Martinez, Assistant Secretary of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, Delivers Remarks at Disability-Focused Green Jobs Roundtable

http://www.dol.gov/odep/media/speeches/20091216_GREEN.htm

In mid-December, Assistant Secretary of Labor Kathy Martinez, who heads the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), delivered remarks at an ODEP-sponsored meeting entitled "Strategies for Including People With Disabilities in the Green Jobs Talent Pipeline: A Roundtable Discussion."

IEL Launches Mentoring Program for Youth with Disabilities in the Juvenile Justice System

<http://ramp.iel.org>

In October 2009, the Institute for Educational Leadership launched its new Ready to Achieve Mentoring Program (RAMP). Twelve communities in eight states are participating in this mentoring program funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Building on materials developed by NCWD/Youth, RAMP is a high

tech, career-focused mentoring program for youth with disabilities involved with or at risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system. RAMP site leaders convened in November 2010 for the program's kick off and orientation event.

Social Security Administration Launches Ticket to Work Website

<http://www.choosework.net>

The Social Security Administration launched the new ChooseWork.net website for people with disabilities receiving Social Security disability benefits. The site features an overview of Ticket to Work programs, videos and stories from individuals involved with Ticket to Work, links, resources, and more.

Training Institutes 2010 Conference to Focus on Practice and Performance for Serving Young People with Mental Health Needs

<http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/training/80146.html>

The National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health at the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, in partnership with the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch of the federal Center for Mental Health Services and The Annie E. Casey Foundation, will convene Training Institutes on local systems of care for children, adolescents, and young adults with or at risk for mental health challenges and their families from July 14 – 18, 2010 in Washington, DC. The Institutes will focus on how to provide effective clinical interventions, services, and supports and how to measure performance.

HSC Foundation Accepting Applications for Advocates in Disability Award for DC-Area Youth

<http://www.hscfoundation.org/2010ADA.php>

The HSC Foundation is currently accepting applications for its Advocates in Disability Award for a young individual with a disability who has dedicated him/herself to positively affecting the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The award process is open to young people between the ages of 14 and 26. The HSC Foundation is accepting applications online through March 4, 2010.

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Releases Publication on Financial Aid for Youth Who Are Unaccompanied or From Foster Care

<http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/pdf/ProvidingEffectiveFinancialAid.pdf>

The Foster Youth Success Initiative at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) released a publication entitled "Providing Effective Financial Aid Assistance to Students from Foster Care and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: A Key to Higher Education Access and Success."

CCCCO created this guide upon recognizing that a significant number of youth from foster care were struggling to find needed support and assistance in obtaining financial aid. Acknowledging this need, CCCCCO sponsored a concerted effort called the Foster Youth Success Initiative to bring issues affecting these youth to the forefront and to improve their ability to access postsecondary education and benefit from the support services that are available but are often unknown to them.