

# Graduate NYC!

## Community Best Practices Forum

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Youth Development Institute  
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation  
Good Shepherd Services  
Wednesday, June 22, 2011  
10:30am-12pm

### Agenda

1. Welcome and Purpose (Mary Claire Hiebert)
2. Overview of the NYC Partnership for College Access and Success Project  
Goals and Structure of the Partnership (Vivian Vázquez)
3. Role of CBOs in College Success  
(Andrea Soonachan, Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation and  
Bonnie Genevich, Good Shepherd Services)
4. New York City College of Technology: Working with CBOs (Bonnie  
August)
5. Lessons Learned and Implications for Expanding a System of Supports  
through CBO/College Partnerships (Panel Discussion)
6. Q and A

**New York City Partnership for College Access and Success:  
Youth Development Institute, Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation,  
Good Shepherd Services, New York City College of Technology**

**Overview**

The goal of YDI's New York City Partnership for College Access and Success (CAS) initiative is to support youth who have received their GED or attended large failing high schools, to enter and complete college. Results so far are promising. While the numbers are small, retention and graduation rates exceed those of similar youth in the participating college.

YDI established its first Local Network in 2005 to support an institutional partnership between a community based organization and a college. These partners include the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, Good Shepherd Services, and the New York City College of Technology, City University of New York.

The key functions of the Partnership include:

- **Team meetings to share data, address students' needs and develop actions plans:** These discussions lead to a deeper understanding of each student and provide the kinds of comprehensive supports that would not be possible if the each partner were acting without the insight of the other.
- **Access resources and extended networks that benefit the program and the students.** Members pool their resources to help students access services at the college, employment, housing, and child care.
- **Bridge the cultures of the participating organizations.** While the CBO and college have much common ground, their approaches to supporting students differ. YDI helps the partners to see the value in their differing approaches and resolve issues in ways that are productive for the students.
- **Commit to a long term relationship with each student.** Another important aspect of the collaboration is the commitment to a long-term relationship with each student. Stability of staff and leadership, regular meetings, agreed-upon mechanisms for getting things done, shared values, and a willingness to use institutional resources contribute to the effectiveness of the partnership.

Youth Development Institute  
New York City Partnership for College Access and Success  
Partnership Chart

Supporting young adults between the ages of 16-24, who have dropped out of school,  
come from large failing high schools or attended alternative schools,  
to enter and succeed in college.

<p>Youth Development Institute (YDI)</p> <p>Lead agency/managing partner Responsible for the grant initiative Sub-grants to members of the Local Network Convenes, coordinates and documents the activities of the LN and captures and communicates lessons learned Provides technical assistance to the LN</p>	
<p>Local Network</p> <p>Partnership between Community Based Organizations and The New York City College of Technology to support young adults enter and complete college</p> <p>Sharing institutional resources (information, human, financial) that will reach more students and provide increased college access and/or success opportunities</p>	
<p>Community Based Organizations: Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC) and Good Shepherd Services (GSS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists approximately 30 youth (each) to enter and complete college.</li> <li>• Provides services that help young adults navigate the college admissions process including the completion of college applications, financial aid applications, and related follow-up services to ensure college admission</li> <li>• Provides academic preparatory activities</li> <li>• Works with assigned staff member of the NYC College of Technology to support students</li> <li>• Provides social and personal supports such as case management</li> <li>• Collects information about the how activities and structure impact students in the project.</li> <li>• Submits interim and final reports to YDI</li> <li>• Sustains commitment to project over a two-year period</li> <li>• Is responsive to YDI and the NYEC and attends monthly meetings</li> </ul>	<p>New York City College of Technology (NYCC)</p> <p>Serves as the college partner of the LN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designates staff person to work with CBOs and coordinates services for students in the project</li> <li>• Brings college resources to the table including assistance in preparation activities such as summer orientation and tours</li> <li>• Streamlines the admissions and financial aid process for the students</li> <li>• Streamlines class registration process for the students</li> <li>• Provides information to the CBO on students' academic progress</li> <li>• Meets regularly with the CBO to support students</li> <li>• Sustains commitment to project over a two-year period</li> <li>• Is responsive to YDI and the NYEC and attends monthly meetings</li> </ul>



**YDI**

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

a program of the Tides Center

***Who we are...***

The Youth Development Institute (YDI), founded in 1991 by Michelle Cahill, is a capacity building organization that provides services to youth programs both in NYC and throughout the U.S. YDI provides technical assistance, disseminates information, informs policy, and conducts research to strengthen the quality and increase the availability of positive opportunities for young people.

***Our mission and goals...***

Since its inception, YDI has been committed to addressing the many challenges and opportunities associated with helping young people to transition successfully to adulthood. YDI also works to help individual organizations and the field of youth development to address the gaps, barriers and opportunities associated with creating successful and sustainable youth programming. In response to these needs, YDI seeks to fulfill two main goals. First and foremost, YDI seeks to support the growth and development of young people by strengthening the quality and increasing the availability of experiences offered by the organizations that serve them. Second, YDI seeks to build the field of youth development through the development and dissemination of promising practices that lead to better outcomes for youth.

***Our approach...***

YDI works with organizations to apply the most promising research and practices so that young people can grow and develop through powerful, sustained, and meaningful experiences. Research demonstrates that certain experiences help young people to develop fully and successfully. These include close relationships with caring adults, high expectations, engaging activities, opportunities to contribute and continuity of support. This strength-based youth development approach has shaped YDI's work years.

***Our Clients...***

YDI concentrates its activities in areas of high need and opportunity. It provides targeted technical assistance to 75 organizations that combined provide a range of services to middle and high school youth as well as older youth who are low skilled and disconnected, over-aged and under credited or court involved. Supports offered by YDI are delivered in a variety of ways including through trainings/workshops, on-site coaching and in local and national networks.

***Our Partners...***

YDI also invests considerable effort in developing thought partners and building learning communities, both locally and nationally, that aid in building a collective understanding of what makes a difference in the lives of youth at the point of service. Our partners include city agencies (Department of Education, Department of Youth and Community Development, Center for Economic Opportunities, Administration for Children Services and Probation Department), funders, policymakers, community organizations, schools, and colleges.



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### *Our Portfolio...*

Community Education Pathways to Success (CEPS): CEPS is an integrated program of academic, counseling and career-related supports within a youth development framework. It seeks to improve services to youth who have dropped out of school with low academic skills (reading below a 5th grade reading level). CEPS was developed by YDI in 2006. It was implemented in three community based organizations in New York City and is now operating in 28 sites. Key staff members at sites receive training from YDI on all components of the model. Young adults at these sites have made average gains in literacy of 1.4 grades and gains in math of 1.2 grades over a four month time period.

NYC Partnership for College Access and Success Project (CAS): CAS focuses on youth who have graduated from failing high schools or who have dropped out and attained a GED. Established in 2005, CAS seeks to build understanding of how a college and community based organization can work together to improve student success. The partners in the program are Cypress Hills Local Development, Good Sheppard Services and The New York City College of Technology (City Tech). YDI convenes regular meetings of the partners to assess and address the needs of each student in the program. YDI also provides training to staff from each partner in the area of youth development, social support and counseling. Young people in this program are graduating at twice the rate of a comparative group of their peers also at City Tech.

NYC Beacon Initiative: YDI provides a range of technical assistance to Beacons throughout NYC and works with the Department of Youth and Community Development to support them. In August 2010, YDI completed most of its work under a major 4-year grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies. Under this grant, YDI sought to improve the quality of 10 Beacons in NYC and San Francisco with a focus on the levels of participation, engagement and retention of middle school youth, a population that typically reduces its involvement in after school. YDI delivered targeted and intensive training to sites in the service of increasing these levels. At the end of the project sites increased their engagement of youth by 86% and retention by 14%. YDI documented practices that led to these increases. Staff at YDI are currently disseminating and conducting trainings on these practices locally and nationally.

NYC Office of Post-Secondary Readiness: Learning to Work Initiative: YDI's work with the NYC Office of Post-Secondary Readiness (OPSR) is the area in which YDI most directly affects school success. OPSR is a major initiative of Mayor Bloomberg. The initiative serves youth who are over-age and under-credited. OPSR sites are partnerships between school-based and CBO staff, with the former focusing on academic development and the latter focusing on supports to students and the development and support of work-based learning. Since 2004, YDI has worked with leaders, middle managers and line staff in this initiative to increase their capacity to positively impact student outcomes. YDI began its work with 11 programs and now provides training to 63 programs. For the last two years YDI has worked intensively with supervisors from 24 schools to bolster their ability to manage and develop programs that are aligned with youth development principles.

Career Internship Network: CIN began at YDI as an effort to support internships established at major NYC institutions by The Pinkerton Foundation and several other foundations. YDI trains and coaches staff from 33 major NYC institutions (museums, libraries, botanical gardens, performing arts centers and others) on the ways in which to develop quality internship experiences for youth, using a youth development framework. Last year 19,000 youth were placed in internships at institutions participating in this Network.