

# Community Needs Assessment Project - 2007

## Best and Promising Practices

Best and promising practices to improve outcomes among lower-income youth and families are being researched and collected by a number of nonprofit youth development and youth advocacy organizations as well as by governmental agencies that provide related funding. Several of these sites are listed below. Most of these sites also include additional links to other resources.

1) [Child Trends](#).

Child Trends is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization dedicated to improving the lives of children by conducting research and providing science-based information to improve the decisions, programs and policies that affect children and their families. The site includes a “What Works Guide” with five comprehensive tools for improving outcomes for children and youth. [www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org).

2) [National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth \(NCFY\)](#).

The NCFY is an information service for communities, organizations, and individuals interested in developing new and effective strategies for supporting young people and their families. The site includes links, grouped by topic, which are intended to help navigate the wealth of youth-related information on the internet. There is a section on model program guides, as well as sections on after school/out of school time, child & youth safety, education, mentoring, positive youth development, and school safety. [www.ncfy.com/links](http://www.ncfy.com/links).

3) [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs \(OJJDP\) Model Programs Guide](#).

The OJJDP of the U.S. Department of Justice has compiled a Model Programs Guide that includes numerous prevention programs in areas such as academic skills enhancement, gang prevention, leadership and youth development, mentoring, parent training, and school/classroom environment. [www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5](http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5).

4) [Promising Practices Network on Children, Families and Communities](#).

This site is run by the Rand Corporation and is dedicated to providing quality, evidence-based information about what works to improve the lives of children, families, and communities. The site is well organized and easily navigable, and includes programs designed to address behavior problems, poverty/welfare, substance abuse, and violent behavior, among other issues. [www.promisingpractices.net](http://www.promisingpractices.net).

5) Search Institute – Applied Research in Human Development and Social Change (AR-HDSC).

The AR-HDSC arm of the Search Institute is focused on generating knowledge which is useful for transforming settings that touch the lives of children and adolescents, and for mobilizing citizens, leaders, and policy makers. It is comprised of professionals and university-based scholars. [www.search-institute.org/research](http://www.search-institute.org/research).