

MIDWEST

REGIONAL HUB

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

ILLINOIS • IOWA • INDIANA • KANSAS • MICHIGAN • MINNESOTA • MISSOURI • NEBRASKA • OHIO • WISCONSIN

Volume 1 No.8 September – October 2000

21st Century CLC Initiative



The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program was established by Congress to award grants to rural and inner-city public schools, or consortia of such schools, to enable them to plan, implement, or expand projects that benefit the educational, health, social services, cultural and recreational needs of the community. The authorizing legislation states that schools “should collaborate with other public and nonprofit agencies and organizations for the purpose of meeting the needs.”

Our Hub has been very busy promoting partnerships by disseminating information and establishing state and national partners. All of our RHY, TLP, Head Start grantees and our Community Action Agencies received letters informing them of how they might develop partnerships within their communities. Data is being collected on the collaborative efforts currently in progress between ACF and 21st CLC grantees within our Hub. The next steps involve notifying our ACF grantees of the next rounds of RFP’s and providing valuable information and best practices. Our goal is to increase the number of partnerships and community collaborations throughout our Hub states. The web site is www.ed.gov/21stcclc if you would like more information.

HUB GOES TO W.A.R.S

Clarence Small, Hub Liaison was recently invited to deliver a keynote address at the 10th annual Wisconsin Association for Runaway Services fall training conference October 12 & 13 in Eagle River, WI. This year’s conference focused on Family Mediation and Interviewing Techniques for working with Youth. Clarence remarks emphasized the Hub’s role in promoting Youth Development and he challenged participants to become more aggressive in marketing Youth Development within their communities. Clarence also discussed Hub initiatives and activities.

NGA CONFERENCE IN WISCONSIN

The National Governors’ Association Youth Policy Network met in Madison, Wisconsin on October 12 & 13. “Strategizing Youth Development” was the theme of this think-tank session. States with NGA grants include; Colorado, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma, Wyoming and the Hub states of Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. Participants spent the two days thinking strategically about

policy changes for promoting effective state-level youth development. With the help of expert faculty from various National Organization, the groups were given methodically planned assignments to discuss among their state teams and report back to the group. The conference ended with each state team completing a result-based process and plan with performance measures. Curtis Porter from FYSB was in attendance and Clarence represented the Hub. Talks were initiated to bring the three NGA hub states together with the two ACF funded state collaboration grantees, (Nebraska & Indiana), at a later date for continued discussions and a sharing of best practices.

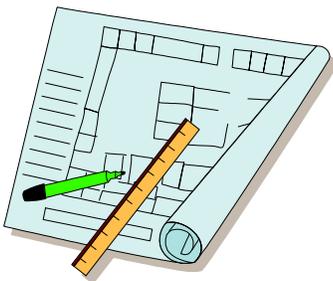
CUSTOMER SERVICE



ACF's emphasis on customer service has increased due to the implementation of State Disbursement Units (SDU). To help address this important issue, the MWH formed a customer service steering committee from representatives of both regional offices and the States of Minnesota and Iowa.

As a direct result of the steering committee's hard work and planning, all of the Hub States are currently working together in the area of customer service. The 1st steps has been to design and disseminate a profile which each state is currently completing. These profiles will give a comprehensive overview of the State's processes, successes and concerns. The 2nd step will be to plan a customer service Hub meeting for mid 2001.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES



The MWH was recently invited to take part in discussions on a National level concerning Youth Development with representatives from the Mott Foundation of Michigan and the International Youth Foundation-USA in Baltimore, MD. Learning Groups were created from the 20 individuals representing state government, state youth organizations and national institutes gathered to discuss strategies of linking prevention and youth development. Clarence represented the Hub and was part of the group discussing "Helping communities navigate frameworks and move from planning to action". Copies of the MWH RHY Directory which highlights youth development and community collaboration was introduced by Clarence as a model tool for data collecting.

Plans are underway to have the 2nd Annual Youth Development Conference. Members from Youth Network Council (YNC) and Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas (MINK), along with regional office staff have met and will continue to meet to plan this conference to be held this summer. Keep watching for more information as plans are developed.