

TCYSD COMMUNITY UPDATES

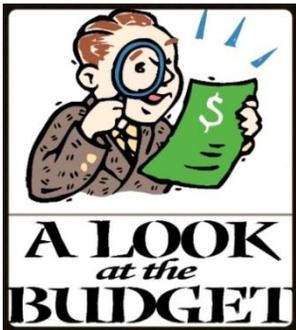
SEPTEMBER 5, 2014



We are excited to provide this first issue of the Tompkins County Youth Services Department's Community Updates to our community.

Each quarter we hope to provide our readers, those who work directly with or support young people in Tompkins County, with many items of interest. Please look here for TCYSD news and events, local stories of success, opportunities for youth workers, community members and parents, and much more.

We are honored to be charged with investing time, resources, and funding into local Tompkins County communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life, and hope that this quarterly communication will serve as another resource to help create a community where all youth are given the opportunities to thrive.



TCYSD 2015 Budget Progress

The Youth Services Board Resource Allocation team released their **2015 budget recommendations** to the Youth Services Board on July 15, 2014. After thoughtful discussion all recommendations were approved by the Youth Board for continuation to the County Administrator for incorporation into his 2015 County budget, released on September 2, 2014

Despite the increased diversification of funding, the overall budget of the Youth Services Department has been reduced by over 27% in the past five years, 2010 – 2015, (calculations assume all OTRs submitted in the 2015 budget will be approved). Major considerations when crafting the 2015 departmental budget included:

- A need to **stabilize the planning and coordination support** provided by the Youth Services Department. The core of the Youth Services Department is the staff. Funding for our team and services provided by our department has shifted over the past five years as budgets have been in a consistent state of decline resulting in a roster which has changed from 8 FTEs to potentially 4.5 FTEs in 2015.
- A **change in the way funds are allocated** by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. In the past funding flowed in separate streams for municipalities, delinquency prevention programs, recreation, and youth development. Beginning in 2014, these streams

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now flow together and any earmarks by OCFS have been removed including specified funding for municipal-run youth bureaus.

- The **end of the Drug Free Communities grants** which provided support for the time of 1.5 FTEs of staffing and foundational services to the county to prevent and reduce underage youth use of drugs and alcohol. This funding has enabled the community to keep track of the current youth use trends, provide resources for combating youth substance use, collaborate across counties, and allow for community organizations to rally together to reduce youth substance use and abuse.
- The establishment by the Tompkins County Legislature of a **target County budget featuring 2.36% increase in the tax levy which subsequently results in a departmental reduction of 1%**. This means that anything over the 1% reduction of TCYSD will be considered an over-target request, to be adopted by the County Legislature as above the target budget for TCYSD.
- The **increases of the minimum wage** (+\$0.75 in December 2014) and the impact that the increased raises have on youth employment programming.
- A consideration of what the **fiscal strains faced by municipalities and agencies**, as a result of declining budgets and increasing expenses over the past several years, has done to program services. While the infrastructure for youth services remains somewhat intact the structure has been in a state of decline which has resulted in **increased needs for training and technical assistance** at all levels as well as an **examination on ways to ensure that services provided are cost effective** thus providing direct services to a majority of youth in need.



The County Administrator's 2015 Budget Presentation and Budget are now available at <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/ctyadmin/Budget/index> .

Ensuring Program Quality

Results-Based Accountability

Recently, the Tompkins County Youth Services Department invited Karen Finn, of the Results Leadership Group, to meet with contracted agencies and support each of them in developing and

selecting performance measures. These measures will provide a common language among agencies that will eventually determine, among others things, if anyone is better off as a result of participation in their programs.

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If we step back, isn't that the purpose of the work? If a child/youth/family participates in a given program, it is assumed that there will be an effect: a skill, attitude, behavior, or circumstances that have been improved. Simply phrased, we want to measure the quantity and quality of the results; we would like proof. Results-Based Accountability (RBA) is the framework we are using in order to accomplish this.

With the support of a two-year grant from the Community Foundation, the Tompkins County Youth Services Department has begun the first step of this process. Currently community-based organizations funded by TCYSD are fine tuning their performance measures, which will eventually be tracked quarterly through a web-based Scorecard. According to the Harvard Family Research Project, the RBA model is well suited for program/agency improvement plans.

The TCYSD is confident that current programs and agencies that we fund provide excellent services, and that each client who participates in a program is better off as a result of his/her engagement. But, now with RBA, we are optimistic that we can prove it.

*"If you don't know
where you are going,
you might wind up
someplace else."
Yogi Berra*

Program Quality Assessments

This fall the TCYSD, in conjunction with our municipal partners, will launch the use of Program Quality Assessments. This validated instrument developed by the Center for Youth Program Quality is designed to evaluate the quality of youth programs and identify staff training needs.

PQA provides evidence-based assessment tools. Evidence is gathered through observation and interview. Program staff or an outside specialist observe program activities, take notes, and then conduct an interview with a program administrator. Notes, observations, and interview data are used as evidence to score items. Item scores are combined to create an overall program quality profile

Onondaga County Children and Family Services Training Coordinator, Marnie Annese, will join us on September 10, to roll out PQA for the major provider of programming in the Municipal Youth Services System, Cornell Cooperative Extension's Rural Youth Services. In the future we hope to implement PQA as well as RBA across all of our contracted partners to ensure highest quality of youth programming continues throughout Tompkins County.

Spotlight on Youth Employment

According to the American Community Survey accessed on July 28, 2014, the Tompkins County unemployment rate for youth aged 16-19 is ~18.6%, nearly three times higher than any other age group. With more than 53% of Tompkins County adults ages 25 - 64 holding a bachelor's degree or higher and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistic of current unemployment at 4.5%, many typical "youth" jobs, such as camp counselors, customer service representatives, and retail service providers, are now being held by high-skilled workers. The shift of high-skilled and professionally-trained workers taking over first time employment opportunities has left many youth continuing to search for employment opportunities and experiences which will lead to future careers.



In Tompkins County a continuum of services for youth employment continues to support youth in building the skills necessary for present employment as well as future careers. A variety of service providers offer opportunities for youth ages 14-24 to learn employability skills, develop career interests, participate in employment, experience apprenticeships and much more.

As a result of the recently adopted Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, this continuum will be shifting not only in Tompkins County but across the nation. The adoption of this law provides additional focus to supporting out-of-school youth. For more information on WIOA visit the [US Department of Labor's WIOA overview fact sheet](#).



A New Resource for Parents and Community Members

Concerned adults, teachers, students, and community members now have a place to call 24 hours a day to report underage drinking parties that are underway or planned for the near future.

The tipline is anonymous, confidential, and free. By calling **1-800-851-1932** and providing basic information (location of party, estimated number of young people attending, if adults are present), **you** can make a difference, help avert a tragedy, and perhaps save a life. For more information on the tipline please visit our website at www.healthyouth.org.

Upcoming Events & Trainings



The Community Coalition for Healthy Youth welcomes author Kevin Sabet, PhD to Cinemapolis on September 15, 2014 from 1-4pm to discuss the "seven great myths about marijuana" with our community. For more information please visit our [event page](#).

Youth Commission and Community Council volunteers from throughout Tompkins County will come together on November 12, 2014 to celebrate the many achievements of the Municipal Youth Services System. Stay tuned for more details!

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Opportunities for Involvement

Do you support the mission of investing time, resources and funding in communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life? Are you willing to commit to providing your thoughts, insights, and time to help advise the Youth Services Department?

If you answered yes to these questions perhaps membership on either a local youth commission or the Tompkins County Youth Services Board is the right fit for you!

Current vacancies include:

- **Tompkins County Youth Services Board** is in need of representatives from Caroline, Danby, Groton, Ulysses/Trumansburg, and the City of Ithaca as well as two Tompkins County youth ages 16-21.
- **The Joint Youth Commission** is looking for commissioners residing in Caroline, Town of Ithaca and Village of Lansing;
- **The Dryden Recreation and Youth Commission** has vacancies for commission members residing in the Town or Village of Dryden and Village of Freeville.

For more information on ways you can get involved please contact Amie Hendrix at ahendrix@tompkins-co.org.



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