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ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

To: Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Grantees
Family Violence Prevention and Services Program Grantees
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program Grantees
Federal TRIO Programs and Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs Grantees
Education for Homeless Children and Youth State Coordinators

Re: A New Collaboration Between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) are pleased to announce an exciting new collaboration to promote positive educational and related outcomes for disconnected youth. This letter provides an overview of the collaboration and invites your participation in a forthcoming series of webinars, trainings, and/or focus groups to learn more about opportunities for working together to improve educational outcomes for disconnected youth.

In 2014, programs administered by HHS and ED commemorated 40 and 50 years, respectively, of helping to transform the lives of disconnected youth. We are proud of the accomplishments of these programs: HHS' Runaway and Homeless Youth Program supports street outreach, emergency shelters, and longer-term transitional living programs; and ED's Upward Bound Program (a Federal TRIO Program) provides educational outreach and student services for individuals from low-income and disadvantaged backgrounds. We were honored to commemorate the programs' collective successes and your contributions to these accomplishments.

We recognize that, for the vulnerable youth populations we serve, lack of education is one of the most common barriers to successfully transitioning to adulthood. We seek to remove this barrier through, among other efforts, the programs administered by HHS' Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), especially the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, and the Family Violence and Prevention Services Program; and the programs administered by ED's Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Higher Education Programs, Student Service (SS), especially the Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO) and the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Program. Although HHS and ED administer unique programs, our missions and objectives to ensure that disconnected youth receive appropriate educational opportunities are the same. Both Departments want to help offer disconnected youth the brightest and best future.

Beginning this year, our Departments hope to help those within the FYSB and the SS programs work together to succeed at a higher level. The aim of our partnership effort is to provide

coordinated support to disconnected youth who too often lack access to postsecondary education and skill training opportunities. We believe that by bringing our Departments, programs, and grantees closer together, we will help connect even more youth to important education and other critical services, such as those that offer emergency shelter, teen pregnancy prevention, and family violence prevention services.

To ensure the success and continuity of our vision, our Departments have appointed two Partnership Coordinators to oversee an array of collaborative projects we believe will make a difference in your projects and in the lives of many youth served across the country, especially those served through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, and Family Violence and Prevention Services Program, as well as TRIO and GEAR UP, and benefitting from the technical assistance resources to the field of the ED-funded National Center for Homeless Education. The names and contact information for the Partnership Coordinators are provided at the conclusion of this letter.

ED and HHS, in alignment with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), recognize collaboration as a critical component in preventing and ending issues such as youth homelessness. Already, both FYSB and OPE have coordinated with ED's Education for Homeless Children and Youth program in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, which leads ED's efforts on the USICH. Later this year, our respective Partnership Coordinators will request your participation in a series of webinars, trainings, and focus groups hosted in conjunction with the FYSB's Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center, to explain the programs offered by both Departments. These learning opportunities will allow you to better meet the needs of the disconnected youth population by expanding your awareness of the resources available to meet students' needs, and they will help to foster cross-Departmental partnerships among grantees serving similar populations.

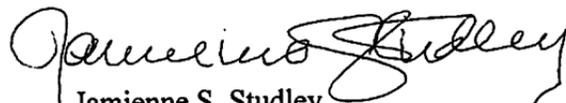
We look forward to your support and learning about the ways your projects serve America's disconnected youth. With your help, we believe this collaboration can yield more educational opportunities and safe environments for youth who have far too long been outside the trajectory toward postsecondary education and related pathways.

We appreciate your dedication to the disconnected youth we serve and look forward to your continued program successes. If you have questions or you wish to share your thoughts regarding this letter, please contact the Partnership Coordinators: Linda Reese-Smith at linda.reesesmith@acf.hhs.gov or Catherine St. Clair at Catherine.StClair@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



William H. Bentley
Associate Commissioner
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



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