

APRIL @DYCD

IN THIS ISSUE

***DYCD Calendar and Events:** Runaway and Homeless Youth Street Outreach Services RFP released; Proposals for the Family and Adolescent Literacy Services RFP are due April 21; SYEP applications are due May 30

***Spotlight News:** NYC Girlsreach Initiative launched

***Program Updates:** DYCD OST Program dialogue initiated with four other cities; DYCD Adolescent Literacy RFP is focus of Johns Hopkins forum; Commissioner speaks at NCFL annual conference; Harvard researcher presents Adolescent Literacy curricula findings; CAPITAL 2006 progress

***Funding Opportunities:** Foundation and grant sources

***Resources:** General reference information

***Opportunities for Individual Scholarships and Awards:** Scholarships and awards for those qualified

DYCD CALENDAR AND EVENTS

**** April 7** – Runaway and Homeless Youth Street Outreach Services Request for Proposals (RHY SOS RFP) were released; proposal submissions are due May 4. DYCD intends to fund up to two contractors to provide street outreach services to the City's Runaway and Homeless (RHY) and at-risk youth through vehicle-based street outreach and referral systems. Programs will operate from 9:00 P.M. to 5:00 A.M., 7 days a week. DYCD seeks to establish linkages among Street Outreach services, Drop-In Centers, and RHY Residential programs to provide a continuum of care of runaway and at-risk youth and their families. Contracts are expected to begin September 1, 2006. For more information on the RHY SOS RFP, go to: <http://www.nyc.gov/dycd>.

**** April 21** – The due date for submission of Family Literacy Services and Adolescent Literacy Services proposals has been extended from April 12 to April 21. The time and location for proposal submissions remains the same.

**** May 30** – Applications for the 2006 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) are due. For more information and an application, go online to: <http://www.nyc.gov/dycd>. For the first time, applicants can begin the application process online.

SPOTLIGHT NEWS

**** DYCD and the Commission on Women's Issues Launch GirlsREACH Initiative**

On March 22, at a Women's History Month celebration, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced the launch of NYC GirlsREACH, a youth workforce development initiative of the Mayor's Commission on Women's Issues (CWI) and Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). More than 650 people attended, including nearly one hundred young women who participate in DYCD's In-School Youth (ISY) programs that focus on academic enrichment and career preparation.

NYC GirlsREACH aims to broaden perceptions of the roles of women in the workforce by placing New York City High School students participating in select ISY programs in summer internships with successful professional women in the public and private sectors. Additionally, interns will participate in workshops on financial literacy, health, and women's issues, attend a college preparatory course in the fall, and have the chance to receive college scholarships.

Selected ISY providers have nominated candidates to participate in GirlsREACH based on their academic achievement, leadership, work history, and interest in the program. A number of women executives have committed to hosting interns; nine companies and a philanthropic foundation have agreed to underwrite the participants' workshops and a comprehensive SAT preparation course. Five companies are also offering \$10,000 scholarships to participants who complete the program. Kaplan is customizing a test

preparation and college application course, and CUNY has committed to providing college entrance and financial aid counselling.

PROGRAM UPDATES

****DYCD Meets with Four Cities to Share OST Initiative Progress**

In a continuing effort to share OST strategies and quality improvement planning, DYCD staff participated in a meeting held on March 21, sponsored by the Wallace Foundation with representatives from four other cities: Washington, DC, Providence, RI, Chicago, IL, and Boston, MA. The Wallace Foundation holds these meetings to promote the interchange of information among their selected cities; New York City's OST system is the beneficiary of a \$12 million, five year Wallace investment.

****Commissioner Mullgrav Details Adolescent Literacy RFP at Johns Hopkins Forum**

On March 24, Commissioner Mullgrav attended the Johns Hopkins University Center for Summer Learning forum, entitled "Advancing Adolescent Literacy Skills through Summer and Afterschool Programming". The Carnegie Corporation, DYCD's philanthropic partner in adolescent literacy sponsored her participation. At the conference Commissioner Mullgrav reported on DYCD's recently-issued Request for Proposals (RFP) on Family Literacy Services and Adolescent Literacy Services. These programs, which target struggling middle-school students in New York City's public schools, have been highlighted by Johns Hopkins as one of the most innovative initiatives in Adolescent Literacy in the United States.

****DYCD Commissioner Addresses Attendees at the National Center for Family Literacy**

On March 19 through 21, Commissioner Mullgrav attended the National Center for Family Literacy's (NCFL) annual conference in Louisville, KY. She currently serves on NCFL's advisory board and at this year's event she was the guest speaker for the "Toyota Partners" pre-conference meeting. In 2003, DYCD was the inaugural recipient of NCFL's Toyota Family Literacy Program grant to partner with three public elementary schools for comprehensive family literacy programs.

****Gina Biancarosa Presents Findings on After School Adolescent Literacy Curriculum**

On March 17, Harvard Graduate School of Education doctoral-candidate and *Reading Next* co-author Gina Biancarosa presented her research at DYCD as part of the kick-off for the agency's Adolescent Literacy initiative. Ms. Biancarosa discussed curricula for adolescent literacy in the after-school setting before a large crowd of community organization executive and program directors, reading specialists and DYCD staff. The seminar was sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

****CAPITAL 2006 Participants to Begin Corporate Interviewing**

Job Readiness Workshops, held for CAPITAL 2006 participants, were facilitated by members of the Youth Board and Youth Council, representatives from Federal Reserve Bank, Olgilvy and Mather, The Daily News and Dress For Success. Positions have been secured for CAPITAL participants with companies such as Olgilvy and Mather, Young and Rubicam, Columbia University, Ford Motor Company, The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Major League Soccer and many others. Bloomberg LLP has expressed an interest to underwrite the cost of attiring youth who require business and interview apparel through Career Gear. CAPITAL participants have submitted resumes to potential employers who will begin interviewing them for jobs.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

****FOR YOUTH****

The **Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation** is dedicated to helping young people with disabilities maximize their potential and full participation in society. The Foundation supports organizations and projects within its mission that address important needs, have broad scope and impact, and demonstrate potential for replication at other sites. A major program emphasis is inclusion: enabling young people with disabilities to have full access to educational, vocational and recreational opportunities and to participate alongside their non-disabled peers. Concept papers should be submitted by June 1, annually to be considered for funding the following year. Visit the Web site for more information and guidelines:

<http://www.meaf.org> .

The **National Endowment for the Arts** offers the *Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth* to advance arts education for children and youth in school- or community-based settings.

All projects must include the following: 1) the opportunity for students and their teachers to experience exemplary works of art, in live form wherever possible; 2) study of the art experienced, including the acquisition of skills for practicing the art form where appropriate;

3) the performance/making of art within the discipline(s) studied; and 4) student assessment according to national, state, or local arts education standards. Learning in the Arts projects should focus on children and youth between the ages of 5 and 18. The submission deadline is June 12. Visit the NEA Web site for complete application procedures: <http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/GAP07/LearningintheArts.html>

The **Louis R. Cappelli Foundation's** mission is to make grants in support of programs addressing the special needs of youth. Three specific targeted areas are education, health and fitness, and arts education. Non-profits must serve at-risk youth and are invited to submit an application for funding that meet the following criteria: education programs that encourage collaboration among agencies, educational facilities, childcare centers, school districts and parents to address innovative education programs that encourage and foster the learning process for at-risk children; programs that provide innovative and worthwhile health programs or organized sports which encourage wellness and fitness, enabling at-risk children to reach their fullest potential in life; and arts education programs that provide access to the visual and performing arts for at-risk children through a wide array of arts and related organizations. The deadline for applications is June 30. For more information, go online to: <http://www.cappelliinc.com/application.shtml#> .

The **GTECH After School Advantage Program** is a national community investment program, which provides non-profit community agencies with state-of-the-art computer labs. These Computer Centers are designed to provide inner-city children aged five to 15 with a meaningful, yet fun, learning experience during the critical after-school hours, in a safe environment. This initiative is meant to provide an otherwise unavailable educational experience and bridge the digital divide among at-risk children. By applying their knowledge and expertise to this type of program GTECH hopes to increase children's interest in careers in computers and provide them with the necessary tools to help them become more competitive in school and in today's job market. There is no deadline date for applications. For further information and guidelines, go to: http://www.gtech.com/about_gtech/proposal_guidelines.asp .

The Administration on Children, Youth, and Families; the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) is accepting applications for the *Street Outreach Program (SOP)* - a program authorized by the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act of 2003 to address runaway and homeless youth problems. The SOP purpose is to conduct outreach services designed to build relationships between grantee staff and street youth. A range of education, intervention, and prevention services are offered to youth who are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse or exploitation. The goal of these efforts is to help young people leave the streets and assist in moving and adjusting to a safe and appropriate living arrangement. Applications are due May 18. For complete information and guidelines, go online to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2006-ACF-ACYF-YO-0105.html> .

The **Teammates for Kids Foundation**, sponsored by Garth Brooks and Major League Baseball, accepts proposals for grants from nonprofit organizations that specialize in working with children. Grants from the Foundation support the on-going work of operating organizations that help needy children in the areas of health, education and inner-city services. Programs encouraging educational achievement in areas of documented weakness and offering programs for gifted children can apply for funds, too. The application deadline is February 1, 2007. For guidelines, an application, or for more information, go to: http://www.touchemall.com/apply_for_grant/apply_grant.htm .

The **Victor C. Clark Youth Incentive Program** offers \$1,000 grants for nonprofits wishing to create or maintain after school amateur radio programs for youth and children. Funds can be used for equipment, training materials and publicity. Nonprofits that propose to provide matching funds raised locally are ahead of the game. There is no deadline. The foundation reviews proposals throughout the year. Please do not

submit proposals via email. The mailing address is The VICYIP Program, The ARRL Foundation, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. Info: VCYP, <http://www.arrrf.org/arrrf/vicyip.html> .

Title XX authorizes the **Secretary of Health and Human Services** to award grants for care demonstration projects to provide services to pregnant adolescents, adolescent parents, and their families. Funds are available for care projects only. Services are intended to "enable pregnant adolescents to obtain proper care and assist pregnant adolescents and adolescent parents to become productive independent contributors to family and community life" and "to assist families of adolescents to understand and resolve the societal causes which are associated with adolescent pregnancy." The application deadline is May 22. For information, go to: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/06-2804.htm> .

The **American Dental Assn. Foundation** offers funding through the *Samuel Harris Fund* to improve and maintain children's oral health through community education programs. The main objective of the fund is to help children whose socioeconomic status affects their access to professional oral care and adversely affects their oral health habits. This year the Harris Fund will make \$210,000 total available. A deadline for this year's proposals has not yet been set, but it will be posted soon to the organization's Website. Grant awards are up to \$5,000. Eligible applicants are community-based, nonprofit, oral health promotion programs. For more information, go to: http://www.ada.org/ada/prod/adaf/prog_access_harris.asp

The **CVS** pharmacy supports the communities it serves by providing nonprofit organizations (including public schools) the opportunity to apply for a CVS Community Grant if the project targets children under age 18 with disabilities. Grants for public schools range from \$500 to \$5,000. Community Grant requests are accepted between January and October. For additional information, go to: http://www.cvs.com/corplInfo/community/community_grants.html .

****COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT****

Foster's Community grants support projects in three core focus areas: wellness (physical and mental health), culture (artistic, sporting and educational activities), and education (natural environment). Applications will be assessed principally on the quality of the community benefit they would deliver. There is an online application; the deadline for Round 1 is April 28. Round 2 will begin on August 1 and the application deadline will be September 29. For guidelines and additional information, view: <http://www.fosters.com.au/about/fosterscommunitygrants.htm> .

Washington Mutual awards millions of dollars in cash grants each year to support K-12 public education, financial education, affordable housing and community development. They accept proposals on an ongoing basis. You will hear from them regarding the status of your proposal within 60 days. Incomplete requests will not be considered. They ask that you only submit one proposal per calendar year via an online grant application. View guidelines online at: <http://www.wamu.com/about/community/grantsguidelines/default.asp>

The Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs (OAPP) of the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) requests applications for care demonstration grants under the *Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Act Demonstration Projects Program*. These grants are for public or private nonprofit organizations or agencies to demonstrate effective means of strengthening families by providing an array of services that help prevent repeat pregnancy and enhance the well being of pregnant or parenting adolescent mothers, their children, fathers of their children, husbands and/or male partners with whom they are in a long-term relationship. Faith-based and community-based organizations are encouraged to apply. Applications are due May 22. For complete information and guidelines, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/gw929> .

The **M.A.C. AIDS Fund** provides support to organizations that provide basic needs, direct services, education, and awareness and prevention programs to men, women, and children affected by HIV/AIDS. There is no deadline for applications. For further information and guidelines, go to: <http://www.macaidfund.org/support/givingguidelines.html> .

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announces the availability of \$4,000,000 to award grants to eligible “grassroots” organizations with the ability to connect to the local One-Stop delivery system. For purposes of this announcement, eligible grassroots organizations must be non-profit organizations which: have social services as a major part of their mission; are headquartered in the local community to which they provide these services; (a) have a social services budget of \$500,000 or less, or (b) have 10 or fewer full-time equivalent employees. The closing date for applications is May 2. For full information, go to:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&opId=8608> .

Nonprofits with a community program to promote preventive dentistry can compete for funds from the **American Dental Association’s Council** through its *Community Preventive Dentistry Award*. School programs, initiatives for high-risk groups, community education activities and tobacco-use cessation initiatives all can vie for the award. The first-place winner will receive a \$5,000 check and a wall plaque. Three prizes of \$2,500 are available as well. The application deadline is May 15. Successful programs include baby bottle tooth decay, oral health programs for low-income communities, and oral health education. View additional information and guidelines at:

http://www.ada.org/ada/prod/adaf/prog_access_awards.asp#community

The **Community Economic Development Program** supports projects that create employment and business opportunities for low-income residents and their communities through business, physical, and commercial development. Community Development Corporations (CDCs), including faith-based CDCs, that are experienced in implementing economic development projects are eligible to apply. Proof of experience in developing and managing economic development projects is required in application. Applications are due May 12. Contact: Debbie Brown, OCSGRANTS@acf.hhs.gov. The full announcement is available at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2006-ACF-OCS-EE-0019.html>

MINI-GRANTS

Do Something’s GameStop Youth Grants will be given to creative proposals for solving local problems in three areas: health, community building, and the environment. Applicants should address Do Something’s core principles: 1) measurable change: strive toward tangible results; 2) community focus; 3) long-term problem solving action; 4) creativity; and 5) diversity. Thirty grants (including 10 Canadians) of \$500 each will be awarded. Eligible applicants must be 25 years old or younger. The application deadline is May 15. For complete program information and application guidelines, please visit

<http://www.dosomething.org/awards/grants/apply/> .

The **RadioShack Corporation** supports organizations that focus on prevention of family violence/abuse and/or child abduction through its *StreetSenz Community Grant Program*. Awards of up to \$500 are available. The deadline for applications is June 15. For additional information, go to:

<http://www.radioshackcorporation.com/cc/contributions.html>

The *Healthy Sprouts Award* is given by **Gardener’s Supply Company** to outstanding programs with health-focused youth gardens. These awards support school and youth garden programs that teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the United States. Schools or organizations must plan to garden in 2007 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18 to be eligible. Twenty-five awards-including a \$200 gift certificate to Gardener’s Supply Company, literature and curriculum, and one year of Nat’l Gardening Assn. benefits-will be made. Deadline: Oct. 15. For more information, go to:

www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp

RESOURCES

The **DYCD Capacity Building Unit** has released the *Technical Assistance (TA) Quarterly Calendar of Workshops for April – June 2006*. More details regarding TA Workshops and other Capacity Building assistance are available on the DYCD Web site: www.nyc.gov/dycd. Click on Technical Assistance on the left hand side of the screen. These workshops are available at no cost to DYCD contractors, NDA Neighborhood Advisory Board members, and all DYCD staff.

Created by former foster youth Anita Lacey at the **Foster Education Resource Network** in Michigan, the *2005-2006 Student Guide to Higher Education* contains a great deal of helpful information for foster youth planning on continuing their education after high school graduation. The information in this guide is specific to the state of Michigan, but it could easily be adapted to fit for other states. To view a copy of the guide, go to: http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/publications/pdfs/2005_2006_Student_Guide.pdf

The **New York State Department of Health** is pleased to announce the availability of a videotape of a past AIDS Institute satellite broadcast titled: *2005 Guidance on HIV Counseling, Testing and New Laboratory Reporting Requirements*. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this videotape, please send your request to Amy Yost at amy02@health.state.ny.us. Please be sure to include the following information in your request: your name; agency name; complete shipping address.

The **CompassPoint Nonprofit Services** newsletter, *The Board Cafe(tm)*, offers a menu of ideas, opinion, news, and resources to help board members give and get the most out of board service. A free, ready-to-print version is available at: <http://www.boardcafe.org>.

The *Future of Children, Childhood Obesity* – includes nine articles on the high and rising rates of overweight and obesity among U.S. children, presenting evidence on the multiple causes, consequences, and methods of dealing with the growing problem. Download free PDF files: http://www.futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info_show.htm?doc_id=349724 .

The **Foundation Center** will be offering an **online course**: *Proposal Writing: The Project Description*. Along with the budget and the need statement, the project description is one of the most important components of a successful proposal for project support. This course gives you an in-depth look into each component of the project description, including key information on content and writing; it is intended for any grantseeker trying to learn new skills. The cost of this online course is \$59.95. Go online to: http://foundationcenter.org/marketplace/catalog/product_online_training.jhtml?id=prod860001

The **Foundation Center** is also holding a *Proposal Writing Seminar* on May 11. The class will teach attendees techniques for writing proposals, the components of a grant proposal package, how to foster strong working relationships with grantmakers, how to resubmit a grant proposal, new trends in grantmaking, how to report on a grant's progress and impact, and more. Attendees will receive a free copy of The Foundation Center's Guide to Proposal Writing, as well as a workbook outlining all major course topics. The class will be held at the Foundation Center's New York City office, located at 79 Fifth Avenue (at 16th Street), 2nd Floor; the cost is \$195. For more information, visit www.fdncenter.org, or call (800) 424-9836.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****March 1 – May 31** – show your MetroCard and get 2-for-1 admission at the following Lower Manhattan Museums: Eldridge Street Project, the Fraunces Tavern Museum, the Museum of American Finance, the Museum of the Chinese in the Americas, the NYC Fire Museum, the NYC Police Museum, the South Street Seaport Museum, and the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

**** April 17-21 – The YMCA of Greater New York** has announced a free program for children and families: *YMCA SPLASH Week*. Participants will learn water safety and swimming skills and the Y's core values: respect, responsibility, honesty and caring. Contact a Y near you for details.

****April 20 – The New York City Department for the Aging** will present a free *Safety Fair for Grandparent Caregivers and Grandchildren* at the Westside Crime Prevention Center, from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., 893 Amsterdam Avenue @ 103rd St. Information will be given on: fire safety, carbon monoxide, lead poisoning, household safety, emergency preparedness, window fall safety, baby safety, and neighborhood safety. There will be activities, refreshments, give-aways, and more. Directions: #1 train to

103rd St., walk one block east; also: B, C trains to 96th St.; or #7, 10, 11, and 104 bus. For more information, call (212) 442-6104 or (212) 442-1071.

****April 20 –21 - The National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) the Accessing Resources for Community and Faith-Based Organizations (ARC) Initiative** will offer a free, 2-day workshop entitled "*Navigating the Federal Funding Process: Federal Grants Application Training*" at the Trenton War Memorial in Trenton, New Jersey. Trainings will be conducted from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. each day. Breakfast and lunch will be provided but accommodations and transportation are the responsibility of the participant. The meeting to reference is the Grant Writing Seminar; call 1-609-421-4000 or Toll Free: 1-800-228-9290 for complete information.

****April 27 – The Baruch College, School of Public Affairs, The Nonprofit Group** is presenting a seminar entitled, *Nonprofit Entrepreneurship: Potential and Risks* featuring: William Grinker, President, Seedco Financial Services. It will be held from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at Baruch College, 135 East 22nd Street (between Lexington & Third Avenues), Third Floor, Room 301. Space is limited and an RSVP is required, email: nonprofit_workshops@baruch.cuny.edu, or call 646-660-6743. Refreshments will be served.

****May 3 –** Sponsored by the **National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Teen People Magazine** and **TeenPeople.com**, the *National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy* is designed to focus the attention of teens on the importance of avoiding teen pregnancy and other consequences of sex. Teens will be encouraged to go to: <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/> to take a short, informative quiz that asks teens to reflect on the best course of action in a number of tough and realistic sexual situations. To learn more, sign up for the [National Day Notification Network](#).

****May 11 –The New York State Governor's Expo on Assistive Technology** entitled "*Technology Opens Doors*" will be held at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, New York. The Expo, a coordinated effort by the New York State Interagency Partnership on Assistive Technology and its Advisory Board, is being held with the support of Governor George E. Pataki. The Expo will feature over 100 vendor demonstrations and informational booths showcasing the latest in assistive technology and universal design. In conjunction with the exhibits, presentations on assistive technology will take place in meeting rooms throughout the day. Visit the website at <http://www.atexpo2006.com/> for more information on vendors, presentations, accommodations, and registration instructions.

****May 18 –The NYS Task Force on School Community Collaboration** and the **NYC Interagency Committee** are sponsoring a Summit: *No Child Left Behind: Multiple Needs, Multiple Services – Closing the Gap by Empowering Youth and Families*. It will be held at Hostos Community College, 500 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451, from 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.; breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by May 11 to Nitza V. Monges (212) 442-4771, or email: nmonges@dcd.nyc.gov

****May 18 – The New York State (NYS) Department of Health (DOH) AIDS Institute** presents: *The Role of the Latino Church in HIV Prevention and Health Promotion*. Manhattan.
Participants attending this training will learn:

- How to tailor HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment messages for use in religious settings;
- How to tailor programs in religious settings to meet the needs of various audiences such as people of different ages, gender and religious beliefs; and
- How to design religious based interventions for use at the individual and community level.

Although there is not a prerequisite for this course it is strongly recommended that participants have previous basic HIV/AIDS information. Participants must speak and read Spanish. For additional information or to register, please access the Web site at:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/aids/training/special.htm>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The Teen Career Connection/Summer Internship Program - West Side YMCA provides work experience for teenagers in New York's most prominent and leading companies. In July and August 2006, 25 participants will complete a five week internship with a company in New York City. Prior to the start of the program, teens will be trained in numerous job skills, from how to dress for business to labor laws for young people and more. At the end of the experience, teens will present a Summer Internship Portfolio, which allows the young people to evaluate and assess their summer experience. Compensation for the program is \$2000. Applicants must be between the ages of 16 through 19 and enrolled in high school, full-time for the 2005-2006 school year. Teens interested in applying or anyone who would like more information can contact Clare Dwyer, Adolescent Program Director, at cdwyer@ymcanyc.org or at (212) 875-4107. All applications are due by 5pm, April 21 to the West Side YMCA Teen Center, located at 5 W. 63rd Street, New York, NY 10023.

The *Garden Crusader Awards* were created by **Gardener's Supply** to honor individuals who are improving the world through gardening. The awards honor men and women who are planting trees and flowers, growing food, creating new green spaces, and teaching their friends and neighbors about the rewards of gardening. Nominations of individuals are invited for the following categories: education, feeding the hungry, urban renewal, restoration, and beautification. All prizes are awarded to the winner's organization in his or her name. The application deadline is June 1. For complete information, nomination procedures, and an FAQ, visit the Gardener's Supply Web site: <http://www.gardeners.com/>.

The **Bank of America Charitable Foundation** is accepting applications for its Neighborhood Excellence Initiative, a program designed to recognize, nurture, and reward organizations, local heroes, and student leaders helping to rebuild and revitalize communities in thirty-eight of the bank's major markets across the United States. The application deadline is June 30. Visit the Bank of America Web site for program guidelines, and application and nomination materials: <http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation/>

The **Camera Club of New York** announces its 2006 National Photography Competition. The competition is open to all US residents 18 years or older except members of the Camera Club of New York or their families, and employees. Freestanding pieces will not be accepted. Antonin Kratochvil, renowned photographer and documentarian, will be the Juror. Each entry will consist of either 6 digital entries on CD or 6 slides with a fee of \$35.00. The chosen artist will receive a one-person exhibition in our Alfred Lowenherz Gallery and a cash award of \$300. Other finalists will participate in a group show. The deadline for submissions is June 20. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for prospectus to: 2006 National Photography Competition, Camera Club of New York, 853 Broadway, New York NY 10003 or to download an entry form and view the complete rules visit the Web site at: <http://www.camerclubofnewyork.org>

Artist's Magazine has announced their 23rd *Annual Art Competition*. More than \$25,000 in cash prizes will be awarded, and top award winners will be featured in the December 2006 issue of The Artist's Magazine. Thirteen finalists will be featured in The Artist's Magazine's 2007 Calendar. There are 5 categories: portrait & figure, still life, landscape, experimental and animal art. Plus, there's a special student/beginner division for new artists. The deadline for submissions is May 1. For details, visit: <http://www.artistsnetwork.com/specialoffers.asp?ADL06>

The New York City Social Justice Fellowship is happy to announce the posting of the 2006-2007 application guidelines and application form. The fellowship, now operated by the **Research Center for Leadership in Action at NYU's Wagner School of Public Service** - provides a modest 15-month living stipend plus an allowance for health benefits and tuition reimbursement. Fellows are expected to develop innovative public interest projects that address not merely direct service needs but structural policy problems on matters vital to marginalized communities such as immigrants' rights, environmental justice, health, the arts, workers' rights, civic participation, education, and equitable economic development. Special interest is given to supporting people from disadvantaged communities and communities of color. The application process for the 2006-2007 class was opened in early March and will close on Monday, May 1st at 12:00 noon. For further information, please see <http://www.wagner.nyu.edu/leadership/sjf/>

The **Secretary of Labor's** *New Freedom Initiative Award* annually recognizes non-profits, small businesses, corporations and individuals that have demonstrated exemplary and innovative efforts in furthering the employment and workplace environment for people with disabilities, a goal of President Bush's New Freedom Initiative. Eligibility criteria and nomination guidelines for the award are available in the *Federal Register*; self –nominations are encouraged. The submission deadline is May 31. For complete information, an application, and to view a brief video, go to:
<http://www.dol.gov/odep/newfreedom/nfi06.htm>