

THOMAS R. SUOZZI  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



KEITH M. LITTLE, M.P.A.  
CHAIRMAN  
EILEEN M. TUCCI  
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**COUNTY OF NASSAU  
YOUTH BOARD**

60 CHARLES LINDBERGH BLVD. SUITE 220  
UNIONDALE, N.Y. 11553-3688  
516-227-7134  
FAX: 516-227-7107



September 4, 2007

Dear Colleague:

In the spirit of collaboration, United Way of Long Island and the Nassau County Youth Board, ACT FOR YOUTH Initiative have joined forces to offer two separate but complimentary funding opportunities to support Community-Service Learning Projects throughout the Long Island Region. This is based on our collective belief that youth have the ability to positively contribute to and impact community life and that Community-Service Learning provides a tangible and meaningful opportunity to do so. For the purpose of this Call for Applications, two funding categories are offered.

**Category A: Nassau County Youth Board, ACT FOR YOUTH:**

In June 2006, Nassau County Youth Board was among 12 sites funded by the New York State Health Department for the Assets Coming Together (ACT) Initiative. ACT FOR YOUTH is a five-year Initiative to strengthen community partnerships that promote positive youth development and prevent risky and unhealthy behaviors among young people ages 10-19 in Nassau County. ACT FOR YOUTH is facilitated by the Nassau County Youth Board in partnership with the Collaboration for Community Change (CCC). The CCC represents government agencies, local coalitions, community and faith-based organizations and young people.

During Year I, the Nassau ACT WITH YOUTH Agenda was completed. This Agenda articulates strategies to promote youth supports and opportunities, youth voice and engagement, organizational change, policies consistent with positive youth development and a demographic profile of youth needs and assets throughout Nassau County. This has served as the impetus to "seed" five Community-Service Learning Projects with great success!

As part of Year II, \$14,000 has been set aside to "seed" two to fourteen new projects at community-based, not-for-profit organizations and based on the strategies included in the ACT WITH YOUTH Agenda. Organizations may apply for \$1,000 - \$7,000. Agencies may apply for one project only. All projects are to be implemented between January – March 2008. ***Funds cannot be used to supplant existing services or underwrite Community-Service Learning Projects previously supported; however, a former recipient organization can apply to "seed" a different project.***

**Category B: United Way of Long Island, DREAMS for Youth Scholarship Program:**

United Way of Long Island DREAMS for Youth Scholarship Program provides financial support to Long Island youth so they can pursue their dreams and aspirations. Based on the belief that financial need should not be a barrier to achieving one's potential, the mission of DREAMS is to give grants in three distinct areas: academic, enrichment and community service. The scholarship program is open to seventh to 12th grade Long Island youth who demonstrate financial need and a commitment to community service. Since the program's inception in 2002, United Way of Long Island has awarded 99 scholarships totaling \$277,654. The DREAMS for Youth Scholarship Program was established by United Way Youth Advisory Board, led by teens from Long Island schools, along with the late Ben Pace.

Community service awards are made to youth-serving agencies and schools mentoring youth in a community-service project. Organizations and/or schools may apply for \$500 – \$5,000. All projects are to be implemented between January and March 2008. ***Funds cannot be used to supplant existing services. Funds must be used for supplies or services needed to fulfill a specific Community Service Project mentoring youth and no personnel costs will be granted.***

Although this solicitation specifically focuses on DREAMS for Youth community service awards, additional information on the DREAMS academic and enrichment scholarships is available online at United Way of Long Island's Web site at [www.unitedwayli.org](http://www.unitedwayli.org).

To maximize these resources and promote as many Community-Service Learning Projects as possible, ***organizations may apply for either Category A or B, not both.*** Organizations interested in applying must attend the "Youth Community Action" Training to be provided in October. See attached Call for Applications for details and further information. *All Applications are to be received at the Nassau County Youth Board, 60 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard, Suite 220, Uniondale, New York 11553-3688, Attention Keith Gerber, ACT FOR YOUTH Coordinator by 4:15 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 2, 2007.* Faxes and e-mail versions will not be accepted.

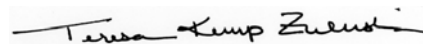
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Keith Gerber (ACT FOR YOUTH Coordinator, Nassau County Youth Board) at (516) 227-7108 or Kristine Donnelly (Director of Community Impact, United Way of Long Island) at (631) 940-3706.

We hope that many of you will take advantage of these exciting and important opportunities to involve youth in Community-Service Learning ventures that will make a difference! Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,

*Eileen Tucci*

Eileen Tucci  
Acting Executive Director  
Nassau County Youth Board  
Encls.



Teresa Kemp Zielenski  
Executive Vice President  
United Way of Long Island

cc: Keith Little, Chairman, Nassau County Youth Board  
Kristine Donnelly, Director of Community Impact, United Way of Long Island  
Nassau ACT FOR YOUTH, Collaboration for Community Change  
Nassau County Youth Board, Administrative Team  
Keith Gerber, Nassau ACT FOR YOUTH Coordinator

**Nassau County Youth Board, ACT FOR YOUTH Initiative  
United Way of Long Island, DREAMS for Youth Scholarship Program  
Community-Service Learning Projects  
Call for Applications**

~September 4, 2007~

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead*

*“The dreams of our youth are the building blocks for our future. As students realize their dreams, they bring to light a path for the next generation of dreamers to follow. It is my hope that the DREAMS for Youth Scholarship recipients dream big and inspire others to do the same.” - Meghan Pace, Executive Director, Dreams R Us Foundation*

## **I. INTRODUCTION:**

### **CATEGORY A: NASSAU COUNTY YOUTH BOARD, ACT FOR YOUTH**

**ACT FOR YOUTH**– Assets Coming Together (ACT) for Youth is a five-year, Statewide Initiative funded by the New York State Health Department in 12 sites to strengthen community partnerships that promote positive youth development and prevent risky and unhealthy behaviors among young people ages 10-19 in Nassau County. This Initiative is facilitated by the Nassau County Youth Board in partnership with the Collaboration for Community Change (CCC). The CCC represents government agencies, local coalitions, community and faith-based organizations and young people.

During Year I, the Nassau ACT WITH YOUTH Agenda was completed. This Agenda articulates strategies to promote youth supports and opportunities, youth voice and engagement, organizational change, policies consistent with positive youth development and a demographic profile of youth needs and assets throughout Nassau County (see Appendix A for listing of strategies). This has served as the impetus to “seed” five Community-Service Learning Projects reaching over 500 youth and adults throughout Nassau County.

#### **ACT FOR YOUTH Goals are to:**

- Create a new way of thinking about youth based on their strengths;
- Provide opportunity for youth voice;
- Encourage adults to learn how to include youth ideas in their organizations;
- Work with youth toward effective and positive change in their community;
- Strengthen community partnerships that promote positive youth development and prevent risky and unhealthy behaviors among young people ages 10-19.

### **CATEGORY B: UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND, DREAMS FOR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

United Way of Long Island DREAMS for Youth Scholarship Program provides financial support to Long Island youth so they can pursue their dreams and aspirations. Based on the belief that financial need should not be a barrier to achieving one’s potential, the mission of DREAMS is to give grants in three distinct areas: academic, enrichment and community service. The scholarship program is open to seventh to 12th grade Long Island youth who demonstrate financial need and a commitment to community service. Since the program’s inception in 2002, United Way of Long Island has awarded 99 scholarships totaling \$277,654.

Community service awards are made to youth-serving agencies and schools mentoring youth in a community-service project. Organizations and/or schools may apply for \$500 - \$5,000. All projects are to be implemented between January – March 2008. ***Funds cannot be used to supplant existing services. Funds must be used for supplies or services needed to fulfill a specific community service project mentoring youth and no personnel costs will be granted.***

Although this solicitation specifically focuses on DREAMS for Youth community service awards, additional information on the DREAMS academic and enrichment scholarships is available online at United Way of Long Island's website at [www.unitedwayli.org](http://www.unitedwayli.org).

## II. PURPOSE OF THIS CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

### CATEGORY A: NASSAU COUNTY YOUTH BOARD, ACT FOR YOUTH

To seed two to fourteen new Community-Service Learning projects at local community-based organizations and based on the strategies indicated in the ACT WITH YOUTH Agenda (see Appendix A). ***Funds cannot be used to supplant existing services or underwrite Community-Service Learning Projects previously supported; however, a former recipient organization can apply to "seed" a different project.***

- Amount of Funding Available - \$14,000
- Funding Range - \$1,000 - \$7,000 per project
- Eligible Applicants – Not-for-Profit Community-based Organizations working in tandem with youth ages 10-19.
- Eligible Communities – Community-Service Learning Projects can focus on a single community or multi-communities throughout *Nassau County*.

***\*Please note – organizations can only apply for one project and under one funding Category, not both.***

### CATEGORY B: UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND, DREAMS FOR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

To seed new Community-Service Learning Projects at local community-based organizations or school districts and based on the strategies indicated in the ACT WITH YOUTH Agenda (see Appendix A). ***Funds cannot be used to supplant existing services. Funds must be used for supplies or services needed to fulfill a specific community service project mentoring youth and no personnel costs will be granted.***

- Amount of Awards Projected: It is anticipated several projects will be supported.
- Funding Range - \$500 - \$5,000
- Eligible Applicants - Local Not-for-Profit Community-based Organizations or School Districts working in tandem with youth, grades seven through twelve (approximate ages 12-17).
- Eligible Communities – Community-Service Learning Projects can focus on a single community or multi-communities throughout *Nassau or Suffolk Counties*.

***\*Please note – organizations can only apply for one project and under one funding Category, not both.***

## III. PARAMETERS FOR COMMUNITY-SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS TO BE SUPPORTED THROUGH CATEGORIES A & B:

- *Definition of Community-Service Learning Projects* – youth must identify a need in their community (from the ACT WITH YOUTH Agenda strategies), set a goal and work with others to plan, implement and evaluate the outcome. The significance of being engaged as an active citizen becomes clearer when it is tied to a "real life" situation.
- *Elements of Effective Community-Service Learning:* All projects must integrate the Essential Elements of Service-Learning in design and implementation (see Appendix B).

IV. APPLICATION DUE DATE AND SUBMISSION: One *original and eight copies* of all applications are to be received ***no later than 4:15 p.m. on Friday, November 2, 2007*** at the Nassau County Youth Board, 60 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard, Suite 220, Uniondale, NY 11553-3688, ATTENTION: Mr. Keith Gerber, Nassau ACT FOR YOUTH Coordinator. Faxes and E-mails will not be accepted.

## V. "YOUTH COMMUNITY ACTION" TRAINING:

- Our goal is to support Community-Service Projects that are "youth-driven", successful and sustainable. With this in mind, organizations interested in pursuing funding in Categories A or B ***must*** attend the "Youth Mobilization" Training offered in October (see attached Registration Form). This session will introduce participants to Cornell Cooperative Extension's, 4H "Youth Community Action" curriculum; a widely acclaimed community-service learning process with proven impact across New York State.

## **VI. APPLICATION REVIEW, IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:**

- All applications will be reviewed by youth and adults. *Category A* applications will be reviewed by Nassau ACT FOR YOUTH and *Category B* through United Way of Long Island DREAMS for Youth Advisory Board.
- Applicants may be contacted for additional information and/or a site visit.
- All funded projects are required to complete a summary report outlining activities, outcomes and youth reflection on the experience (including photos, if possible) and include the ACT FOR YOUTH or United Way of Long Island logos on all marketing materials.
- *Community-Service Learning programs are to be implemented between January – March 2008.*

**VII. NARRATIVE FORMAT:** For Categories A & B, please prepare a narrative of *no more than five typewritten pages with a 12 point font (responding to questions 1-11).* This page limitation does not include the budget page.

Please keep in mind that: the age range for ACT FOR YOUTH projects is 10-19 and for United Way DREAMS, approximately 12-17; and the geographic boundaries, eligible applicants, funding ranges and criteria for Categories A & B *are* different .

1. Name of organization/school district
2. Address/phone/fax/e-mail
3. Contact person and title
4. Indicate which Category of Funding you are applying for:  
  
Category A: Nassau ACT FOR YOUTH \_\_\_\_\_                      Category B: United Way, DREAMS \_\_\_\_\_
5. Past experience/organizational capacity to implement Community-Service Learning Projects
6. Perceived value and impact of youth engagement and community-service learning in your organization/school district
7. Proposed Community-Service Learning model  
*(Briefly describe what you are proposing to do and how.)*
8. Projected staff to support Community-Service Learning project
9. Project goal
10. Selected strategies of focus from ACT WITH YOUTH Agenda – *please list the strategies selected from Appendix A*
11. Specific activities of your Community-Service Learning Project  
*Please list all activities related to planning, implementation, evaluation and inclusion of young people throughout the project and the number of youth to be involved*
12. Statement of Sustainability  
*As this funding is one time only and the goal of ACT FOR YOUTH and United Way DREAMS is to create long-term change, please indicate how you will sustain activities related to this project to be "seeded."*
13. Budget – *please complete on enclosed form*

**Nassau County Youth Board, ACT FOR YOUTH Initiative  
 United Way of Long Island, DREAMS for Youth Scholarship Program  
 Community-Service Learning Projects  
 ~September 2007~**

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT FUNDS REQUESTED THROUGH THE UNITED WAY DREAMS INITIATIVE MUST BE USED FOR SUPPLIES OR SERVICES NEEDED TO FULFILL A SPECIFIC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT MENTORING YOUTH AND NO PERSONNEL COSTS WILL BE GRANTED IN THIS FUNDING CATEGORY\*\***

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Program Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONNEL SERVICES:	RATE OF PAY:	TOTAL PROJECT COST:
Position(s) Title(s):		
Fringe Costs:		
Total Personnel Cost:		

OTHER THAN PERSONNEL SERVICES (OTPS):	DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS BUDGETED:	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS:
Consumable Supplies		
Equipment		
Travel		
Liability Insurance		
Utilities and Telephones		
Other Costs		
Total OTPS Cost:		

GRAND TOTAL: Personnel + OTPS Costs:

**PLEASE REMEMBER THIS PROJECT WILL BE SUPPORTED FROM JANUARY – MARCH 2008.  
 PROJECT EXPENSES SHOULD REFLECT THAT PERIOD, ONLY.**

## APPENDIX A:

### LISTING OF SALIENT STRATEGIES INCORPORATED INTO THE ACT WITH YOUTH AGENDA

The ACT WITH YOUTH Agenda outlines strategies to promote youth supports and opportunities, youth voice and engagement, organizational change, policies consistent with positive youth development and a demographic profile of youth needs and assets throughout Nassau County. As this Agenda is a “work in progress”, the following is a list of the salient strategies articulated. *All Community-Service Learning Projects are to focus on one or more of the strategies noted below:*

#### **A. Strategies to promote youth supports and opportunities:**

- A community or school-based center in every community where you can feel safe, learn, have fun and that promotes self-esteem, self-expression, healthy relationships and goal setting – a place to feel welcomed and safe;
- Increased employability and job placement in more career-oriented paths and skill-based training on topics youth are interested in i.e., baby sitting careers;
- Organize a group of young people that adults can call upon – “An Employment Agency”;
- Use of media to develop movies or use of movies to promote positive youth development;
- Increased tutorial services;
- Increased Street Outreach and awareness;
- Recreational activities – i.e., swimming pool, paintball arena and ice skating; handball, athletic, museum, basketball, gym, laser tags, go carts, and boxing;
- Leisure-time activities for youth not very athletically inclined or who don't have time to commit to traditional team sports – walking, biking, cooking, crafts, free-style poetry, computer labs, cultural arts, painting murals, dance, etc.;
- Enhanced volunteer opportunities for High School Students to assist local elderly, mentally ill and handicapped/disabled;
- Increase environmental clean-up and beautification projects;
- Supervised intern and volunteer opportunities for older High School age;
- Safe places for youth to congregate in the community – i.e., teen clubs and BBQ pits (particularly after hours and weekends) and opportunities for youth of opposite sex to interact with one another, safely;
- Special events at local recreation centers;
- Stage youth concerts;
- More after-school programs that engage youth in areas of interest for them....political, environmental, academic support, cultural - to give local youth a real voice;
- Organized field trips to nearby cities to foster exposure to various cultures and perspectives - theatre, arts and entertainment;
- Opportunities that promote “natural highs” – testing our limits, for example, group outings to rock climbing walls, ski trips, local parks, beaches etc;
- Somewhere to go and something to do was echoed repeatedly. Suggestions were made such as designated bowling alleys, arcades, billiards, restaurants where specific times and activities can be youth defined
- Develop cross-community exchange programs and weekend programs.

#### **B. Strategies to promote youth voice and engagement:**

- Youth need to know where to begin or who to contact to have their voice heard –advocacy;
- Standing up for ourselves and working together;
- Seminars, workshops, meetings in collaboration with an adult to voice concerns, issues, the worries youth face, and successful methods to resolve them;

- Use of public access television;
- Ask youth what they feel their needs are;
- Provide community with information via publicity about the good things young people are doing to “Pay it Forward”.
- Implement Unification Days – summits etc. where “youth voices” can come together.
- Community Service Learning Projects and experiences that are longer-term and shorter-term (less than 40 hours) with transportation as needed;
- Community perception about young people’s abilities and adult receptivity;
- Increase youth council opportunities;
- Talent shows;
- Peer tutorial/mentoring;
- Resource guide for youth engagement;
- Forums with police;
- Neighborhood Mural;
- Fundraising with local businesses (car washes, bake
- Increased access to youth engagement activities;
- Convene groups of young people from different ethnic/cultural backgrounds to promote understanding and decrease conflicts;
- Contact local politicians to find effective ways to become involved;
- Need to find motivators who will motivate youth to become involved;
- Adopt a cause.

**C. Strategies to promote organizational change and policies consistent with positive youth development:**

- Better coordination between organizations and schools;
- More feedback from youth (perhaps through focus groups, survey etc.);
- Involve youth more in their organization; invite youth to volunteer or shadow an adult for a day or a week;
- Promote positive youth accomplishments in the community.
- Help promote enthusiasm toward youth;
- Involve youth in planning and development of services and programs;
- Identify “motivators” in order to engage youth involvement;
- More trained staff;
- Needs assessment to define program priorities, i.e., survey by way of mail etc;
- Place youth on community boards – increase level of involvement (by law, youth must be 18 years or older)
- The School Channels and Public Access and other networks viewed by youth and adults;
- A youth media series featuring stories and photos in the press
- Schools and newspapers need to write positive stories;
- Create positive public service announcement through the “trailers” in the movie theatres;
- Graffiti into Art Projects Workshops;
- Offer more “rewards” that motivate youth towards positive behaviors and less time punishing for negative behaviors, particularly in school settings;
- Develop online message boards that announce accomplishments of local youth...on your town’s website;
- Enlist local business (delis, restaurants etc.) to post banners, signs that bring awareness and draw attention to positive events, accomplishments and performances by local youth;
- Create a youth newspaper;

- Battle of the Bands – able to raise money for a positive cause;
- Monthly updates to local legislators on positive youth news in their local districts;
- Take money from negative influences and invest it in positive ones (i.e., forfeiture funds, seized property);
- People who do not have students in the school district need to see all the good our youth are doing so they will support them.

***D. Ways youth felt they can make a difference in their local communities:***

- Make a bulletin about job openings;
- Speak to higher authorities, County, State, Federal reps and policy makers, school boards etc.;
- Tutoring/mentoring/peer counseling/food drives/environmental/recycling and anti-graffiti projects;
- Advocacy;
- Community-Service Learning Projects;
- Starting a program for youth as a “brotherhood”;
- Work with programs, organizations and schools to re-structure and develop systems that focus on reward and encouraging positive behavior;
- Form a committee to set out and ask local businesses to promote positive youth development in the community;
- Spread the news about Act for Youth;
- Attend a Town Hall meeting;
- Speak out more – get more people involved;
- Befriend someone in need;
- July/August declare Youth Month in the County;
- Wants to help youth organization 4H and Rainbow Girls, Masonic organization;
- Become more involved in youth organizations and their sub-committee structure;
- Mobilize youth to influence adults;
- Organize events;
- Supplement to be sent home with report cards;
- Post positive information on a sign board outside schools to be changed regularly such as “Congratulations, Vicki, for your art work display at CW Post.”
- Post information on store front windows;
- Write a rebuttal to negative PR related to youth;
- Banner in strategic places throughout the community to highlight events;
- Go back to the younger youth and spread positive messages.

**APPENDIX B:**

***KEY ELEMENTS IN EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY-SERVICE LEARNING:***

- requires the application of concepts, content and skills and actively involves youth in their own learning
- engages youth in tasks that challenge and stretch them cognitively and developmentally
- engages youth in service tasks that have clear goals, meet genuine needs in the community and have significant consequences for themselves and others
- employs systematic evaluation of the service effort and its outcomes
- seeks to maximize youth voice in selecting, designing, implementing and evaluating the service project
- values diversity through its participants, its practice and its outcomes
- promotes communication and interaction with the community and encourages partnerships and collaborations
- prepares youth for all aspects of their service experience including understanding their role, skills and information required, safety precautions and sensitivity to the people with whom they will be working
- includes reflection as a central force in the fulfillment of curricular objectives and is done before, during and after service using multiple methods that encourage critical thinking

(Adopted from: the National Service-Learning Cooperative,  
Essential Elements of Service-Learning)



# NASSAU ACT FOR YOUTH in Collaboration with

**Nassau County Youth Board's, and  
Youth Participation Project (YAPP)**



**Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Nassau County**

~Presents~

# Youth Community Action Training

This 2-day training will be offered twice:

**Session I: October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

or

**Session II: October 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Both sessions will be held at:

**Cornell Cooperative Extension – Nassau County,  
West Hempstead Education Center,  
247 Woodlawn Road, West Hempstead, NY**

Organizations and school districts who apply for the Nassau ACT FOR YOUTH or United Way DREAMS Community-Service Learning funds **must** attend this “Youth Community Action” Training. This training will introduce participants to Cornell Cooperative Extension’s, 4-H “Youth Community Action” & “Public Adventures” curriculum; a widely acclaimed community-service learning process with proven impact across New York State.

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~ REGISTRATION FORM ~

All registrations must be submitted no later than Tuesday, September 25, 2007 to:

Keith Gerber, ACT FOR YOUTH Coordinator, Nassau County Youth Board,  
60 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard, Suite 220, Uniondale, New York 11553-3688

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate which session you are interested in attending:**

Session I: October 2nd and October 9th       Session II: October 18th and October 25th

**Note – Register early as there are only 20 registrants per session!**