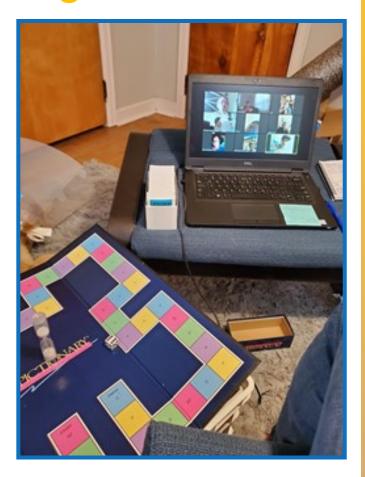
Town of Cicero Youth Bureau CanTeen Afterschool Program

The CanTeen afterschool program, serving youth in 8th to 12th grade, officially went virtual on 3/17/2020. The first step in their transition process was to post a "Question of the Day" on their Facebook and Instagram pages which received a lot of engagement. They later added videos and CanTeen participant spotlights (with some photos and artwork displayed).

A Zoom drop in schedule was established for twice a week and the Teen Council was reconvened. Phone calls and text messages were also being utilized to remain connected. Referrals are being made to our partners such as Contact Community Services and Liberty Resources.

Teen Council participants developed the idea of daily Zoom activities, such as Pictionary, Uno, singing a long, and sharing a meal. They also expressed interest in inviting weekly speakers to join the Zoom sessions.

As restrictions are slowly lifted, CanTeen staff will begin their "CanTeen on the Road" plan, which will schedule visits in local neighborhoods and parks with social distancing protocols remaining.



Clinton County Youth Bureau Sending Care Packages

Since COVID-19, Clinton County has sent coloring books, crayons and puzzles to families throughout the county. We also gave many of these items to our local Housing Authority Kid's center to hand out when they deliver lunches. Most of these items were donated from Target and Walmart. They received donations of seeds and soil and had a "Garden Party." They mailed out the seeds along with instructions for homemade pots. They also posted a video on how to plant for those unsure. They left bagged soil at several locations throughout the county for families to pick up. Usually, they have a yearly spring fun run series and to substitute due to current conditions, they are hosting virtual fun runs. Lastly, they have also posted several videos a week on our Facebook page (exercise videos, scavenger hunts, coloring pages) to continue community engagement.

Westchester County Youth Bureau Emergency Child Care Drop-Ins

During the COVID-19 pandemic they helped establish the emergency child care drop ins for Westchester County, onboarding consultants to provide one on one academic supports to children of first responders and essential staff. Their staff serves as the Food Insecurity Coordinator, working with the CE's Office to identify food pantries and distribution sites across 46 municipalities. Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) services continue and they have paid close attention to screening metrics and separation of positive COVID-19 cases. They have continued with their professional development training making it virtual. To continue civil engagement and youth empowerment, Youth Poet Laureate hosted Open Micpoetry as a release during the pandemic and this summer the Vice President of Youth Board and members of the Youth **Empowerment Council for Change will host Interviewing** Virtually. For summer youth employment, they have been developing workarounds for job sites and for summer camp guidance they have prepared protocols and recommendations for summer programming. In an effort to prepare the community for programs and camps. the WCYB partnered with several of the County's medical experts to provide updates and webinars on SARS-COV-2 and COVID-19 related Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C) in children and youth.

Putnam County Youth Bureau

Virtual Youth Forum

The Putnam
County Youth
Bureau has
been keeping
busy during the
pandemic. Our
Youth Bureau
and the staff
from Cornell
Cooperative



Extension/Putnam host a yearly Youth Forum event. This is a oneday conference for high school students. This year, due to social distancing they hosted the event virtually through Zoom. They had 16 workshops over a week, approximately three to four workshops a day. Every year they have a senior award ceremony at the County Legislative meeting. This year due to social distance protocols, they sent all the youth a copy of the agenda via email, so they can listen to the presentation versus attending in person. The Youth Bureau also created a weekly newsletter that we can send out to our email distribution list and put on Facebook, Instagram and the Youth Bureau website. Also, they had their first virtual meeting with Youth Court students who will be the first members of our Steering Committee. These students will help plan training and work on Youth Court cases that they receive from probation. Lastly, this organization is keeping student engagement by challenging them to take a photo on Earth Day of them helping the environment and send it to them.

Madison County Youth Bureau Helping the Community

At this time, Youth Bureau staff would normally be working with youth in Leadership classes and Safe Harbour Not a Number sessions, completing School Services referrals to address youth and family needs, conducting Independent Living sessions, and working on a number of other projects. Staff are doing their best to continue to engage with youth and address their needs as they normally would. They are taking School Services referrals for youth who school staff are concerned with, addressing the needs of youth who are struggling during this time of social isolation. School and Youth Development staff of the Youth Bureau/ DSS have switched gears and are also supporting the efforts of Emergency Management, Social Services and Public Health departments. "At first we didn't know what we would be called to do to support our youth, our county and each other during this time," said Youth Bureau Director Tina. "Everyone stepped up and found a way to help, whether it was a donation, reaching out to a young person virtually, supporting a coworker, or working a shift over the weekend so Public Health staff could have a break. I am proud of our staff and the agencies we work with for being willing to pitch in, to be creative and to support the needs of our county during this time."

A few of their county youth programs deserve a shout out for what they are doing during the pandemic. Community Action Partnership's Mentoring Programs have continued to mentor kids virtually. They've been creative, like sending home sewing projects to keep kids busy. The BRIDGES LGBTQIA Initiative has also been connecting virtually with youth which has been a good experience all around. The Haven at Skanda is a nonprofit large animal rescue farm that was funded under Youth Development funding and has now transitioned to county funding. Skanda submitted and received a temporary license to provide weekday child care for essential workers. The program is also offering respite to youth who may find their home situation stressful. An interesting twist that was presented to the Youth Bureau by Skanda was the idea of offering a virtual, interactive farm experience for kids who cannot visit the farm at this time by affixing cameras around the property and having hour long sessions with the staff and the animals.

Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau Assisting the Community

Since the middle of March, the Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau staff has been involved in zoom meetings including facetime counseling sessions, meetings with area colleges, and interviews with prospective interns. Our staff has even met with youth in their driveways or back yards.

We continued to assist families with clothes from our Children's Clothes Closet, especially as warm weather approached.

Even though we were unable to have our official induction ceremony, our staff went to the homes of the students who were inducted into our 2020 Hall of Fame, giving them lawn signs that said "Home of a 2020 Lancaster Youth Bureau Hall of Fame Honoree", and photographed each student with their sign which was posted on our Facebook Page.

We are currently open for individual appointments with Youth Court referrals, and community service kids, along with counseling sessions.

During the month of May, staff assisted at the local food pantry, and distributed puzzles, games, and arts & crafts projects to families with children, with each family receiving a handout that read: The Lancaster Youth Bureau staff hope that you and your family are SAFE and HEALTHY! Please take this gift and share it with someone you love! This can be a difficult time for families. If you have any concerns or need any assistance, we are here to help. Please feel free to contact us at 683-4444. Remember, WE are in this TOGETHER!

We received word from our Town Supervisor that we will be allowed to utilize our part time permanent tutoring staff to offer math and reading skills reinforcement classes for small groups beginning July 13th, following the NYS guidelines.

Nassau County Youth Bureau

Food Distribution

"Throughout this pandemic, there has been an army of youth bureau professionals that have been working tirelessly to ensure the health and well being of the children and families in our communities. In total, they assisted in serving over 13,000 families. Non profit organizations that are a part of Nassau County's Office of Youth Services have transitioned to providing assistance to children and families in our communities in a wide range of efforts from remote counseling and educational support to parenting support and crisis intervention. The doors of our network providers have remained open and in position to ensure that support and resources are available to any family in need!

One of the more critical issues that has emerged through this pandemic has been the issue of food insecurities as the result of financial strains and unemployment. To that end, our County has secured resources to be able to partner with Island Harvest and our community based organizations to conduct food distribution events throughout the county. As a result of these efforts, thousands of families (over 13,000) have been able to avail themselves to food, both perishables and non perishables so that they might be able to get some relief during this very difficult time.



Many of our organizations, including Gateway Youth Outreach in Elmont, YES Community Counseling Center, Family and Children's Association, Circulo de la Hispanidad, Hispanic Counseling Center, Long Beach Reach and so many others have played an active role in the success of these distribution events, recruiting the volunteers to assist in these extraordinary efforts and providing resources and information for those in need.

It is clear, that as we navigate these uncharted waters, that we all must work together from one end of the County to the other! It speaks to the strength of the youth services network and their commitment to improving the lives of others!"

Promoting Positive Youth Development ♥

Erie County Youth BureauCommunity Gardening in the Time of Coronavirus

The Erie County Youth Bureau continues its long partnership with Grassroots Gardens WNY (GGWNY). This year, GGWNY has once again donated vegetable plants to the Erie County Secure Detention Facility. This is the sixth consecutive summer that GGWNY has graciously provided the facility with materials. Since 2015, the not-for-profit partner has provided Erie County Youth Services with hundreds of plants, loads of soil, and plenty of supplies for building flower beds and growing vegetables, among other things. This year, for the first time, through a partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo and a generous donor, hundreds of perennials have been planted in front of the detention facility at 810 East Ferry Street in Buffalo. Working alongside other youth services staff, Sr. Youth Bureau Director Benjamin Hilligas and Youth Services Planning Coordinator John Kordrupel led the effort to help beautify the facility and provide not only fresh vegetables but also a healing space for those both residing at and visiting the facility. The latter is achieved through the therapeutic garden. According to everyone's favorite source Wikipedia, "is an outdoor garden space that has been specifically designed to meet the physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of the people using the garden as well as their caregivers, family members and friends." In this case, family, friends, and caregivers to the youth spending time in the detention center stand to benefit from the garden. All are welcome.

We are grateful to be able to partner with such a generous organization doing such important work for our community, especially during a pandemic when food scarcity, particularly access to fresh fruits and vegetables in low-income neighborhoods, is heightened. A huge thank you to the following individuals: Jeanette Koncikowski, GGWNY Executive Director; Emere Nieves, GGWNY Community Garden Trainer; Nicole Capozziello, GGWNY Therapeutic Gardening Initiative Coordinator through UB School of Social Work Field Placement: and John Santomieri, consultant with Hotel Henry Urban Resort Conference Center. The therapeutic garden project simply wouldn't have been possible without their expertise.



Onondaga Department of Children and Family Services Onondaga-Syracuse Youth Bureau

Town Shop Youth Center

Since quarantine began, they have been highlighting one teen a day on their social media platforms (Facebook: Town Shop and Instagram: townshopcamillus), reminding these children of their profound qualities despite being able to exercise who they are regularly due to the current circumstances. They host Zoom meetings and Open Mic nights to allow a platform for teens to share "where they are at" and be heard. Teens have shared original music, songs, poetry, comedy and impressions. Being able to provide a "stage" for teens to continue to have a voice when they have more questions and concerns than ever is crucial. They have brought these young adults inspiring gift packages and have provided them with resources needed including links to productive websites, phone numbers to hotlines (including the NYS COVID-19 emotional support hotline), suggestions for daily routines and healthy socially distant activities to provide structure and support for emotional wellbeing. Townshop promoted a socially distant Earth Day activity as they were unable to physically be together, they encouraged the youth to clean their own surrounding areas and send us photos of what they accomplished so we could post everyone's personal Earth Day, together. Although they are remote, Town Shop continues to grow as they are meeting new teens and welcoming them into the program virtually. Lastly, they make masks for those in need, brought groceries and baked goods to the families of young people, provided musical instruments, books and art supplies to teens have coordinated with teens on designing a new Town Shop website, shared their art with them and allowed them to

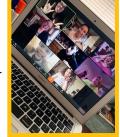


share what they have been creating with us. They have kept their composure when the world around them seems uncertain and continues to provide hope to the youth.

Whole Me Program

During this time of uncertainty they have been very creative in how to stay connected to children and families they work with. Their team has implemented four new programs including a Virtual After-school Program, #WHYISIGN, Community Partner Program and WHOLE ME Connect!

Over the past several weeks they have enjoyed spending "signing" times with families and hosting virtual birthday





parties for their kids. They are grateful they are able to stay together through these new virtual programs while practicing social distancing.

Onondaga's story continues on next page...

Onondaga Department of Children and Family Services Onondaga-Syracuse Youth Bureau

RISE and PEACE Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters (Syracuse NY)

Once the Syracuse City School District (SCSD), the education staff at RISE created and delivered care packages to our teens and young adults filled with engaging professional development and career exploration activities, books, menstrual products, an information sheet about COVID-19, and a list of food pick up locations throughout the city. The Food Bank of Central New York donated "School Break Boxes," filled with non-perishable food items to support our students and their families. During our time apart, twenty -five volunteers have been on call for remote tutoring and education staff has been checking in with the students regularly to provide academic, emotional, and health support, and to address any barriers to completing schoolwork. A large donation from Molina Healthcare and a grant from the John Ben Snow Foundation enabled RISE to provide laptops on loan for all of our students and ensure that they could continue learning from home. They miss their students dearly, but for now, they are grateful that technology has enabled them to stay

connected.





At PEACE Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters (Syracuse NY), knew right from the start of this crisis that they had to remain in touch with our clients (bigs, littles, parents and families of littles) to help provide some order, some assurance and some hope for them. Their staff continues to contact all of these individuals on a regular basis to make sure they are taking care of themselves, and in many cases, to see if there is anything they need within the family (food, supplies, etc.). One of our school-based mentor managers decides to make, from scratch, masks for all the littles in her program. The fabric was purchased at a local store, it was cut by hand and then put together on a sewing machine. After a bit of a learning curve, the process became so fluid that they are now making masks for their family and friends. The masks were sent in the mail to all the littles along with a brief encouraging message. This act was not only to brighten their day, but it also provided a valuable tool in fighting COVID-19 and preventing its spread.

Onondaga's story continues on next page...

Onondaga Department of Children and Family Services Onondaga-Syracuse Youth Bureau

CNY Jazz

CNY Jazz is at the leading edge of national efforts to utilize the arts as a powerful tool for youth safety, social development, academic advancement, pre-professional training, and professional success. We know that right-brain innovation makes us competitive, that music instruction demonstrably improves cognitive ability in mathematics and science, that arts practice models create skill sets that serve to great advantage for youth at risk, and that the arts are a potent capture point and pathway for innovation in education and business careers. Recent STEM to STEAM research offers endless examples of how art and design education teaches the flexible thinking, risktaking and creative problem solving needed to

solve today's most complex and pressing challenges – from healthcare to urban revitalization to global warming.

We are the "On Point for College" for must

We are the "On Point for College" for music in Central New York. We integrate our knowledge and expertise into all of our programs, creating a "pipeline" of opportunity through which these affirming personal skills are developed, from the first watershed experience to professional and life success. From "first intake" to final outcome":

- 1. We hold mini-clinics in urban schools that break down fear barriers, working with music teachers to identify students in grades 6-12 with desire and basic skills,
- 2. We offer them free tuition to our developmental SummerJazz Workshop in residence at the NYS Fair,
- 3. Urban students attend our Saturday Scholastic Jazz Jam Series for free,
- 4. Select students are mentored and perform in our Winter and Summer programs: our Cabaret Series, Jazz in the City neighborhood concerts and Scholastic Jazz Festival of the NE Jazz & Wine Festival,
- As they mature, those who wish to are invited to audition competitively for our CNY Jazz Youth Orchestra, a unique preprofessional apprentice program supported by area labor unions, and
- As they consider and apply for music education, performance, business, or therapy college degrees, we offer:
 - · letters of recommendation,



Onondaga Department of Children and Family Services Onondaga-Syracuse Youth Bureau CNY Jazz (continued)

- video audition portfolio development and recording services, and
- counseling to select the college programs most suited to their skill sets.

We have a growing list of graduates, including three Brubeck Fellows, professionals from Los Angeles to New York, and many successful music teachers – as well as professionals in all occupations, including two local attorneys who are now members of our Board of Directors, and our Development Director, formerly employed by Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Crouse Health Foundation. Our Alumni Association has over 500 members and continues to network professionally at our events and private Facebook group.

Projected Outcomes – Benefits are not only educational and family supportive, but act as program content for multiple events that bring significant economic impact to the region as well. Annually:

- We train over 300 students in all scholastic programs.
- We present 25-50 students in our public programs to an annual audience of 40,000 at our festivals and free concert series.
- The 17 members of our CNY Jazz Youth Orchestra receive a total of 452 total hours of pre-professional performance training, in rehearsal and in summer festival concerts across our region. They become members of the American Federation of Musicians and receive prevailing wages for their work.

 Additionally, the economic outcome of the programs in which students are embedded is enormous. Using conventional formulas, our summer programming generates \$1.2 million dollars in direct economic benefit to the community.

Your support of this pipeline system will help us continue to give meaningful pre-professional experience and real income to underserved urban youth, enhance their academic growth, create more contributing citizens, lower social costs and engender a healthier community culture, using the unique power of the arts.





Oswego County Youth Bureau

Leadership Oswego County Youth Program

The Leadership Oswego County Youth program had spent the year developing on their required community service project. They decided their topic was "To Be Heard" and connect with their peers and let them know that they are never alone; that there is always someone out there feeling the same way they are. The COVID-19 situation only prevented them from executing their project in school as initially planned. It effort to adapt to the current situation, I had them complete individual videos, discussing what their project was about and sharing their experiences and feelings during this time. These videos were shared on several different social media platforms and received with great community response. Videos can be located on the Oswego City-County Youth Bureau Facebook page.

Daily Facebook posts of free and creative activities and opportunities online have been an effort to support the children and families in our community, as well. Can send you the links if you like)

Primarily our AmeriCorps members have been tele serving (aka telecommuting). Which for some has its own additional challenges, especially since so much of what they all do interacts with the public or youth. Our members are providing us with materials on nutrition and fitness to share with future members. Some members are working on community involvement projects.

One member's service site is Fort Ontario and even though it is closed, he built a cabinet for the Friends of Fort Ontario and is planning to work on a few more while he cannot be at the site. Two of our members are still working with the public at Victory Transformation, assisting with homeless housing intervention. Amanda and I are working the phone bank a few times a week. Amanda is on the EMO list to assist if they need it and I am additionally on the OFA list to make phone calls to seniors. I listen in to conference calls with the AmeriCorps state commission weekly for updates as well as host weekly teleconference meetings with the AmeriCorps members. I'm sure there is more, but these are primarily the highlights of what we're doing currently.

Programs from Home include: Chalk the Walk, Assist with food/milk giveaways, Salute to the Seniors, Assist Health Department.



Orange County Youth Bureau City of White Plains We are All in this Together

While working remotely, administrative staff have kept things moving forward to help lesson delays in the contract and fiscal claim reimbursement processes which will have a direct financial impact on the funded programs. Program staff provide technical assistance as funded programs have transitioned into virtual programming and staff continue to monitor them online. Facebook and emails have been used to share local COVID-19 related resources, along with a variety of webinars about different local grants and federal stimulus funds for COVID-19 relief. Assisting with county-wide efforts, OCYB staff have worked with the Orange County Department of Health's Meals on Wheels Program and the Orange County Veterans Services Agency's Food Pantry to assist with meal prep and food delivery to seniors and veterans.





The OCYB staff also joined forces with the members of its Youth Advisory Board/ Collaboration for Community Change and funded programs to provide ongoing encouragement and positive Facebook messages @OrangeCountyYB, by participating in the #virtualhighfive challenge spearheaded by the NYS OASAS. Free online training was provided to assist funded programs with shifting to virtual programming. Funds were also redirected to increase coordination efforts to update a local outdated online volunteer portal and expand its pool of volunteer opportunities for present day COVID-19 related needs and future outreach efforts.

Youth Bureau #VirtualHighFive







The White Plains YOUTH BUREAU was challenged by Orange County Youth Bureau to participate in a state-wide campaign spearheaded by the NYS OASAS (Office of Addiction Services and Supports)

Youth Bureau staff were happy to give a #virtualhighfive to help promote and reinforce the importance of staying safe while helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Chautauqua County Youth Bureau Working in the Community

Chautauqua County Youth Bureau has been very active since the onset of the COVID pandemic. The Youth Bureau recently distributed personal hygiene bags to their teen mom programs as this was a community need.

The Chautauqua County Youth Bureau has been in constant contact with youth providers to support them and offer an array of resources. Many of the youth providers are holding virtual programming and now looking at offering some safe programming during the summer. In addition, the Youth Bureau has coordinated weekly Youth Zoom meetings youth providers; United Way representatives, local funders, and other stakeholders, on how they can collectively best support youth and families during this challenging time.

Rockland County Youth Bureau #PublicHealthIsHere4U

The Rockland County Youth Bureau designed a media series entitled #PublicHealthIsHere4U which features the essential public health role of COVID-19 youth volunteers and the Youth Bureau to help with essential services and assist residents in need.

The Rockland County Youth Bureau has been encouraging young people and families to volunteer in Rockland, including the County's summer youth environmental and conservation corps, Rockland Conservation & Service Corps (RCSC), now entering its 20th season.

Because of COVID-19 plans for this summer now include personal protective equipment requirements, small group teams with physical distancing, and virtual

meetings. The youth of this county are our future leaders, and volunteer opportunities like the summer corps empower them to make a difference.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Youth Bureau is also participating

in Rockland County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (RCVOAD), which volunteers with various opportunities to help the community. RCVOAD is a coalition of nearly 40 organizational members that collaboratively plan, coordinate, and implement disaster/emergency preparedness and response as well as identify and respond to the unmet needs of people impacted by disasters/emergencies in Rockland County.

In addition, the youth bureau's staff has worked with the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley to make deliveries to the Yeager Health Complex in Pomona. The Youth Bureau has organized over 120 volunteers to ensure success in unloading the truck and distributing fresh produce and daily products to local food pantries and feeding programs.

The Youth Bureau is also part of a

Coronavirus Youth Committee to educate Rockland youth about COVID-19 prevention while encouraging them to educate their peers. Our young people created a movement, #YouthCanGetIt2, to help spread the word about

> COVID-19. Rockland County youth in grades 7-12 can win a \$25 gift card for submitting a winning COVID-19 prevention message.



City of Salamanca Youth Bureau

Youth Center Repurposed & Assisting the Community

The City of Salamanca Youth Bureau has been repurposed during the COVID-19 pandemic to assist the community in many ways. The Youth Center is a distribution point for daily lunch service for children and their families. They have also been very active in delivering meals to homebound elderly in Salamanca and the surrounding area. This is a partnership between the Cattaraugus County Department of the Aging and the City of Salamanca Youth Bureau. Volunteers deliver meals to 66 elderly residents daily, Monday through Friday.

They did a virtual Easter Egg Hunt that was a partnership between the Youth Bureau and the Mayor's Office. Children were asked to make a colorful Easter Egg, hang it in a window of their home and there was a



random drawing of 9 winners to be announced live on FaceBook by their Mayor. Over 100 children/homes participated in the event. The Youth Center Director also has set up a GoToMeeting account for the City to hold virtual



meetings. This site has been used for multiple meetings, including our Common Council Meeting. Moving forward, due to the closing of schools for the rest of the academic year, they are attempting to repurpose the Youth Center into a City of Salamanca Central School District Family Support Center for the summer months.

Promoting Positive Youth Development ♥

St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau Design-a-Mask Contest for Students

Last June, we added approximately nine students to our Youth Advisory Board in the hopes we could add some youth perspective and voice to our Board. In July, they proposed a Face Mask initiative to help support COVID 19 safety precautions and to help students feel more confident and empowered about wearing masks when returning back to school last September. Our youth board members turned the initiative into a youth-led, county -wide design a mask contest. Our winning design was printed on 16,000 masks in December, and disbursed to every student in St. Lawrence County.

Our youth members were featured on our local TV news station, newspaper, and radio. They felt empowered to be able to help our youth during a pandemic and felt stronger community support. It was a great initiative!

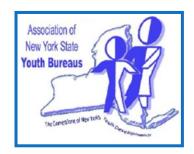




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This publication was developed by the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus.

Thank you to the following Youth Bureaus for sharing their good:

Town of Cicero Youth Bureau
Clinton County Youth Bureau
Westchester County Youth Bureau
Putnam County Youth Bureau
Madison County Youth Bureau
Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau
Nassau County Youth Bureau
Erie County Youth Bureau

Onondaga Department of Children and Family Services - Onondaga-Syracuse Youth Bureau

Oswego County Youth Bureau
Orange County Youth Bureau
City of White Plains Youth Bureau
Chautauqua County Youth Bureau
Rockland County Youth Bureau
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St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau

Promoting Positive Youth Development ♥

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