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## **NATIONAL COLLABORATION FOR YOUTH ANNOUNCES FEDERAL CHILDREN & YOUTH POLICY AGENDA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The National Collaboration for Youth (NCY), a coalition of over 45 national youth-serving organizations, today released a national policy agenda, "Building a Brighter Future: An Essential Agenda for America's Young People." Released on the same day that President Obama issued his fiscal year 2012 budget, the NCY policy recommendations are essential to meeting the needs of America's children and youth this year and beyond.

Building a Brighter Future contains an overarching set of recommendations for federal policy changes and investments designed to move this nation toward a brighter future and invest in the needs of our children and youth. The agenda incorporates all aspects of child development and includes policy recommendations in the following categories:

- Early Child Care and Education
- Education for All
- Afterschool and Summer Programs
- National and Community Service
- Healthy Children and Youth
- Child Welfare
- Juvenile Justice
- Homelessness
- Youth Employment
- Family Strengthening

"In this difficult fiscal climate, it is essential for all youth-serving organizations to endorse a shared vision and strategy that will change the odds for our kids" said Kathy Cloninger, CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA and Chair of the National Collaboration for Youth. "With this agenda, policymakers can begin to focus greater and more strategic investments in children and youth, so that more young people succeed."

"During the recent State of the Union address, President Obama encouraged Congress and the American people to make kids a greater priority in our national discourse. This agenda is the workplan for Congress to deliver on that challenge," said Irv Katz,

President and CEO of the National Human Services Assembly and Lead Staff to the NCY. “We encourage Congress not pick and choose from these recommendations but to build upon the complete agenda, so that every child has the opportunity to excel. Building a Brighter Future will ultimately help reduce government spending, and in the process, improve health, strengthen families, produce a more educated workforce and lay a foundation for an America that will thrive.”

For more information on this agenda and the NCY go to [www.collab4youth.org](http://www.collab4youth.org).

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*The National Collaboration for Youth, a 40-year old affinity group, is a coalition of National Human Services Assembly member organizations that have a significant interest in youth development. Members of NCY include more than 45 national, non-profit, youth development organizations. Our mission is to provide a united voice as advocates for youth to improve the conditions of young people in America, and to help young people reach their full potential. The National Collaboration for Youth brings together experts in Public Policy, Programming and Research to share knowledge and promote collective action to improve the lives of America’s youth. [www.collab4youth.org](http://www.collab4youth.org)*