



*institute*  
*for*

YOUTH, EDUCATION, and FAMILIES

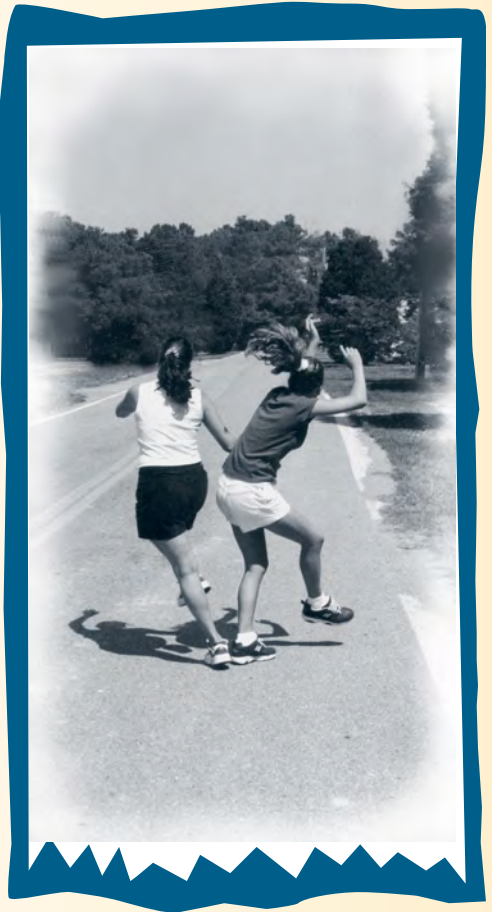
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NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

# get connected to the Institute

By registering with the Institute, municipal officials will receive **access** to networks of colleagues sharing their interests, e-mail **updates** on noteworthy developments, immediate **notices** of new publications and resources, **invitations** to participate in meetings and activities, and **opportunities** to share their successful programs and learn from the successes of others. To register with the Institute, and to obtain more detailed information on its publications and services, go to [www.nlc.org/iyef](http://www.nlc.org/iyef) or call (202) 626-3014.



**Institute for  
Youth, Education, and Families**

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# mission [MISSION & ORGANIZATION]

The Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, a special entity within the National League of Cities (NLC), helps municipal leaders take action on behalf of the children, youth, and families in their communities. NLC launched the Institute in January 2000 in recognition of the unique and influential roles that mayors, city councilmembers, and other local leaders can play in strengthening families and improving outcomes for children and youth.



Responsive to municipal leaders on a wide range of issues, the Institute focuses on five core program areas:

- education
- youth development
- early childhood development
- safety of children and youth
- family economic security



The Institute is a national resource, providing **guidance and assistance** to municipal officials, compiling and disseminating **information** on promising strategies and best practices, building **networks** of local officials working on similar issues and concerns, and conducting **research** on the key challenges facing municipalities in these core program areas. It collaborates with a broad range of national partners and works with the nation's 49 state municipal leagues to reach local officials in 18,000 cities and towns across America.



## [STRATEGIES AND TOOLS]

Through the Institute, municipal officials have direct access to a broad array of strategies and tools that can help them strengthen families and enhance the well-being of children and youth:

- **Action kits** offer a menu of practical steps that officials can take to address key problems or challenges.
- **Technical assistance projects** in selected communities provide in-depth help to municipal leaders who are committed to taking action on behalf of children and families.
- NLC's **Your City's Families Conference** and other workshops, training sessions, and cross-city meetings highlight best practices and promising city innovations.
- **Targeted research and periodic surveys** of local officials fill critical gaps in the nation's knowledge of the challenges facing cities and towns.
- The Institute's **web site, audioconferences, and e-mail listservs** help officials stay connected to their peers in other communities and easily share information on progress, pitfalls, and lessons learned.

## [BROAD-BASED LEADERSHIP]

The Institute for Youth, Education, and Families is the product of extensive planning and development by an NLC committee composed of local elected officials, representatives of major national organizations and corporations, and young people – all sharing a particular interest in the welfare of the nation's children, youth, and families. This Council on Youth, Education, and Families created the initial vision of a special place within NLC that would serve as a national resource for municipal leaders, and it continues to guide and oversee the Institute's work.





## *youth* [ACTIVE ROLE FOR YOUTH]

The National League of Cities recognizes the value and importance of involving young people directly in the development of policy and the design of programs aimed at children, youth, and their families. For many years, in an effort to gain young people's perspectives on policies and programs and to help them learn about the workings of municipal government, NLC has involved youth delegates, ages 15 to 18, in all of its national conferences. The Institute encourages youth participation in its activities and actively promotes the creation of youth councils to increase youth participation in local governance.

The Thomas M. Menino Fellowship reflects this commitment to youth participation and involvement. Named for the Boston Mayor and founding chairman of NLC's Council on Youth, Education, and Families, the Menino Fellowship offers young people a unique opportunity to learn about and contribute to the ongoing work of the Institute.





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