

2007 Division of Budget Hearings  
Testimony from:

Nita Hawkins  
Livingston County Youth Bureau  
6 Court Street  
Geneseo, NY 14454

Youth Bureaus are devoted entirely to positive youth development. A Youth Bureau is the only agency in a county or municipality whose target population is **all youth**. All youth need services, opportunities and supports to become healthy productive adults. Youth Bureaus ensure that the community has the ingredients necessary to help youth gain their potential.

The Youth Bureau funding stream allows **for local planning and design in response to local needs**. The integrated county planning process brings agencies together to determine priorities for funding. The three-year County Comprehensive Plan for youth services focuses our work on long-range goals with specific annual expected outcomes. To fulfill the objectives in this plan requires the creation and maintenance of collaborations with the county's government, faith based and private youth service providers and funding sources as well as school districts.

Many of our presently funded programs are moving to evidence based practice. Presently funded programs include:

- 4 community youth center/youth activity projects providing opportunities for 1000 youth
- Youth Court – which has diverted 40 cases from the county court system in the last year
- County wide youth leadership council which provides opportunities for youth to gain leadership skills and cultural competence
- Youth advocacy program – addressing needs of youth at risk of dropping out and children and youth with disabilities
- Pregnant and parenting teens – assisting teens in becoming better parents and increasing the ability of these teens to complete their education and move towards self sufficiency
- 2 mentoring programs –evidence based practice for increasing protective factors in children with high needs
- Community service – based on restorative justice model, over 100 youth involved in juvenile justice system are providing over 1000 hours of service in the community and learning responsibility for actions
- Juvenile aid funds to support juvenile officers
- Juvenile mediation- assists youth and families in conflict resolution

The Youth Bureau is involved actively with multiple agencies to meet the needs of children and youth with mental health issues, substance abuse, juvenile justice involvement, and disabilities. The Livingston County Youth Bureau is a catalyst in bringing the players together to All of these issues affect the academic and social achievement of our future workforce. NYS's economic future is based on the young people that our programs assist on daily basis.