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For immediate release

### **Relationship Education for Disadvantaged Youth**

Healthy relationships can promote resilience in youth; but when relationships go wrong, they may distract or totally disrupt a young person's success in work, education, and family. Managing intimate relationships well is a challenging task for all youth – especially for those disadvantaged youth without models of healthy relationships – and merits thoughtful programs and support for those in the field delivering services. Seldom are young people given information about how to successfully navigate the minefields of young adult relationships, make wise partner choices, learn how to avoid abusive, harmful relationships, and learn healthy relationship skills.

It's My Community Initiative is pleased to announce the recipients of six awards granted to community-based organizations to provide relationship education services to vulnerable youth. IMCI is an intermediary working with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to identify, fund and assist youth-serving organizations to bring relationship education to vulnerable young people across the country. Grantees will be working with youth aging out of foster care, teen parents, students in economically disadvantaged communities and girls in juvenile justice facilities. These organizations will be engaging young people to address attitudes toward intimate partner relationships and build core relationship skills such as effective communication and conflict resolution. The grants are anticipated to bring additional services to the funded organizations and help identify promising practices in this emerging field.

The following organizations have been awarded funding:

- Catholic Charities (Wichita, KS)
- Boys and Girls Club (Milwaukee, WI)
- Girls Inc. (Denver, CO)
- United Way (Denver, CO)
- Urban League (Memphis, TN)
- YMCA (Detroit, MI)

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