

THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL

☆☆☆☆ for ☆☆☆☆

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Friday, April 29, 2011

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MEMBERS OF WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS TO HOLD YOUTH LISTENING TOURS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

First Session in New Orleans on April 29 will be one of several with Jon Bon Jovi; Atlanta, Houston and New York City visits planned

Washington, DC – The White House Council for Community Solutions (WHCCS) today announced that Councilmember Jon Bon Jovi will host youth listening tours at various community-based organizations across the country. Bon Jovi, who will be joined by other members of the White House Council, will engage young Americans and community leaders in candid conversations to determine where efforts are most needed. Findings will be compiled in a final report to the Council in June in an effort to highlight solutions. The WHCCS listening tour adds to the White House's broader effort to engage young people nationwide through youth roundtables.

The first listening session will take place in New Orleans on Friday, April 29, 2011, where youth who have been served by local organizations Café Reconcile, Liberty's Kitchen, Youth Empowerment Project and Tulane Drop In Center will attend. Additional cities where similar visits are planned include Atlanta, Houston, and New York City.

Currently, less than half of young Americans have the education, training and skills needed to compete in today's workforce by the time they reach the age of 25. President Obama established the White House Council to bring all sectors together – individuals, business, community organizations, philanthropy, and government – to identify solutions to pressing issues, such as helping young people succeed, and make lasting progress on our national priorities.

After the roundtables, the youth participants can submit their most pressing issues and most inspiring solutions to the White House's Your Future, Your Solutions: 100 Youth Strategies to Win the Future website at www.whitehouse.gov/youngamericans. This effort enables the administration to hear directly from young people about the challenges they face and connect participants with Obama Administration officials through conference calls, web chats, and other opportunities.

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Established in December 2010 by President Obama, the **White House Council for Community Solutions** will focus on an issue with critical near-term and long-term consequences for our nation's health and economic strength – the responsibility of our society to ensure adolescents and young adults are prepared to live productive and prosperous lives. The Council is administered by the [Corporation for National and Community Service](http://www.whitehouse.gov/corps). More information about the WHCCS can be found at www.serve.gov/council.

Your Future, Your Solutions: 100 Youth Strategies to Win the Future is an effort that enables the administration to hear directly from young people about the challenges they face. The initiative connects participants with Obama Administration officials through conference calls, web chats, and other opportunities. For more information go to www.whitehouse.gov/youngamericans.