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**GRAD NATION**

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## 100 Best Communities for Young People

The *100 Best Communities for Young People* presented by ING is a signature initiative of America's Promise Alliance and an important part of the Grad Nation campaign. Each year, America's Promise and ING celebrate 100 deserving communities who effectively provide their youth with the [Five Promises](#) and work to increase graduation rates. Winning communities come from all across the country and are addressing the unique challenges they face. Any community committed to better serving its young people is welcome to apply.



**The winning communities for the 2012 competition have been announced. The archive webcast of the live announcement event is now available!**

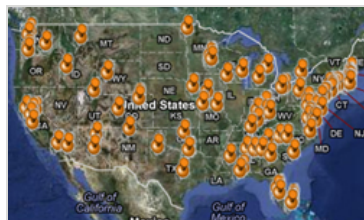
**About the Competition**



The *100 Best Communities for Young People* competition identifies cities nationwide that have made the well-being of children and youth a priority. Find out how your community can participate in the 2013 competition and which communities made the list of winners in 2012.

[Find out more](#)

**2012 Competition Winners**



The 2012 winners were chosen from a pool of more than 320 nominees from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. They hail from 42 states, which is a record for the competition.

[Find out more](#)

**Event Webcast**



The announcement of the 2012 winning communities was webcast September 12, 2012 live from the Newseum in Washington, DC at 12noon ET. Follow this link to view the webcast archive.

[Find out more](#)

**Past Winners**

The *100 Best Communities for Young People* is now in its sixth cycle, recognizing communities making extraordinary efforts to reduce dropout rates and provide outstanding services and support to their youth.

Review the lists of our past winning communities from 2005-11.



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# Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Community name: Oklahoma City

Website: <http://www.okc.gov/>

Population: 582,278

Graduation rate: 55.7%

Youth poverty rate: 28.0%



## Overview

A six-time *100 Best* winner, Oklahoma City continues to serve as a national model for making youth a citywide priority by offering a variety of programs to help support their academic success and overall well-being. The community's *Youth Services' Teen Service Board*, run by high school students, helps teens in need by holding back-to-school supplies drives, and assembling food baskets for students from low-income homes. The Teen Services Board has also hosted a telethon where \$10,000 was raised for the *Supporting Kids in Independent Living* (SKIL) program that provides resources to high school students who live on their own.

## Community Programs

**MAPS For Kids** invests \$700 million in projects to benefit the local public schools.

The **High School Academy Program** works with Community Advisory Boards from each high school to develop, implement and oversee mentoring opportunities within the community.

The **Rebuilding Together OKC** Youth Board coordinates the collection of cleaning supplies and tools for a neighborhood building project that aids low-income senior citizens.

The **Supporting Kids in Independent Living** (SKIL) program provides resources to high school students who live on their own in an effort to ensure they graduate.



## Youth Voices

*"From a very young age I've been nurtured by the different support systems intricately connected within my city."*

—Magen

*"In the Youth Leadership Exchange programs I was surrounded by adults in the greater Oklahoma City community who took time out of their busy professional schedules to mentor young adults."*

— Anna