

# 100 BEST COMMUNITIES



## Kentucky

### Lexington-Fayette Urban County, KY

Lexington is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of Partners for Youth (PFY), a private foundation established to serve as a community coalition that works to improve the lives of economically disadvantaged youth. Each year, funds are solicited from the mayor's office, Toyota, the horse industry and other local businesses communities to fund grassroots programs, as well as scholarships to social and economically disadvantaged youth. PFY staff provides training and technical support to local grassroots programs for grant application, outcome measurement, as well as financial accountability training.

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### Louisville Metro, KY

Louisville Metro is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because the Jefferson County Public School system has launched two education initiatives that have earned extensive community support. Every 1 Reads mobilizes over 6,100 caring adults and has produced substantial improvements in student reading and writing. Writing portfolio scores are up five points for elementary, 13 points for middle school and four points for high school. The Greater Louisville Chamber of Commerce is instrumental in engaging businesses in Every 1 Reads. The campaign is emblematic of one of Louisville's biggest strengths, cross-sector collaborations. A \$25-million GE College Bound grant to the school district concentrates unprecedented resources on math and science competencies.

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### Mt. Sterling, KY

Mt. Sterling is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because its work to identify and assist at-risk students. Its director of pupil personnel has developed an at-risk student database and a "No-Drop-In-Drop-Out" program. This one-of-a-kind database program allows school staff to pinpoint and track attendance, discipline, academic progress, interventions, and counseling for individual students. Two new partnerships, the Work Ethic Seal and Kentucky Scholars programs, partner students with local business and industry mentors who visit middle and high schools to provide interactive future forecasts of what students lifestyles will be like with and without postsecondary education.

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### **Murray-Calloway County, KY**

Murray-Calloway County is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of its emphasis on providing youth with leadership roles within the community and their collaborative programs on behalf of children and youth. Examples of Murray and Calloway County's support for young people include: the *Laker After School Educational Resource Program (LASER)*, an after school program for kindergarten through fifth grades; the Angels Community Clinic, providing free medical and dental care for working families and linking eligible children with Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program and the WIC (Women Infant Children) program.

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