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CONTACT: Paul Nelson, MDHS Communications Director (601)-359-4517

Y chosen by the Mississippi Department of Human Services to implement a program that will help youth develop career skills and behaviors to help them reach their full potential.

The Y will operate Community Youth Career Development Centers (CYCDC), in 14 counties state-wide: Hinds, Rankin, Madison, Copiah, Lincoln, Adams, Pike, Lee, Lauderdale, Lowndes, Desoto, Panola, Warren and Washington.

Jara Miller, Chief Administrative Officer of the Y, says, "We feel confident the Y will be able to build this much needed program, because we are a leader in youth development and education. This program helps kids who might fall through the gaps experience the support and opportunities that can make them successful in life.

Mississippi is targeting youth ages 12 – 18 that are identified and referred to the program by their schools or law enforcement as needing enhancement services and support. Some of the resources the youth will be given access to through the program include: GED preparation, Vocational Education Training, Technology Courses, Career/Workforce Development, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Education, Social Skills, and Substance Abuse Awareness training.

The Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) is working, as part of our Generation Plus (gen⁺) approach, to maximize all available resources for the children and families of Mississippi. MDHS continues building momentum toward developing cycles of success with families using the gen⁺ approach the focus is to work with the family as a whole. The goal is to create a foundational framework within the department so that identified resources and services along with program support are aligned with a generation plus approach. Partnering with the Y allows us to reach families throughout the state and in turn invest early on in building a strong foundation that helps nurture the well-being of individuals.