

# 100 BEST COMMUNITIES



for Young People

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## Massachusetts

### Barnstable County, MA

Barnstable County is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Youthful Diversion Program. Created in response to widespread concern about the effects of underage substance abuse, the effort is an innovative model that works with first-time young adult offenders between the ages of 17-21 by offering offenders the opportunity to receive services in lieu of going through the traditional court process.

#### For additional information, please contact:

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Mashpee, MA

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### Bedford, MA

Bedford is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of its new Peer Mentoring program which began in the spring of 2006. The effort involves matching high school Peer Mentors with middle school youth. Thanks to the initiative of its Youth Policy Task Force (TF), Bedford also addressed issues raised after a survey of youth activity options by creating a new, town-sponsored Web site for youth.

#### For additional information, please contact:

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Bedford Youth Family Services  
12 Mudge Way  
Bedford, MA

**Email:** [sueb@town.bedford.ma.us](mailto:sueb@town.bedford.ma.us)

**Phone:** 781-275-7727

### Cambridge, MA

Cambridge is one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People, in part, because of the work of the Cambridge Challenge, a collaboration between the Chamber of Commerce and the city's Office of Workforce Development. Cambridge Challenge is a partnership of businesses and city agencies to support successful launch of youth into the employment world. The group solicits summer and school year jobs for teens, arranges mock interviews, job shadows and internships for youth in City businesses. The focus of the effort is on youth who face barriers to employment, including youth whose first language is not English, who live in public housing and or whose parents have not been to college.

#### For additional information, please contact:

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Cambridge, MA

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## **Stoughton, MA**

Stoughton is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because the city created a specific plan last year around school readiness, academic achievement and dropout prevention. Stoughton's school superintendent has created an early warning system for parents and is working on comprehensive strategies for drop out prevention and recovery. After-school clubs and homework assistance programs are also available to students in need of additional support. In addition to the school and youth commission, the local Stoughton businesses and a junior college have established a mentoring internship program for students to learn skills and have a better understanding of the workplace.

### **For additional information, please contact:**

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