Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grants
Newsletter
June 2021 | Issue 11

YARG GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Grantee The WorkPlace Featured on PBS NewsHour

Applause for The WorkPlace and its ApprenticeshipWorks program! This YARG grantee, which helps young adults pursue careers in advanced manufacturing, was recently featured on the PBS NewsHour Weekend in a segment covering the economic recovery in Southwest Connecticut. The piece focused on the collaboration between The WorkPlace and their employer partner Bigelow Tea.

Employer representatives described the challenges of finding employees to replace their aging workforces at a time when manufacturing has become more dependent on technological skills. Joe Carbone, The WorkPlace CEO, spoke about how apprenticeships help respond to this problem by enabling unskilled workers to acquire capabilities that will help them advance in the industries that are growing and paying good wages. You can watch the video at this link. (The segment starts at around 11 minutes, 30 seconds.)

INTERMEDIARY CONNECTIONS

Youth Apprenticeship Intermediaries

Youth Apprenticeship Intermediaries play a vital role in expanding and strengthening Registered Apprenticeship for youth at the state, regional, and national level. The four Intermediaries—Jobs for the Future (JFF), net.America, Urban Institute, and ICF—and the YARG grantees can work together to develop and/or strengthen youth apprenticeship programs by infusing the apprenticeship model as the “go-to” human capital solution in national, regional, and state career readiness for various career paths through the following activities:

- Train youth apprentices across various industries
- Increase youth apprenticeship brand awareness
- Host employer/industry meetings and conferences
- Connect high school students to employers under a Registered Apprenticeship program
- Integrate youth apprenticeship into school systems
- Create new apprenticeship programs or expand existing ones
- Develop best practices and success stories

Through the first two years of their contracts, the youth intermediaries have identified and tested intentional strategies to reach traditionally underrepresented populations and diversify the pipeline of talent into high-skill, high-demand occupations.

For more information on the Youth Apprenticeship Intermediaries, one-pagers for each may be found at the links below or on the YARG Community here.

- JFF
EVENTS

CEREMONY
“Grantee Achievements in Year One”
Wednesday, June 16, 2:00-3:00 p.m. DST

We look forward to celebrating your achievements realized during year one of the Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grant Program! Each grantee has been invited to share a lesson learned and one achievement during this special year-end peer-to-peer.

Please let us know if you have any questions by emailing the YARG mailbox, YouthASReady.Grants@dol.gov.

WEBINAR
"Youth Apprenticeship Intermediary Exchange"
Wednesday, June 23, 2:00-3:30 p.m. DST

The Office of Apprenticeship will host the Youth Apprenticeship Intermediaries (YAI) and Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grants (YARG) Exchange. The exchange event will provide an opportunity for the Youth Intermediaries to present their respective project activities, as well as resources and support available to the YARG grantees. Following the presentations, the Youth Intermediaries and YARG grantees will have an opportunity to participate in an open discussion on how YAI and YARG can partner and leverage resources to expand Youth Registered Apprenticeship. DOL staff will moderate the event. Additional information and meeting invites will be coming soon.

FORUM
"Apprenticeship Diversity & Social Mobility Forum"
Monday, July 5, 6:00-7:15 a.m. DST

The Apprenticeship Diversity & Social Mobility Forum, based in England, will conduct its next free online event on July 5, 2021 (6:00 am – 7:15 am EDT) around the theme of whether technology can be a force for change.

An initiative of The BAME Apprenticeship Alliance, this thought leadership forum started in July 2020 as a virtual event during the Coronavirus pandemic. It is continuing its plan to hold three events a year, each featuring panel discussions with leaders in DEI and social mobility. Register for the July event here and view clips of past forums on their website.

RESOURCES
Trauma-Informed Retention & Recruiting Page
This new Community page addresses a major obstacle to apprenticeship retention: the effects of past or present trauma on program participants. Trauma-informed care (TIC) can help mitigate the effects of these Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and prevent re-traumatizing young adults.

The tip sheet and other resources featured here will guide YARG grantees in developing and implementing trauma-informed care (TIC) to support trauma recovery and motivate a higher level of commitment to program and career goals among youth apprentices.

Youth Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Page
As attacks on our nation’s digital infrastructure increase, the demand for cybersecurity professionals across all industries is growing exponentially. According to Cyberseek, as of September 2020, more than 520,000 cybersecurity jobs remain unfilled, making this an opportune time for apprenticeship programs in this industry.

We created a YARG Community page to help guide programs and employers who may be considering a youth IT apprenticeship with a specialization in cybersecurity. You’ll find tools, webinars, program examples, organizations and other useful resources.

May Webinar Clarifies Sustainability
The May webinar, "Sustaining Your YARG Program," conveyed the message that sustainability is a task that should be considered from Day One, and not something to postpone until the latter years of the grant. DOL/ETA moderator Sheila Lewis and grantee coach Mike Laidlaw broke down the concept into the three components of planning, mindset, and execution. Among the important take-aways:

- Include sustainability in the early strategic planning of a program.
- Make it part of the organizational mindset.
- Evaluate components, practices, and impact to determine what to sustain and to move toward continuous improvement.
- Develop and maintain strong partnerships to enhance long-term growth.

Grantees CareerWise and Trident Technical College described their own approaches to sustainability, offering examples of how sustainability plans can be implemented and how they will vary depending on a program’s individual needs and circumstances.

Find a synopsis of the event and the webinar PowerPoint at this link.

Grant Reporting Page
As the second quarter draws to a close, we thought we’d remind grantees about the recently redesigned and updated Performance Reporting Page in the YARG Community. Here you’ll find the information you need on YARG reporting policies and due dates, plus links to reporting sites and trainings, announcements, supporting materials, and additional resources. Keep this link handy!

The next report is due August 15th for the period ending June 30th. In preparation for this reporting period, the Office of Apprenticeship Performance Team recommends that YARG grantees:

1. Submit their data files into the Workforce Integrated Performance System (WIPS) early and as many times as necessary;
2. Attend WIPS Office Hours for trouble-shooting, responses to questions, etc.;
3. Submit reporting- and data-related questions to the WIPS help desk; and
4. Submit policy-related questions to the YouthASReady.Grants@dol.gov. (Don’t forget
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