HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Seasons Greetings from the YARG Technical Assistance Team!

2021 has not been without its challenges. Nevertheless, you have all continued to serve your apprentices at the highest possible level. Comments from our Youth Town Hall panelists are proof of your commitment to the success of your programs and your participants. It is an honor to assist in your efforts to produce a positive impact on the lives of young people across the country. We look forward to working with you in the new year and beyond.

APPRENTICESHIP AMBASSADORS WANTED

DOL Launches Apprenticeship Ambassador Initiative

The Apprenticeship Ambassador Initiative, announced by Labor Secretary Marty Walsh during National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) will create a national network of employers, labor organizations, educators, equity organizations, and other stakeholders to serve as champions for expanding and diversifying Registered Apprenticeship.

Click here to watch the announcement video featuring Secretary Marty Walsh; Vice President Kamala Harris; Ambassador Susan Rice; and leaders in labor, business, and national, state, and local government.

Find full versions of the 11 Apprenticeship Ambassador videos on Apprenticeship.gov.

Help spread the word! We encourage organizations with Registered Apprenticeship experience (one year minimum) to apply to become Apprenticeship Ambassadors. Examples of eligible organizations include Registered Apprenticeship sponsors, Related Technical Instruction providers, intermediaries, sponsors of pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to RAPs, and equity partners who have seen the value and benefits of Registered Apprenticeship and want to partner with DOL to help promote, expand, diversify, and modernize it.

Please note: OA Registered Apprenticeship contractors, grantees, and cooperative agreements may apply but may not use Department of Labor funding for Apprenticeship Ambassador activities if selected. An organization’s role as a contractor, grantee, or cooperative agreement should be kept separate from their role as an Apprenticeship Ambassador, including any commitments included in the application.

For further information:
- Visit the Apprenticeship Ambassador Initiative website
- Download the Apprenticeship Ambassador Fact Sheet
NAW 2021 SUCCESS STORIES

A Highly Successful 2021 NAW

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) gained momentum this year! There were 1,176 events and proclamations (350 more than last year) and 44 gubernatorial proclamations (also an increase over 2020). All 50 states participated, along with the District of Columbia and three U.S. territories.

The Department of Labor observed NAW with several national events, announcements, and activities. Acting Assistant Secretary Angela Hanks summarizes these and other NAW highlights in her blog “Empowering Workers through Registered Apprenticeship.”

Click here to watch Labor Secretary Marty Walsh announce the opening of the 7th Annual NAW.

YARG grantees used NAW to promote their programs, recruit and educate new apprentices and employers, and honor current participants and businesses through:

- Events: Career opportunity meetups, industry apprenticeship accelerators, trainings, informational sessions, class presentations, hands-on demonstrations, and worksite visits. (Alaska Works, CareerWise Colorado, Easter Seals, Oklahoma Works)
- Outreach: Videos, Twitter chats, and posts on websites and social media. (Alaska Works, AMI Kids, Apprenticeship Carolina, CareerWise Colorado, Easter Seals, Idaho Workforce Development Council, NRAEF, NWFSC)
- Recognition: Awards presentations and acknowledgements of businesses, mentors, and apprentices. (CareerWise Colorado, NRAEF)

Participant Success stories were a highlight of NAW, demonstrating the direct impact and effectiveness of youth apprenticeship programs.

Lydell, Easter Seals

After graduating high school, Lydell, along with his brother Lorenzo, was eager to enter the construction trades. They joined the Easterseals YARG apprenticeship in Cincinnati, OH, and worked for several months at the Uptown Workforce Development Initiative (UWDI). Lydell later advanced to an additional career program. He credits his apprenticeship and training with helping him master the carpentry, demolition, and rehabbing skills that led to a job at TriVersity Construction, where he remains today. Lydell believes that the apprenticeship experience changed his life, and his brother’s as well.

Read the original post on Instagram.
Teddy, Apprenticeship Carolina

A junior at Hilton Head High School, Teddy is the first youth apprentice in Beaufort County, SC, and is working toward the Restaurant Cook Skills Certificate. Under the supervision of Chef Charles Pejeau at Palmetto Dunes Ocean Front Resort, Teddy spent his first month in the kitchen learning prep work. Last month he moved to the hot line. “I’m really looking forward to learning as much as I can,” Teddy says. Says Chef Pejeau, “If you have a need for employees at a beginning level, it is the perfect opportunity. Having Teddy on the team has been great. We’re just so excited to be a part of his journey.”

Read the original article on the Apprenticeship Carolina site.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Save The Date: Performance/Reporting Workshop – January 19, 2021 @ 2 – 3:30pm EDT

This workshop is specifically designed for WIPS submitter/certifiers and other grant reporting and performance staff—especially new staff! Please join this event if you are new to reporting and performance and if you have questions about the process, performance measures and the Workforce Integrated Performance System (WIPS). To be sure that your questions are answered, please submit them to your grant mailbox at YouthAsReady@dol.gov using the Subject “Reporting Workshop”. Stay tuned for more information!

WIPS Reporting Office Hours Before you know it, the Quarterly Performance Report and the Quarterly Narrative Report will be due again on February 15, 2022. Two Office Hour session will be held on the following dates/times. Grantee performance/reporting staff—especially WIPS’ submitter/certifiers should plan to attend. Bring your questions and scenarios!

- Thursday, February 3, 2022: 3 – 4pm EDT
- Thursday, February 10, 2022: 3 – 4pm EDT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EVENTS

YARG Peer-to-Peer: Data Collection Practices
January 25, 2022; 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDT

Grantees will share how they are collecting/reporting data using their MIS. Grantees can learn from each other about systems they are using to collect and report on participant-level data. Challenges and opportunities will be discussed. An invitation will be sent from the YARG mailbox in January.
Summary Available for October Youth Town Hall

In October, youth apprentices from Alaska Works, Easter Seals, and NRAEF shared insights on their program work and the impact of COVID-19 on their apprenticeship experience. They provided grantees with valuable feedback on the efficacy of various program practices, highlighted some opportunities for improvement, and gave recommendations for building on current successes.

Key revelations from our panelists included:

- Specifics of how their apprenticeships have put them on track for career success.
- Ways in which the pandemic has had a surprisingly positive effect on their program work.
- Inventive suggestions for raising awareness of apprenticeship with earlier and more youth-friendly outreach.

Access the synopsis [here](#).

DECEMBER Peer-to-Peer: Effective Participant Engagement

This month’s peer-to-peer event provided an exchange of ideas on the YARG Success Factor: Effective Participant Engagement in a Registered Apprenticeship Experience. The dialogue enabled grantees to ask questions and to share strategies and practices for achieving favorable results through a positive and impactful participant experience.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Effectively Communicating the Value of Youth Apprenticeship

Invaluable for recruiting new participants and employer partners, this resource offers succinct yet persuasive arguments that demonstrate how youth apprenticeships benefit both young career seekers and businesses alike.

For employers, it shows how apprenticeships offer a solution to the labor shortage in many industries, surpassing colleges as a reliable source of nationally credentialed, ready-to-work job candidates. There is evidence of positive Return on Investment (ROI) and a higher level of innovation from the diverse talent pool apprenticeships create.

For participants, the access to paid work-based training in high-growth fields and the significant earnings potential are laid out with facts and figures.

Whether excerpted for specific messaging efforts or used on its own as a handout, this should prove to be an effective tool for apprenticeship practitioners – particularly in light of the YARG Youth Town Hall, in which participants advocated for broader exposure to apprenticeship opportunities.

Access the resource [here](#).
**Essential Tool for Capturing Crucial Program Data**

The PAYA Youth Apprenticeship Data Framework will facilitate gathering data about partners, career pathways, and participants. It offers customizable spreadsheets (download them [here](#)), plus additional tools and resources for program data planning, collection, and use.