National Apprenticeship Week 2021 Announced!

U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh has designated November 15 - 21 as 2021 National Apprenticeship Week (NAW), an annual event which has, for the past seven years, celebrated apprenticeship as a way of enabling workers to earn while they learn. This is an opportunity for YARG grantees to put apprenticeship front and center by promoting awareness, showcasing innovations, exploring workplace solutions, and identifying potential partnerships. All apprenticeship stakeholders and champions are invited to participate.

Since its launch in 2015, NAW has prompted more than 5,000 events and 700 proclamations and has attracted upwards of 470,000 attendees across the country. This year’s celebration furthers the DOL’s commitment to President Biden’s infrastructure plan for creating jobs that will make America more competitive and expand opportunities to workers from marginalized communities. View the DOL press release here.

Visit the NAW page on apprenticeship.gov for the latest resources, such as a NAW factsheet, mailer, and editable flyers. Please register your events and proclamations, share the mailer, factsheet, and flyers with partners, and use #NAW2021 across social channels to share photos and proclamations – which will be linked to the Department’s social media.

Any questions or comments about registrations can be emailed to NAW@dol.gov. Note that 2021 events may incorporate both virtual and in-person collaborations. In addition to this year’s NAW, the Secretary announced the NAW dates through 2024!

- 2022: Nov. 14-20
- 2023: Nov. 13-19
- 2024: Nov. 18-24
Join the October Townhall!
October’s virtual event will feature a panel of nearly half a dozen youth participants who will share how the pandemic has impacted their well-being and their overall learning experience. The objective is to encourage a dialogue among the youth and elicit questions from YARG grantees. This feedback will be invaluable for all grantees as they work toward achieving one of YARG’s key Success Factors: **Effective Participant Engagement in a Registered Apprenticeship Experience**.

The interchange will hopefully enlighten grantees as to their own participants’ needs and challenges and perhaps guide them toward the types of modifications that may be needed to continuously improve their services. It may also suggest some practical solutions for providing a positive YARG experience even as COVID-19 continues to interrupt normal operations.

**TO REGISTER:** Grantees, check your email inbox for an invitation sent on October 14, 2021.

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**WEBINAR**

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training**

November 16, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. EDT

For YARG grantees to lead the way in career training equity they must be attuned to the nuances of DEI language as well as the practicalities of making education, work, and apprenticeship opportunities accessible to all.

In November, the YARG TA team will offer a training webinar led by a DEI subject matter expert. The session will introduce grantees to accepted DEI terminology and concepts, and it will suggest practices to incorporate into training design, recruitment and retention, and employer engagement. This is highly recommended for everyone who is striving to advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within their programs and their employer partnerships.

**TO REGISTER:** Grantees, a formal event invite is forthcoming from the YARG mailbox.

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**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES**

**BLOG: "What’s Good (and Bad) About Virtual Learning for Apprentices"**

When the pandemic drove school and employment online overnight the abrupt transition created unique challenges for the 636,000 apprentices in the U.S. Program practitioners were required to quickly rethink how they could provide job training and hands-on experience in a completely new fashion.

Online learning was a benefit in certain ways: providing scheduling flexibility; removing a major barrier to participation (lack of transportation); and broadening the geographic reach of both employers and career seekers. However, the lack of in-person contact and
on-site experience erased much of what apprenticeships were designed to offer. And the convenience of apprenticing from home could not be enjoyed by those who lacked digital literacy or internet access. Nevertheless, with technology playing a greater role in the workforce, it has become integral to some types of job training, and apprentices will undoubtedly need technological skills.

Our blog, Virtual Learning for Apprenticeships: The Good, The Bad and the In-Between, explores how virtual learning impacts these programs and how we can make the most of it even after we resume in-person working and training.

In Case You Missed It: COVID-19 Youth Support Resources

These resources on the YARG Community may be helpful in supporting youth apprentices during COVID and in remote situations.

Trauma-Informed Recruiting and Retention Resources

Mentor Guide for Youth RAP

RESOURCES

Oct. 26 - Preparing Our Youth, Preparing Our Future: A virtual site visit: PAYA Network Learning Series

Explore best practices for launching and expanding your youth apprenticeship program in this virtual site visit to the Charleston Regional Youth Apprenticeships (CRYA), a national leader in the youth apprenticeship field.

Hosted by Trident Technical College and the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA), the event will showcase the people, partnerships, and policies that have led to the creation and growth of CRYA, and it will highlight key strategies for developing, launching, and scaling apprenticeship programs.

Panels will feature perspectives from youth apprentices and their families, education and workforce leaders, champion employers, business associations, and state and federal agencies. The mix of virtual panel discussions and activities will also enable attendees to network with a community of leading youth apprenticeship practitioners and experts from across the US.

No cost to attend. Please contact events@newsamerica.org for registration and other info.

New JFF Report

Youth Apprenticeship in Action: Principles in Practice

JFF’s new report, Youth Apprenticeship in Action: Principles in Practice, is a must-read for both new and experienced YARG program practitioners. Its introduction offers a clear and succinct explanation of how youth apprenticeships work and includes PAYA’s infographic illustrating the sequence of a typical youth apprenticeship
The body of the paper focuses on three ongoing youth apprenticeship programs: the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC), Charleston Regional Youth Apprenticeship (CRYA), and Early Care & Education Pathways to Success (ECEPTS). Accompanying each is a graphic visualization of a sample pathway showing how the core components of youth apprenticeship work together to serve both students and employers. The brief case studies, and the report overall, offer a template for incorporating the key elements of program design and using a few guiding principles to develop high-quality programs that respond to the needs of communities, local employers, and area youth.

STEM Talent Challenge Funding Opportunity

In August the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) launched the STEM Talent Challenge, a $2 million funding initiative for projects that use work-based learning models to expand regional STEM-capable workforce capacity and fuel STEM-driven regional economies across the nation.

Organizations – including YARG grantees – who are developing STEM talent may request up to $250,000 for implementing a 24-month program that complements their region's innovation economy. YARG grantees may braid these funds to bolster or expand existing programs.

- Projects should clearly align training activities with the talent needs of regional employers and indicate how workers will be prepared for employment.
- Programs should lead to an increase in high-wage employment opportunities with innovation-driven businesses as well as increased Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in STEM.
- Applicants should leverage partnerships with local and regional technology centers, business incubators and accelerators, community colleges, and STEM industry leaders.


For a one-pager and timeline: Click HERE.

For detailed information and links to Applicant Resources and Notice of Funding Opportunity, visit www.eda.gov/OIE/STEM.

A webinar will be scheduled to learn more about the application process. For the latest updates, check the EDA website.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE FOR ALL APPRENTICESHIP GRANTEES

An updated ETA Form 671 has recently been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The updated form expires in 2024. The current version of the form, originally set to expire in 2023, has been discontinued as of August 31, 2021. The ETA
Office of Apprenticeship transmitted an OA Bulletin to staff, sponsors, and SAA partners on August 26, 2021 informing them of the revisions and including relevant attachments. OA Bulletin 2021-88 may be accessed here. Many Apprenticeship grantees and sub-grantees utilize the ETA Form 671 to support the management of their grant or sub-grant. Please note we are only sharing this updated information with grantees and other staff to keep them informed. This is not intended as a policy or procedural suggestion.

**RELEASE of BULLETIN 2021-84**

Visit this link for a copy of Bulletin 2021-84 *Promoting and Ensuring Compliance with the Equal Employment Opportunity in Apprenticeship Regulations* The purpose of the bulletin is to inform the staff of OA and the State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAA), Registered Apprenticeship program sponsors, Registered Apprenticeship partners, and other interested parties of OA’s commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion through equal employment opportunity in Registered Apprenticeship, and to ensuring that Registered Apprenticeship programs are operating in compliance with the regulations under 29 CFR part 29, subpart A (titled “Registered Apprenticeship Programs”) and 29 CFR part 30 (titled “Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) in Apprenticeship”) or parallel requirements contained in a State plan for equal opportunity in apprenticeship adopted under 29 CFR part 30 and approved by the U.S. Department of Labor (Department).

**NEW PERFORMANCE REPORTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AID: INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION OF REPORTABLE INDIVIDUALS ACROSS APPRENTICESHIP GRANTS**

As you may recall from the July 13, 2021 webinar titled, *Apprenticeship Grants: Revised Reporting Requirements*, the Office of Apprenticeship introduced the concept of ‘reportable individual’. Grantees who attended that event pointed out that ‘reportable individuals’ may have slightly different interpretations and applications across the four Apprenticeship Grants (i.e., ASE, SAE20, YARG, and SAEEI). This new technical assistance resource provides a more in-depth explanation of reportable individual as the concept applies to each apprenticeship grant. For better context and understanding, grantees should first read the *Performance and Reporting Technical Assistance Aid: Types of Individuals*.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

YARG grantees are required to include ETA’s standard disclaimer on all products developed in whole or in part with grant funds. Pre-existing copyrighted materials licensed to or purchased by the grantee from third parties are not subject to this requirement. The purpose of this disclaimer is to "ensure that materials developed with funds provided by these grants result in work that can be freely reused and improved by others."

For more information, refer to the grant FOA (pgs. 38-39) or the Stevens Amendment (GAO-19-282). For convenience, the disclaimer is included below.

**Disclaimer:**

“This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect..."