Technical Assistance Events

YARG National Grantee Convening - RESPONSE REQUESTED

Please indicate your timeframe of preference for the YARG National Grantee Convening.

- March 29 - 31, 2021
- April 5 - 7, 2021
- April 26 - 28, 2021

CHECK-IN CALL
New Leadership and Frontline Staff Orientation
September 23, 2:00pm – 3:00pm ET

As we lean into Year Two of YARG, we welcome New Grant Leadership and Frontline Staff to this virtual orientation event. This presentation will familiarize you with YARG program requirements, review the resources in the YARG orientation packet, and introduce the team and technical assistance that will guide you through the upcoming year.

An invitation with the Microsoft Teams link was sent from the YARG mailbox on September 2. Please contact YouthASReady.Grants@dol.gov if you did not receive it. We look forward to seeing you!

WEBINAR
YARG Success Factors Revisited for Year Two
September 29, 1:00pm – 2:00pm ET

Our first webinar of Year Two will re-introduce the YARG Success Factors – the key areas of focus that contribute to program success. The Success Factors guide technical assistance efforts and provide grantees with a framework for best practices and some criteria for self-assessment.

The webinar will highlight specific factors as focal points for Year Two success. In addition, a panel of grantees will answer questions related to the Success Factors and their importance in the implementation of Registered Youth Apprenticeships. Register now at this link!
Technical Assistance Resources

New Leadership and Frontline Staff Orientation Page
This page collects all the essential YARG documents and basic information in one convenient location. It will enable new grant managers and staff to gear up at their own pace, and it offers an easily accessible reference page for all program staff moving forward.

Featured here are guides, recordings, and page links, including:

- The original YARG Funding Announcement
- The Grantee Orientation Webinar
- Technical Assistance Kick-Off
- Grantee Handbook
- A checklist for new program managers
- Information, instructions, FAQs, and deadlines for financial and performance reporting
- Closeout resources
- and much more.

Bookmark this page!

YARG Year Two Technical Assistance Activity Menu
The YARG Technical Assistance (TA) Activity Menu is a convenient summary of Year Two TA and staffing information. It outlines the services and information that our grantees will receive to support them in this next phase of program implementation.

- **Activities:** In addition to the all-important group and individualized coaching sessions, grantees will take part in such activities as monthly webinars and peer-to-peer chats, small group learning events, and a combination of a national conference and multisite collaborative meetings.
- **Resources:** Resources will include the monthly newsletter with important announcements, reminders, and updates; plus, tip sheets, tool kits, success stories, promising practices, and other informational materials covering a wealth of relevant topics.
- **Community:** The YARG Community will continue providing 24/7 access to webinar recordings and other presentations as well as reports and documents created especially for YARG grantees or gathered from other sources.
- **Staff:** Also included is a list of assigned TA coaches and FPOs with contact information and brief coach bios.

Be sure to download this useful document right away and keep it handy!

Resources

Rural Apprenticeships for Young People: Challenges and Strategies for Success
This case study from the Urban Institute offers guidance for addressing the unique challenges of implementing registered apprenticeships in rural areas. The report examines four distinctly different programs: a local chapter of the electrical workers union operating in southern Maine;
a tribal college of the Tohono O’odham Nation on the Arizona-Mexico border; a career center in a largely rural and exurban county in Missouri; and a small private horse farm with just two apprentices in a remote area of Mississippi. Each is confronting the common difficulties of apprenticeships that serve rural populations:

- Travel distances and lack of transportation.
- Prevalence of smaller businesses with limited resources.
- Lack of infrastructure, particularly internet access.
- Disparities in health, financial security, and personal safety.

The report identifies some of the successful strategies being employed by these programs and makes additional policy recommendations for enabling rural apprenticeships to endure and thrive, such as: designating apprenticeship coordinators to launch and operate programs, forming consortiums to combine resources, and finding creative ways to overcome the digital divide and transportation issues.

Find it here.

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**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](http://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.

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**Learn More About Certified Alcohol and Drug Counseling Pathways in Social Work**

If you missed net.America’s August Lunch & Learn Session, Certified Alcohol and Drug Counseling Pathways in Social Work, you can still access the recording.

Pascale Augustin, LCSW LCADC, Executive Director at New Beginnings Treatment Center, shared information that will prove valuable to anyone who is developing career programs in this growing area of the mental health sector. The presentation described the variety of occupations
in substance abuse counseling, the training and certification requirements, and the salaries and job growth potential within the field.

Access the recording at this link.

The Lunch & Learn Sessions hosted by net.America, a respected industry intermediary in healthcare, health IT and energy, offer YARG grantees the opportunity to hear from experts on a variety of topics related to Registered Apprenticeship programming.

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**Request for Proposal: Community College Workforce Programs**

New America's Center on Education and Labor has launched a request for proposals for community colleges that excel in workforce development. Six winners will receive $50,000 grants, national visibility, and the opportunity to contribute to integral research to advance student success and career preparation at 2-year institutions in the United States.

To apply, visit this link.

To share a promotional Tweet, click here.

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**Blog**

**Apprenticeship Could Be Our Economy’s Superpower**

Apprenticeships may be the best kept secret in the U.S. economy. Their value is clear to practitioners. Such programs provide businesses with customized training and nationally recognized credentialing for new employees while promoting diversity, resulting in an overall positive return on investment. They offer young people an alternative to college and college debt or a supplemental career training opportunity, often in advanced, high-growth professions with higher earning potential. And they have been proven in other countries to contribute to economic growth as they increase tax contributions and decrease spending on public assistance programs, thereby benefitting taxpayers as well.

Yet, many stakeholders – employers, parents, policy makers, the public, and the potential beneficiaries of such programs – are either unaware of the concept, have only a vague notion of it, or associate it with low-paying, low-status jobs. So, the apprenticeship model has not achieved critical mass here the way it has in several European countries.

The National Apprenticeship Act of 2021, if enacted, would invest over $3.5 billion to expand the practice. Can apprenticeship finally take hold in the United States? This blog outlines some reasons why it should.

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**Performance Reporting**

**REMINDER:** Next Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) and the Quarterly Narrative Report (QNR) is due on November 15, 2021. Here are a few reminders:

- Grantees will use the PIRL version 2021. PIRL version 2020 is no longer available.
- Grantees will also upload their QNRs into WIPS for the first time. Grantees may refer to the July 2021, Issue 13, edition of this newsletter for more information on the new QNR.
Don’t forget to submit the YARG Indicators Table which reports on the nine YARG indicators outlined in Appendix A of the FOA-ETA-20-06. Email this report to YouthAsReady.Grants@dol.gov.