

Youth Resource Connections

NEWSLETTER

Youth Resource Connections

is a monthly newsletter that provides information, resources, and tools to workforce professionals who work every day to impact the lives of youth and young adults.

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Headlines

ETA Releases New TA Resource on Youth Assessment. The Employment and Training Administration has released a brief entitled: **Strategies and Considerations: A Brief on Youth Assessments**. This brief was developed to assist state and local areas in understanding not only the requirements in the law, but also the purpose of assessments, key components of strong assessment tools, and strategies for conducting effective and empowering assessments with youth in the WIOA program. To view the brief, visit: <https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2021/02/09/11/50/Strategies-and-Considerations-A-Brief-on-Youth-Assessments>.

ETA Announces Availability of Youth Entrepreneurship Webcast. In support of National Entrepreneurship Week (NatIEshipWeek) February 13-20, 2021 events, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) hosted a joint Youth Entrepreneurship Webcast to share information on entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills training for WIOA youth and youth practitioners. To view the Webcast, visit: <https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2017/03/22/09/55/~/~/~/link.aspx?id=F18B191E68AB4484B2DBCFCED05033FEA&z=z>.

Looking for more information and resources to support your youth program?



Visit the **Youth Connections Community of Practice** for the latest training, promising practices, and technical assistance tools.

Headlines

(continued)

DOL Undertakes Several Actions to Strengthen Registered Apprenticeship Program, Eliminate Duplication. The [U.S. Department of Labor](https://www.dol.gov) (DOL) announced several actions designed to accelerate apprenticeship expansion as it considers halting the duplicative apprenticeship system that may reduce quality, strip protections for apprentices and cause confusion for industry. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210217>.

DOL Seeks Comments for its BLS National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997. The Chief Evaluation Office within the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has published a notice in the [February 2 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). Comments are invited on nine proposed data collection instruments that will be used in the evaluations: Apprenticeship grantee survey; state system capacity assessment interview guide for state staff; state system capacity assessment interview guide for local lead organization staff; state system capacity assessment interview guide for local partner staff; state system capacity assessment interview guide for employer partner staff; youth apprenticeship baseline survey and consent form for program staff; youth apprenticeship interview guide for program staff; youth apprenticeship interview guide for program partners; and youth apprenticeship interview guide for follow-up with program staff. **Comments due: April 5.**

ED Seeks Comments on its Study to Inform the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Program. The U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Institute of Education Sciences (IES) has published a notice in the [February 17 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). Comments are invited to address the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. **Comments due: April 19.**

Headlines

(continued)

HUD Renews Funding for Thousands of Local Homeless Programs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded \$2.5 billion on January 29 to renew support to thousands of local homeless assistance programs across the nation. HUD's Continuum of Care grants will provide critically needed support to 6,597 local programs on the front lines of serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness. To view the press release, visit: https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_21_017.

BCF Announces \$40 Million Commitment to Expand Blackstone LaunchPad and Partnership with UNCF. The Blackstone Charitable Foundation (BCF) announced they will expand its LaunchPad program to support underrepresented students and communities. Going forward, LaunchPad will focus on colleges and universities that have a majority diverse population or are serving under-resourced communities. With a \$40 million commitment, LaunchPad will increase its program from 30 to 75 campuses over the next five years. The Foundation will work with United Negro College Fund (UNCF), the largest scholarship provider for students of color, as a strategic advisor to help identify schools appropriate for growth, develop plans to support students, and use their platform to amplify LaunchPad's mission. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.blackstone.com/press-releases/article/blackstone-charitable-foundation-announces-40-million-commitment-to-expand-blackstone-launchpad-and-partnership-with-uncf/>.

Featured Program

Challenge Program

From homelessness to high school diploma; LeiLei is a young lady who has overcome many obstacles and is a wonderful participant in the Challenge Program. From August 2019 - March 2020, she has had many accomplishments. Before enrollment, she was in need of her HSD or GED, a full-time job, a driver's license, and housing assistance. While in the program, she was dealing with family issues that caused stress in many areas of her life. LeiLei continued to stay focused and work towards the goals she set. She was offered many elements that were outlined in her ISS; tutoring, study skills, education services, supportive services, and job shadowing that was completed at Bellevue Community Garden. LeiLei was an incredibly hardworking woman who was able to accomplish her goals in a timely manner. She obtained her driver's license, forklift and flagger certification, her high school diploma, and also reopened her bank account and started developing a savings account. Soon after obtaining her high school diploma, LeiLei submitted an application to Wilmington University and was accepted into their College of Business. She is currently working at the Bellevue Community Center as a gardener where she continues to learn how to maintain an urban garden. She has an interest in creating her own natural skincare products and is learning what herbs are good for our bodies. Challenge Program staff continues to make monthly contact with her to see if she is in need of assistance. She is always welcome here at the Challenge Program and has shown us, and others, that one can accomplish their goals despite setbacks that may arise.

Interested in sharing a new practice or innovative approach that you're trying in your area?

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is interested in sharing strategies from across the country to promote peer learning and replication. If you would like to be considered for featuring in an upcoming newsletter, please email your organization, program name and brief description of the practice or approach to the ETA Division of Youth Services at:

youth.services@dol.gov.

Funding & Other Opportunities

HHS Invites Applications for its CARA Local Drug Crises Grants. The Centers for Disease Control within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is accepting applications for its Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) Local Drug Crises Grants program. This program is designed to prevent opioid, methamphetamine, and/or prescription drug use/misuse among youth ages 12-18 in communities throughout the United States. Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education are eligible to apply. Grant number: [CDC-RFA-CE21-2103](#). **Deadline: April 1.**

PowerOn Announces 2021 Applications for Partnership Applications Program. PowerOn is accepting applications for its 2021 Applications for Partnership ("AFP") PowerOn program. Cities across the United States are eligible to apply for a grant of technology to provide tech hardware opportunities to connect to low-cost broadband, education programs for hardware and software, and research opportunities. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 19.**

Future Is Health Invites Applications for its Poster Competition. Future Is Health is accepting applications for its Envision the Future: The Future is Health 2021 Virtual Poster Competition. The competition is designed to give students and young adults (ages 16-21) a chance to showcase their creativity by creating an e-poster that answers the question, how would a healthcare apprenticeship help you reach your career dreams. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 7.**

YSA is accepting applications for its Heartwarming Young Heroes grant program. Youth Service America (YSA) will award up to \$50,000 in grants for youth-led service projects and community-building activities during Global Youth Service Day (April 23-25, 2021). Grants will range from \$100 to \$500. Youth ages 5-25 in the United States are eligible to apply for "miniature-size" family-and-friends projects, "standard size" group/class/club projects, or "king-size" community-wide projects. [read more...](#) **Deadlines: early application March 10, final applications March 31.**

Resources

Building Sustainable Apprenticeships: The Case of Apprenticeship 2000. This [brief](#) released by the Urban Institute examines the success of a sustainable industry consortium model that has been replicated in a number of US communities. For employers, the consortium offers cost-effective mechanisms for developing apprenticeships into an enduring talent development strategy. For apprentices, they offer rigorous, high-quality career pathways that start with work experience and occupational skills and lead to rewarding careers. For educators (or educational institutions), they offer sufficient scale and close connection between the academic content of apprenticeships and current and future employer needs.

YouthBuild Work Experience. This [paper](#) explains why quality work experiences matter, to define the attributes of quality work experiences for DOL YouthBuild participants, and to provide strategies and promising practices on how programs can connect with partners to provide quality work experiences for their participants.

Connecting Opportunity Youth and Employers through Work-Based Learning. This [paper](#) released by YouthBuild USA describes the importance of Work-based learning (WBL) through illuminating best practices learned from YouthBuild program sites that participated in the YouthBuild High-Demand Career Pathways Program, an initiative supported by the Citi Foundation. In addition, this resource defined the elements and continuum of WBL, with a focus on the strategies, practices, and partnerships that programs developed.

Digital Summer Youth Employment Toolkit 2.0. This [resource](#) released by the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions builds on the initial toolkit from June 2020, and is informed by implementation lessons from 2020's "summer like no other" from communities across the Opportunity Youth Forum (OYF) network and national partners.

2019 School Enrollment Tables. This [resource](#) released by the U.S. Census Bureau examines the characteristics of people enrolled in school at all levels using statistics from the [Current Population Survey](#). These data were gathered before the COVID-19 pandemic and serve as a pre-crisis benchmark for future research and planning.

Linking College Majors to Careers. This [resource](#) published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics provides understanding which college academic majors connect to which careers.

Resources

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Unpacking the Work of Work-Based Learning. This research [report](#) describes how four organizations involved with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Generation Work initiative engage with young adults and employers to design and manage work-based learning opportunities.

Stabilizing Young People Transitioning to Adulthood. This synthesis [brief](#) released by the Urban Institute builds on five separate briefs examining key safety net programs and explores the extent to which key federal safety net programs help meet young people's basic needs for housing, food, health care, and income during this transitional life stage. It also presents findings from an initial exploration of issues relevant to young people, based on a quick review of literature and conversations with safety net and youth policy experts as well as youth-serving practitioners.

O*NET Resource Center Shares Features Added to the O*NET Interest Profiler Score Report and Career Listings. The [O*NET Interest Profiler](#) within [My Next Move](#) and [Mi Próximo Paso](#) is now enhanced to include share options for its score report and career listings. This effort was in response to teachers reaching out to let us know they need an easy way for their students to share with them their O*NET Interest Profiler results remotely. Remote classroom instruction is a growing trend and reality during the COVID pandemic, and the O*NET Program strives to help teachers with the challenge of implementing career exploration in a distance learning environment. The new feature allows students to share their results directly via email or to use "Copy link" to paste a link to their report into a document, email, or other system (e.g., Seesaw, Blackboard Collaborate, or Google Meet). In addition, individuals will be able to seamlessly share their O*NET Interest Profiler results to a variety of social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Reddit. To view the notice, visit: <https://www.onetcenter.org/whatsnew.html>.

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On March 4, the Employment and Training Administration is hosting a webinar entitled: **Using CareerOneStop to Provide a Successful ReEntry Transition Inside & Outside of Correctional.** During the webinar staff from CareerOneStop will present how to use CareerOneStop within the correctional facility setting to support a successful reentry transition. Also presented will be pathways, tools, and resources to help support individuals with a criminal record in their past pursue employment and training. To register for the webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2021/01/12/16/07/Using-CareerOneStop-to-Provide-a-Successful-ReEntry-Transition-Inside-and-Outside-of-Correctional>.

Resources

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Past Webinars/Webcasts

On February 23, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Best Practices: Data Validation of Required Performance Data for WIOA Title I and III Grantees.** During the webinar, presenters discussed best practices, areas for improvement, and key clarifications for validating required performance data submitted by Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) title I and III grantees. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2021/01/12/18/16/Best-Practices-Data-Validation-of-Required-Performance-Data-for-WIOA-Title-I-and-III-Grantees>.

On January 21, The Institutes hosted its first webinar of its new Evidence-Based Practice Webinar Series: **Strengthening Services for Youth by Using Evidence and Partnership.** This new webinar series is designed for child- and family-serving system leaders and other stakeholders to meet the requirements of the **Family First Prevention Services Act.** This series is an opportunity to develop a service array that best meets the needs of youth and families using evidence-based programs (EBPs). During the webinar, presenters discussed strategies and tools for identifying and addressing gaps in an existing service array; assessing the fit of EBPs to fill gaps; and leveraging and aligning an EBP array with existing financial resources. To watch an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7Oer39xAd8>.

Upcoming Events

March 2. National Education Association's [Read Across America Day](#).

March 15-18. The Corps Network [2021 National Conference](#).

April. [Financial Literacy Month](#).

April 12-15. National Youth Leadership Council's [32nd Annual National Service-Learning Conference](#), "Engage. Evolve. Energize!".

April 14-15. National Youth Leadership Council 32nd Annual [National Service-Learning Conference](#), Engage. Evolve. Energize!

April 18-24. [National Volunteer Week](#).

April 28 – 29. California Mental Health Advocates for Children & Youth (CMHACY) [41st Annual CMHACY Conference](#).

May 17-19. National Association of Workforce Development Professionals [37th Annual Conference](#).



To subscribe or unsubscribe to the Youth Resource Connections Newsletter, visit: http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services and click the "Subscribe to E-mail Updates" button.

We welcome your input.

Please let us know how these newsletters might be improved to better serve your needs. If you have comments, contact the Employment and Training Administration's Division of Youth Services at **(202) 693-3030** or e-mail: youth.services@dol.gov.

The Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) does not take responsibility for non-endorsed DOL/ETA resources included in the newsletter.