

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.

Table of Contents

Headlines	1-4
Featured Program	5-6
Funding & Other Opportunities	6-8
Resources.....	8-10
Upcoming Events.....	11

Headlines

ED Invites Applications for its P3 Pilot Grants. The Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education within the U.S. Department of Education (ED), along with its partners at the U.S. Department of Labor and other partner agencies, has published a notice in the [June 24 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). ED is accepting applications for selection as a performance partnership pilot (P3) for fiscal year (FY) 2021 under P3 authority. The FY 2021 P3 authority enables pilot sites to blend FY 2021 Federal funds and obtain waivers of program requirements, including statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements that are barriers to achieving improved outcomes for youth serving programs included in the authority. Under P3, pilots can test innovative strategies to achieve significant improvements in educational, employment, and other key outcomes for disconnected youth using the flexibility provided by P3. Federal agencies will also offer technical assistance to help interested prospective applicants identify impediments to effective and integrated service delivery for disconnected youth and flexibilities that can address these barriers through P3, and to develop an application submission for a P3 pilot. To request technical assistance, email: DisconnectedYouth@ed.gov with the subject line “**Request for Technical Assistance**” by July 23rd. **Applications due: August 23.**

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 Awards More Than \$85.5m to Improve Employment Outcomes for People Now or Once Involved In Criminal Justice System. With the belief that a second chance can change a person's life, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of more than \$85.5 million in grants to assist individuals now or once involved in the criminal justice system to secure employment in their communities. The department's [Employment and Training Administration](#) – which administers the grants – has awarded 28 grants to organizations in 17 states and Washington, D.C. The awards derive from two ETA programs, 22 in the Pathway Home program and six in Young Adult Reentry Partnership program. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210621>.

DOL Awards Nearly \$20m to Expand Workforce Development Activities In Out-Of-School Time Organizations. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of nearly \$20 million in grants to four national out-of-school time organizations to expand local work readiness programs and support workforce development activities among these organizations' local affiliates. Out-of-School Time organizations operate supervised programs for youth when school is not in session. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210610-1>.

DOL Awards \$89m In YouthBuild Grants to Support Education, Occupational Skills Development. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of \$89 million in grants in 31 states and Puerto Rico to help youth ages 16-24 who are neither enrolled in school nor participating in the labor market to obtain employment in construction and other in-demand industries. Administered by the department's [Employment and Training Administration](#), YouthBuild grants support a pre-apprenticeship model to help these young people learn valuable occupational skills. They will split their time between workplace training and the classroom, where they earn their high school diploma or equivalency degree and prepare for postsecondary opportunities. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210610-0>.

DOL Awards More Than \$130m in Grants to Support Registered Apprenticeship Programs; Increase Employment Opportunities. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of more than \$130 million in grants to develop, modernize and diversify [Registered Apprenticeship Programs](#) in 15 states and to establish Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence in three states and Washington, D.C., to provide technical expertise and services and accelerate the expansion of Registered Apprenticeship programs. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210622>.

Headlines

(continued)

DOL to Host Women's National Online Dialogue. The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL's) Women's Bureau, Office of Disability Employment Policy, Employment and Training Administration, Wage and Hour Division and Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs are hosting a national online dialogue on "**Women and Work: Reinvestment, Return and Recovery.**" The dialogue, **open through July 9**, will gather input on barriers to women's full workforce participation and identify ways to provide resources and tools to support women workers and create a more equitable economy. Participants can share ideas on ending gender-based harassment and discrimination on the job, creating comprehensive paid family and medical leave, expanding access to affordable childcare and more. To join the dialogue, visit: https://saw-rtw.ideascale.com/?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_6-25-21.

ED Announces Final Priority—Rehabilitation Short-Term Training: CAP. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published a notice in the [June 23 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). This notice contains the priority and the Department's responses to comments received on the publication of the notice of the proposed priority in the [February 19 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). ED takes this action to improve the capacity of Client Assistance Program (CAP) professionals to inform, assist, and advocate for clients and client applicants about expanded education, training, and competitive integrated employment opportunities, available through the State Vocational Rehabilitation Services program, and about the benefits and services available through other programs authorized by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act), as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

ED Launches Outreach Campaign to Millions of K-12 Students and Federal Pell Grant Recipients Now Eligible for Monthly Discounts on Broadband Internet Service. The U.S. Department of Education launched a major outreach campaign to millions of students who are now eligible for a monthly discount on broadband internet service under a temporary program administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The campaign will inform millions of families with children participating in the free or reduced-price lunch or school breakfast program, and 6.5 million Pell Grant recipients that they are now eligible for the discount of up to \$50 per month. Eligible households on qualifying Tribal lands can receive a discount of up to \$75 per month. Eligible families of K-12 students and eligible Pell Grant recipients can apply for the discount [online](#), via mail, or through a participating service provider. Eligible households can find participating internet service providers in their area by entering their zip code into the [Companies Near Me](#) tool. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-education-launches-outreach-campaign-millions-k-12-students-and-federal-pell-grant-recipients-now-eligible-monthly-discounts-broadband-internet-service>.

Headlines

(continued)

NAWB Launches AI-Powered Career Navigation and Learning Platform. The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) launched an AI-powered career navigation and learning platform, **Workforce Compass**, in partnership with technology provider FutureFit AI. The platform will enable participating workforce development boards to provide job seekers with career exploration, reskilling, and job placement support that is personalized through local labor market data and artificial intelligence. Workforce Compass will enable workforce development boards to expand and strengthen their services for job seekers, aggregate national and local learning options on one simplified platform, and access real-time progression and outcomes data. For more information on the Workforce Compass platform, visit: <https://www.nawb.org/initiatives/workforce-compass>.

LA City Council creates city's first Youth Development Department. Los Angeles, California, City Council unanimously voted to create a Youth Development Department to centralize the city's response to the high number of young people living in poverty and being arrested in Los Angeles. The department will serve as the central information center for the public to access youth services in Los Angeles. It will also develop a road map for long-term youth program planning; coordinate with city departments to develop a citywide three-year Youth Development Strategic Plan; advise the mayor and the City Council on the city youth program to ensure efficient use of city resources and the greatest return on its investment; and provide necessary staffing for the Olivia Mitchell Youth Council. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.dailynews.com/2021/05/04/la-city-council-creates-new-youth-council-hearkening-back-to-tom-bradleys-era/>.

CAPE-Youth Posts Blog: Inclusive Community College Career Pathways: Universal Design for Learning. The Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth) published this blog in its "Inclusive Community College Career Pathways" series, which focuses on two U.S. Department of Labor community college grantees' implementation of universal design for learning (UDL) principles. These principles created accessible instruction and services, including training faculty and staff around UDL principles and adopting campus-wide UDL policies. To read the full blog, visit: <https://capeyouth.org/inclusive-community-college-career-pathways-universal-design-for-learning/>.

CAPE-Youth Posts Blog: Inclusive Community College Career Pathways: Using Youth Leadership Programs to Improve Postsecondary Outcomes for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities. The Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth) published this blog, which discusses development and leadership programs that prepare youth and young adults with disabilities to become leaders in their communities. It also provides examples of state programs that help youth build skills for postsecondary achievement and employment success. To read the full blog, visit: https://capeyouth.org/using-youth-leadership-programs-to-improve-postsecondary-outcomes-for-youth-and-young-adults-with-disabilities/?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_4-16-21.

Featured Program

Massachusetts: Regional Partners Rescue YouthWorks IPP Internships

For Jamie, Yvette, and Thomas, three of 13 high school students in Worcester Public Schools' (WPS') [Innovation Pathways Program \(IPP\)](#), March 13th was an ordinary day... until the afternoon announcement closing school. The COVID-19 shutdown also cancelled the Advanced Manufacturing and Construction internships for which they had spent two years preparing... and were scheduled to start in mid-March.

The students were part of the [YouthWorks](#) program overseen by the MassHire Central Region Workforce Board (MCRWB). The Board partnered with the WPS IPP to provide students career readiness and training at Doherty and Burncoat high schools, with some technical courses at Worcester Tech.

WPS' IPP offers four tracks to educate students in Allied Health, IT, Civil Engineering, and Advanced Manufacturing. IPP students complete technical courses and earn certifications required by their chosen pathways.

The IPP students didn't put their lives on hold, and neither did the WPS IPP leadership nor the local partners who have in the past collaborated to ensure IPP students get enriching and rewarding internship experiences.

WPS got timely help from the Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC) and MassHire Worcester Career Center. Leading the rescue were Yetziann Ortiz, WCAC's Youth Employment Coordinator, and Roy Lucas, MassHire Worcester Career Center's Youth Coordinator.

Responding without a playbook during this unprecedented time, Ms. Ortiz rethought and innovatively reconfigured the internships into a civic service project. She facilitated a virtual six-week leadership training for students in which they focused on job readiness skills, reflected on individual aspirations, and developed their communications skills.

By early June, Jamie, Yvette, and Thomas were leading their fellow IPP students who had also prepared for internships. Ms. Ortiz advised Jamie, Yvette, and Thomas as they delivered Signal Success curriculum modules on job readiness.

Featured Program

(continued)

Massachusetts: Regional Partners Rescue YouthWorks IPP Internships

Supporting Ms. Ortiz was Roy Lucas, who adjusted his schedule to deliver an online version of the Bounce Work Readiness program over three weeks. "Bounce training helped the students better understand themselves, their motivations and career goals," said Mr. Lucas, adding, "and they learned how important it is to build rapport with colleagues and supervisors.

Despite diligently preparing for internships in their chosen fields, IPP students instead picked up valuable lessons in teamwork, adaptability, flexibility, leadership, and social-emotional learning.

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 Announces COVID19 Student Corps Opportunities. The U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) invites youth age 16 and older to join the COVID-19 Community Corps to help build vaccine confidence in their communities. Members of the COVID-19 Community Corps will receive timely, accurate information to share with family, friends, and neighbors; and will be invited to biweekly calls to learn best practices and hear from other students how they are talking to their friends, families, and other community members about getting the vaccine. To sign up, visit: <https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/covidcommunitycorps>.

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

ED Invites Applications for its Rehabilitation Short-Term Training Program. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published a notice in the [June 23 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). ED is accepting applications for its Short-Term Training—Client Assistance Program (CAP Training). The program is designed to provide short-term training and technical instruction in areas of special significance to the vocational, medical, social, and psychological rehabilitation programs, supported employment program, independent living services programs, and Client Assistance Program (CAP), including special seminars, institutes, workshops, and other short-term courses. Short-term training projects may be of regional or national scope. States and public or private nonprofit agencies and organizations, including Indian Tribes and institutions of higher education are eligible to apply. **Deadline: August 9.**

YSA Invites applications for its Afterschool Grants. Youth Service America (YSA) with support from the Mott Foundation is accepting applications for its 2021-2022 YSA Afterschool Grants. YSA will award up to 60 \$500 grants to support youth service or service learning in afterschool programs during the 21-22 year. US-based programs that engage 50+ middle and high school students are eligible to apply. [read more...](#) **Deadline: July 30.**

NLC Announces New Opportunity for Cities to Participate in Developing Strategies to Ensure Postsecondary Students Have Their Basic Needs Met. The National League of Cities (NLC) is seeking 12 cities to work with National League of Cities (NLC) on implementing strategies and developing partnerships to ensure postsecondary students have their basic needs met. Cities will have an opportunity to build partnerships with institutions to address food, housing, digital access, employment, health, and other insecurities students face, all in service of postsecondary success and connection to the workforce. [read more...](#) **Deadline: August 13.**

Annie E. Casey Foundation Invites Nominations for its Casey Children and Family Fellowship. The [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) is seeking nominations and applications for the twelfth class of its signature Children and Family Fellowship program. This intensive executive leadership program is designed to give more child-and family-serving professionals the confidence and competence they need to lead major system reforms and community change initiatives that get equitable results. [read more...](#) **Deadlines: Nominations: August 20; Full Applications: September 10.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

Home Depot Foundation Expands Trades Training Initiatives with Path to Pro Scholarship Program. The [Home Depot Foundation](#) in partnership with the [SkillPointe Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its Path to Pro Scholarship program. The program is designed to help remove financial weight for students entering the skilled trades while preparing them for diverse available career paths. Additionally, the program will grant \$250,000 in financial assistance to high school seniors and graduates entering or currently enrolled in building construction trade programs. [read more...](#) To obtain additional information, view the press release at: <https://corporate.homedepot.com/newsroom/path-to-pro-launches-scholarship-program>. **Deadline: September 30.**

Resources

Identifying and Addressing Barriers to Program Implementation: A Tool for Community Reflection. This [tool](#) released by JFF and the Forum for Youth Investment was developed to help communities identify, align, and integrate resources so they can strengthen systems and partnerships to design high-impact programming for opportunity youth. It is also designed to lead communities through a series of questions that should allow them to better determine when an innovative solution is needed to implement strategies that serve their goals.

Mentor Guide for Youth Registered Apprenticeship Programs. This [guide](#) released by the Urban Institute was developed for experienced workers who teach and advise youth apprentices at work. It also provides a variety of tips for mentors, guidance on common mentoring topics, frequently asked questions, and links to resources. Additionally, as a tool, it acts as a handy reference guide and is intended to be paired with other learning and/or preparation for mentors in executing effective apprenticeship programs.

High-Quality CTE During COVID-19: Challenges and Innovations. This [publication](#) released by the Association of Career and Technical Education, describes challenges, shares examples of innovative practices, and provides recommendations for how career and technical education leaders can better prepare the post-COVID-19 workforce and embrace lessons learned during the pandemic.

Resources

(continued)

Youth Mobile Response Services: An Investment to Decriminalize Mental Health. This [report](#) released by Center for Law and Social Policy examines mobile response—an alternative to using law enforcement to respond to mental health and social crisis. Mobile response is one service in a continuum of crisis services for rapidly responding to youth and young adults who are experiencing a traumatic event, mental health symptoms, and/or crisis in their communities.

New Data Unearth Inequalities in Youth Employment Brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic. This [study](#) released by Mathematica and [the Schultz Family Foundation](#) includes new findings which highlights how disruptive COVID-19 has been to young people's access to jobs and what groups of youth ages 16 to 24 have been most directly affected by unemployment brought on by the pandemic. To further bring these findings to life, Mathematica created powerful [data visualizations](#) to put these numbers in the context of the Great Recession and highlight youth unemployment impacts and inequities during the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery.

COVID-19 Impacts On Justice-Involved Kids: Lessons Learned From States. This [issue brief](#) released by the National Governor's Association highlights lessons learned and several overarching strategies from 2020 COVID-19 pandemic response efforts that Governor's offices and state officials can utilize to address this pandemic within the youth justice systems.

2012–2016 Program for International Student Assessment Young Adult Follow-up Study (PISA YAFS). This [report](#) provides a snapshot of outcomes at the outset of this important transition, as well as preliminary examinations of how these outcomes are related to individuals' competencies in high school. It is intended to serve as an example of using multiple data sources in longitudinal research and to contribute to the literature on education and employment pathways.

Over 3.8 Million Young Adults Found Not Working or in School in Early 2021. This [publication](#) released by the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) looks at how young adults tend to get hit harder during recessions and experience more long-term consequences from downturns in comparison to older workers.

Upcoming Webinars

On July 7th, AmeriCorps will host a webinar entitled: **AmeriCorps VISTA: Get the Basics.** This event is open to anyone interested in learning more about AmeriCorps VISTA. During the webinar presenters will share information about serving in the VISTA program, the benefits of serving, how to apply, and more. To register for the webinar, visit: https://americorps.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_2-IQI7EPShi4Zsj5eK_0rw?fbclid=IwAR1pEV7q4bziOGyWymXHhsyUTBRczjL4dcxvRpPT0RbIS_FbXobrc-53TCg.

Resources

(continued)

On July 13th, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Job Accommodation Network will present a webcast entitled: **ADA Update**. During the webcast participants will be provided with the latest developments in the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the workplace, some practical tips for compliance, and answers to tough ADA questions. To register for the webinar, visit:

https://askjan.org/events/index.cfm?calview=eventdetails&dtid=214B6997-EDAD-8BC6-CA7C39DBEA51E4A8&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_6-25-21.

Past Webinars

On June 22nd, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Assessing and Developing the Soft Skills of Today's Workforce**. During the webinar participants learned how four organizations are assessing and developing the soft skills of job seekers and students they serve. Speakers shared their real-world experiences with a variety of soft skill assessment tools and their tips for success. To view an archive of the webinar, visit:

<https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2021/05/28/15/14/Assessing-and-Developing-the-Soft-Skills-of-Today-s-Workforce>.

On June 3rd, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a chat entitled: **Let's Chat: What Counts Towards the WIOA Youth Program's Work Experience Expenditure Requirement?** This interactive chat on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth program's 20 percent work experience expenditure requirement included time for participants to ask questions and learn how their program can implement a quality program and meet the expenditure requirement. To view an archive of the chat, visit:

<https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2018/10/30/15/56/Work-Experience-Activities>.

On June 28, the United States Census Bureau hosted a webinar entitled: **Starting a Small Business – Key Census Data and Tools for Entrepreneurs**. This webinar provided a brief introduction to some key Census programs that can help businesses understand their markets as well as a demo of a key tool to make accessing these data easier, Census Business Builder. While the webinar focused on starting a new business, the information can be important to owners of existing business too who need to take a fresh look at their customers after the pandemic. To view an archive of the webinar, visit:

<https://www.census.gov/data/academy/webinars.html>.

Upcoming Events

July 12-16. National Summer Learning Association's [National Summer Learning Week](#).

July 22-23. [2021 Virtual Positive Youth Development Institute](#).

July 26. [Americans with Disabilities Act Day](#).

July 26-30. National Science Teaching Association's [STEM 21 Virtual Conference](#).

July 30. The Alliance for Positive Youth Development's [Best Practices for Youth Development Virtual Conference](#).

August 12-13. Maryland Out of School Time Network's [United 4 Youth 2021 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.