

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

DOL Announces \$25,000,000 in Funding to Support Education, Employment Training for Workforce Entry by Justice; Seeks Applicants for Young Adult Reentry Partnership Grants. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of \$25 million to fund grants to approximately six organizations to provide education and employment training to young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who left high school before graduation, or are currently or have been involved previously with the juvenile or adult criminal justice system. Grant number: [FOA-ETA-21-03](#). **Deadline: April 26.** To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>.

DOL Announces Availability of \$87.5M in Funding to States to Expand, Diversify Registered Apprenticeship Programs. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of approximately \$87.5 million for grants to expand [Registered Apprenticeships](#) across the nation, with up to \$40 million of those funds in grants awarded to states that implement required diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and demonstrate their commitment to adopt, expand and promote these efforts. Grant number: [FOA-ETA-21-07](#). **Deadline: April 26.** To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210318-0>.

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 Announces \$31M Funding Opportunity to Create Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of approximately \$31 million in funds to establish Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence to support the expansion and modernization of technical assistance available in the registered apprenticeship system. The department's [Employment and Training Administration's Office of Apprenticeship](#) will work in close coordination with the centers. Grant number: [FOA-ETA-21-06](#). **Deadline: April 29.** To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210322-1>.

DOL Announces Funding Available for Researchers to Study Equity for Underserved Communities. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced a Summer Data Challenge competition for emerging and established scholars to analyze how federal labor policies, protections and programs reach traditionally underserved communities. Administered under contract by the department's Chief Evaluation Office, the competition will award up to five awards of \$10,000-\$30,000 each to researchers to help the department better understand how to use publicly available data and other external data sources to analyze equity implications of department policies, protections and programs. The competition will also encourage labor-oriented researchers to focus on questions of equity in their ongoing work. To view the press release, visit: https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/dol/dol20210316?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_3-19-21.

DOL Seeks Comments on its Workforce Recruitment Program. The U. S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has published a notice in the [March 24 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the DOL, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) if the information will be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) the accuracy of the DOL's estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (4) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (5) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. **Comments due: May 24.**

ED Seeks Comments on its Definitions for their National Comprehensive Center on Improving Literacy for Students with Disabilities (Center) Program. The U.S. Department of Education's Offices of Elementary and Secondary Education and Special Education and Rehabilitative Services has published a notice in the [March 12 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). Comments are invited regarding the proposed priority, requirement, and definitions to award a cooperative agreement for a comprehensive center designed to improve literacy skills for students at risk of not attaining full literacy skills due to a disability and ultimately better prepare these students to compete in a global economy. **Comments due: April 12.**

Headlines

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Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth Posts Blog: Inclusive Community College Career Pathways. The Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth published a blog that discusses Office of Disability Employment Policy grants to two community colleges to provide integrated academic and career supports to students with disabilities. It is the first in a series of blogs examining these programs' strategies to help people with disabilities earn credentials and reach employment goals. To read the full blog, visit: https://capeyouth.org/blog-series-inclusive-community-college-career-pathways/?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_3-19-21.

Anne E. Casey Foundation Posts Blog: Framework and Tool Help Juvenile Justice Agencies Treat Families as Partners. The Annie E. Casey Foundation published a blog which discusses their new [framework](#) and [tool](#) from the Annie E. Casey Foundation helps juvenile justice agencies develop and maintain collaborative relationships with family members and engage them as valuable partners in encouraging positive behavior change, personal growth and long-term success for youth in the justice system. To view the full blog: <https://www.aecf.org/blog/framework-and-tool-help-juvenile-justice-agencies-treat-families-as-partner/>.

Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth Posts Blog: Inclusive Community College Career Pathways: Access. The Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth published a blog, which discusses how two community colleges increased education access for students with disabilities through an Office of Disability Employment Policy grant program. To view the full blog, visit: https://capeyouth.org/inclusive-community-college-career-pathways-access/?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_3-26-21.

Pennsylvania Announces \$2.6 Million Available to Prepare Students for Good Jobs In The Post-Pandemic Economy. Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Acting Secretary Jennifer Berrier announced \$2.6 million in Schools-to-Work program grants is available to support new partnerships between schools, employers, organizations, or associations to create employment and training career paths for students. Governor Tom Wolf has proposed to inject \$3 billion in the workforce development through his [Back to Work PA](#) plan that would prepare workers for the post-pandemic economy. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Labor-and-Industry-Details.aspx?newsid=546>.

Featured Program

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - Forms of Payments for WIOA Youth Program Participants

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) youth program allows for several types of payments for participants engaged in activities such as work experience, occupational skills training, classroom activities and more.

The two main types of compensation are wages and stipends. A third, but distinct, type of payment is an incentive, which may be given to youth to reward positive behavior towards achieving goals. The purpose of this technical assistance resource is to help local youth workforce staff understand:

- (1) **WHAT** is the distinction between a wage and a stipend;
- (2) **HOW** to identify the employer-employee relationship;
- (3) **WHEN** to award an incentive; and
- (4) **WHY** the need for policies governing payments.

To access the document, visit: <https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2021/03/12/11/30/FORMS-OF-PAYMENTS-FOR-WIOA-YOUTH-PROGRAM-PARTICIPANTS>.

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

NSF Invites Applications for its S-STEM Program. The National Science Foundation is accepting applications for its Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program. The main goal of the S-STEM program is to enable low-income, talented domestic students to pursue successful careers in promising STEM fields. Ultimately, the S-STEM program wants to increase the number of low-income students who graduate and contribute to the American innovation economy with their STEM knowledge. Grant number: [NSF 21-550](#).
Deadline: April 7.

NoVo Foundation Invites Applications for its SEL in Action Awards. The NoVo Foundation is accepting applications for its social and emotional learning (SEL) in Action Awards program. The program is designed to build and foster much greater compassion, to honor the assets and lived experiences of students, to build skills in people and groups to embrace understand and differences, and to work through challenges to promote healing from all forms of trauma and harm. Grant awards for educator-led projects will be up to \$7,500. District-level grant awards will be up to \$25,000. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 9.**

EAD Invites Applications for its K-12 Student Design Challenge. The Educating for American Democracy (EAD) is accepting applications for its Educating for American Democracy K-12 Student Design Challenge Contest. The contest will consist of five challenges which K-12 students will submit original artwork to illustrate their interpretation and share their ideas. Winner of the contest will be awarded a cash prize and have their original artwork featured on the Educating for American Democracy website. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 9.**

Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes Invites Applications for its 2021 Awards. The [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](#) is accepting applications from inspiring, public-spirited young people ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and the environment. Awardees will receive an awards package that includes \$10,000, recognition gifts, young heroes materials, networking opportunities, and media coverage. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 15.**

Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Family Foundation and Penn GSE Invites Nominations for the McGraw Prize in Education. [Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Family Foundation](#) and the [University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education](#) (GSE) are accepting nominations for the [Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education](#). The McGraw Prize is designed to recognize outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to improving education and whose accomplishments are making an impact on the field. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 15.**

Resources

The Federal Resources Playbook for Registered Apprenticeship. This [resource](#) updated by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) provides information for companies, employers, labor, apprenticeship sponsors, educators, workforce professionals, intermediaries, and community-based organizations on using federal funds and resources across agencies to support apprenticeship programs.

Evaluation of the HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program: Early Implementation Report. This [report](#) released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides an assessment of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Continuums of Care (CoCs') planning efforts during the two-year planning phase of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grants. Summarized are the 10 YHDP CoCs' baseline status of services, housing, and system development, assessed through document review and site visits. The report also provides comparable baseline data for three peer non-YHDP funded CoCs, each selected to be similar to one or more YHDP communities and to serve as a basis for examining differences over time between YHDP-funded and non-funded CoCs. Through analysis of Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data the report describes the number and composition of youth experiencing homelessness across all sites, the HUD-funded services they received, and their housing outcomes prior to the implementation of the coordinated community plans.

Continuums of Care-Local Educational Agencies-Runaway Homeless Youth Crosswalk. This [resource](#) released by the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) is designed to facilitate partnership among Continuums of Care, Local educational agencies, Runaway and Homeless Youth grantees as they serve children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness in the same community.

Strengthening Rural Community Colleges: Innovations and Opportunities. This [paper](#) released by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) calls attention to the experiences of rural community colleges in five states including North Carolina, Texas, California, Kentucky and Iowa. With 32 of 37 main campuses located in rural areas, the research also examined six tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) in Montana and North Dakota.

Resources

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Employment of Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities in a Recovering Economy: Lessons from the Great Recession and Considerations for Policymakers Today. This [policy brief](#) published by CAPE-Youth focuses on youth and young adults with disabilities who face difficulties gaining employment because of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recession. It outlines state-level strategies and examples policymakers and program administrators can use to support these young people finding employment.

Advancing Youth Voice and Changing the Narrative About Opportunity Youth. This [report](#) released by The Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions addresses strategies to promote youth voice, the potential healing power of storytelling as well as pitfalls of encouraging young people to tell their stories, and ways young people are influencing public narratives to promote a greater understanding of the issues opportunity youth face.

National Report on Early-Stage Entrepreneurship in the United States (2020). This [report](#) published by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation presents national trends in early-stage entrepreneurship in the United States, as well as trends for specific demographic groups as available. The rate of new entrepreneurs was substantially higher in 2020 than in 2019 or in previous years, reflecting more transitions into entrepreneurial activity, broadly defined, among the population during pandemic conditions.

Increasing Community College Graduation Rates. This [paper](#) released by MDRC presents new estimates of the effects of the City University of New York (CUNY) Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) model, evaluated using a randomized controlled trial first in New York and later through a replication in Ohio. It describes longer-term effects of CUNY ASAP in New York, showing that the program's effects on associate's degree receipt persisted through eight years and likely represent a permanent increase in degree receipt. The paper also offers an analysis from the pooled study samples in New York and Ohio. The findings indicate that the program has consistent effects on degree receipt across different states but also for somewhat different levels of service contrast, such as the number of additional advising visits.

Advancing Youth Voice and Changing the Narrative about Opportunity Youth. This [report](#) released by the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions is based on roundtable discussions and interviews with young leaders and their adult allies from four communities in the [Opportunity Youth Forum](#) network.

Resources

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Summer Youth Employment Programs 2020: Lessons from the Field. A new [series](#) of three [fact sheets](#) was released by Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions and Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). These fact sheets provide insight into how summer youth employment programs (SYEPs) responded to the economic and health challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Past Webinars/Webcasts

Summer Webcasts 2020. These Employment and Training Administration created these webcasts, which features local areas sharing their experiences serving youth in the summer of 2020. The conversations address the challenges, innovative practices, and adjustments they made to help youth attain successful outcomes. Listen and learn the experiences and activities undertaken by these local areas to serve youth in challenging times. To view the webcasts, visit: <https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2020/10/27/20/09/Summer-2020-Webcasts>.

On March 23, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Summer-at-a-Glance -- Building Workforce Opportunities for Youth during Challenging Times.** During the webinar, panelists highlighted their service delivery strategies and operating plans for serving youth in a challenging environment. The goal of the peer exchange is to provide youth program practitioners with information to build a successful summer initiative for participants served under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth program. Practitioners were able to learn tips on strengthening relationships with employers, developing virtual work experiences, and designing support services to meet participant's unique needs. This interactive session provided the audience an opportunity to engage panelists in discussions on innovative practices to help overcome service delivery barriers and provide meaningful work experiences for the 2021 summer and beyond. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2021/02/24/18/48/Summer-at-a-Glance-Building-Workforce-Opportunities-for-Youth-During-Challenging-Times>.

On March 31, the Urban Institute hosted a webinar entitled: **Strategies for Practitioners Serving Youth and Young Adults Remotely.** During the webinar, presenters covered findings from a new resource guide for use by practitioners at youth-serving organizations. The guide highlights how these organizations have adapted their programs to engage youth virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Webinar discussion will illustrate strategies that organizations use to provide education and training, employment, career readiness, and mental health services remotely to youth and young adults ages 16 to 24. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/content/strategies-practitioners-serving-youth-and-young-adults-remotely>.

Upcoming Events

April. [Financial Literacy Month.](#)

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.](#)



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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.