

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 Issues TEN 12-21 -- Practitioners Guide to Supportive Services. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 12-21. The TEN provides a resource guide to workforce investment practitioners who assist jobseekers in finding and applying for financial assistance and other supportive services. To obtain additional information, visit: https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=9977.

ETA Issues TEN 14-21 – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Core Program Performance Accountability Assessment for Program Years (PY) 2020 and 2021. The TEN discusses how the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education (the Departments) have determined it is appropriate and reasonable for the Department of Labor (DOL) to begin assessing performance for two performance indicators under WIOA title I and III core programs for PYs 2020 and 2021 in accordance with the phased-in approach to performance assessments described in Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 11-19, Negotiations and Sanctions Guidance for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Core Programs. The Departments, as permitted under section 503(a) of WIOA, have determined it reasonable to delay assessing performance for the purpose of imposing sanctions for the remaining performance indicators to ensure an orderly transition from the requirements of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) to those of WIOA. To obtain additional information, visit: https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=6118.

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

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ODEP Posts Blog: ODEP at 20: Driving Change through NDEAM. The Office of Disability Employment Policy's (ODEP's) Assistant Secretary Taryn discussed the importance of promoting disability inclusion through changing people's attitudes and behaviors. She highlighted National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and the Campaign for Disability Employment as powerful tools to make progress. "NDEAM, the CDE and our other awareness-building activities are important complements to ODEP's policy work, helping illustrate, through positive imagery and stories, the importance of our work to advance disability equity and inclusion, every day of every month," said Williams. To read the full blog, visit: https://blog.dol.gov/2021/10/01/odep-at-20-driving-change-through-ndeam?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_10-08-21.

OA Announces New CoP. The Office of Apprenticeship (OA) has created a new community of practice (CoP) "**The Apprenticeships: Closing the Skills Gap (CSG)**." The community includes important resources for this H-1B grant program in support of the grantees' success, and is designed to provide CSG grantees with a central place to interact with grant peers, and access technical assistance and resources to support the implementation of their grant projects. Even if you are not a grantee, check it out. The resources on this new community are intended to assist in supporting quality apprenticeship programs. To view the site, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/announcements/2021/10/08/14/58/Community-of-Practice-Spotlight-Apprenticeships-Closing-the-Skills-Gap-CSG>.

ED Announces National Reporting System Tests Identified Useful for Adult Education. The Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published a notice in the [October 21 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). ED announced tests, test forms, and delivery formats that the Secretary determined to be suitable for use in the National Reporting System for Adult Education.

Headlines

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DOJ Posts Blog: OJJDP Is Taking Action To Achieve an Equitable Juvenile Justice System. When President Biden proclaimed October 2021 as [National Youth Justice Action Month](#), he noted that far too many young people have been “sidelined by unnecessary encounters with the justice system.” Citing the adverse effects of system involvement, the President called for a national shift from incarceration to prevention. To keep youth from entering the juvenile justice system in the first place, [OJJDP invests millions of dollars in delinquency prevention programs](#) annually. In fiscal year 2020 alone, the Office awarded nearly \$85 million to improve the quality and impact of [mentoring programs](#) for a diverse population of youth. Done correctly, mentoring helps discourage delinquent behavior that may lead to system involvement. OJJDP also supports culturally relevant [initiatives](#) that enhance tribes' efforts to reduce delinquency and develop future leaders. To view the full blog, visit: <https://www.ojp.gov/blog/ojjdp-taking-action-achieve-equitable-juvenile-justice-system>.

AYPF Posts Blog: COVID-19 Learning Gap: Opportunities for Educational Re-invention. The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) discusses while the COVID-19 pandemic has created significant learning gaps for students nationwide, youth impacted by systemic inequities were disproportionately affected, which exacerbated disparities that already existed within our education systems. Educators are now challenged to meet students where they are, while simultaneously addressing the learning gap created by the pandemic. To view the full blog, visit: <https://www.aypf.org/blog/covid-19-learning-gap-opportunities-for-educational-re-invention/>.

AYPF Posts Blog: COVID-19 Learning Gap: Building Agency and Addressing Social-Emotional Needs. The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) discusses as this new school year begins, educators are met with the challenge of not only addressing the academic needs of their students, but also their social-emotional needs that were greatly impacted by the pandemic. [Rates of depression and anxiety have skyrocketed](#) in young people due to the grief, isolation, and fear of the pandemic. This increase in mental health concerns among young people is why many school districts are focusing their federal funding and efforts on social-emotional learning. To view the full blog, visit: <https://www.aypf.org/blog/covid-19-learning-gap-building-agency-and-addressing-social-emotional-needs/>.

Headlines

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AYPF Posts Blog: COVID-19 Learning Gap: Leveraging Federal Funding and the Power of Community Schools. The American Youth Policy Forum staff Kameryn Point discussed once the COVID-19 pandemic hit, she knew the harsh realities of her students' everyday lives were going to get more severe. Alone, educators and traditional public schools are capable of only doing so much for the young people they serve. However, community school models show us that solutions to address inequities and learning gaps deepened by the pandemic do not have to fall squarely on the shoulders of school staff, nor should they. To view the full blog, visit: <https://www.aypf.org/blog/covid-19-learning-gap-leveraging-federal-funding-and-the-power-of-community-schools/>.

PepsiCo Launches A More Than \$5 Million Initiative To Help Young Adults From Chicago's South And West Side Communities Access High-Quality Careers In Partnership With Leading Community Organizations. PepsiCo announced the launch of its new initiative, Pathways to Readiness and Empowerment Program (PREP) by PepsiCo Stronger Together, a more than \$5 million dollar investment that aims to put nearly 3,000 young people from Chicago's South and West Sides on the path to high-quality careers over the next five years. In partnership with leading community-based organizations, this research-based, community-informed program will offer workforce readiness through career exposure, paid work experience, skills training and employment opportunities. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.pepsico.com/news/press-release/pepsico-launches-a-more-than-5-million-initiative-to-help-young-adults-from-chic10042021>.

HUD Applauds Team Awarded Coveted 2021 Service To America Medal. A group of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) employees were awarded 2021 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals (Sammies). Michelle Daniels, Charles D. Eldridge, Ryan E. Jones, and the Foster Youth to Independence Team created an innovative program offering housing assistance and social services to young people aging out of foster care to prevent them from becoming homeless and to provide an opportunity for self-sufficiency. To obtain additional information, visit: https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_21_178.

Featured Resources

PENNSYLVANIA CAREERLINK

Johnny first started working with Pennsylvania (PA) CareerLink® as a senior in high school with a school based career counselor. Johnny was a student who started off as very shy, quiet, and reserved. His career counselor worked closely with him to develop employability skills including working with him on a resume, interview skills, and networking within the community to local employment opportunities. Through this, Johnny was able to get a paid work experience with a local partner, Benchmark. Johnny's internship extended throughout the course of the pandemic. His roles and responsibility changed several times as everyone navigated the challenges and changes COVID-19 presented. Through this time, Johnny continued to develop more confidence, transferrable skills, and resource connections within the community. Through the support of both PA CareerLink® and their partners at Benchmark, Johnny was able to secure full time employment. He continues to serve at Benchmark and maintains his relationships there, and has been able to take all he learned to gain meaningful full-time employment.

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

DOL Invites Participation in National Online Dialogue on Financial Toolkit. The Office of Disability Employment Policy in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL's) Employee Benefits Security Administration, recently created a financial toolkit to help people with disabilities make informed economic decisions throughout their careers. To gather feedback and suggestions on the best ways to improve the toolkit, DOL is sponsoring a national online dialogue: **Advancing Financial Equity for Individuals with Disabilities**. Individuals are invited to submit ideas or comment and vote on ideas submitted by others to help advance employment and economic empowerment for people with disabilities, particularly those from underserved communities. To register for the dialogue, visit:

https://workforcesystems.ideascale.com/?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_10-29-21. **Deadline: November 8.**

Spencer Foundation Invites Applications for Small Education Research Projects. The [Spencer Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its Small Research Grants Program. The program will support education research projects with budgets of \$50,000 or less that are not longer than five years in duration. To be eligible, principal investigators and Co-PIs must have earned a doctorate in an academic discipline or professional field, or demonstrate appropriate experience in an education research-related profession. In addition, PIs must be affiliated with a college, university, school district, nonprofit research facility, or nonprofit cultural institution that is willing to serve as the administering organization if the grant is awarded. [read more...](#) **Deadline: December 1.**

Brady Education Foundation Invites Proposals for Program Evaluations. The [Brady Education Foundation](#) is accepting proposals focused on evaluating programs that have the potential of helping to close the opportunity and resulting achievement gaps associated with race and family income. The primary aim of the proposal must concern the evaluation of programs designed to promote positive cognitive and/or achievement outcomes for children (birth through 18 years of age) from underserved groups and/or low-resourced communities (e.g., minoritized ethnic groups and low-income families). The foundation will award support for up to two key personnel from the evaluation team as well as one practitioner or service provider from the program to attend one conference the last (or only) year of the project, with an allowable cost of \$1,500 per person. Projects may span up to three years. Applicants must be a principal investigator with a nonprofit as a home institution. [read more...](#) **Deadline: December 1.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

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Home Depot Foundation Invites Applications for its 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. The scholarship 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...](#)
Deadline: December 31.

JAMS Foundation Invites Applications for its ACR Initiative. The JAMS Foundation is accepting application for its ACR Initiative for Students and Youth. The program provides funding up to \$40,000 for conflict prevention and dispute resolution programs for K-12 students in domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, foster care, youth correctional facilities, and school or after-school programs. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 14, 2022.**

Resources

Supporting Child and Student Social, Emotional, Behavioral and Mental Health Needs. This [resource](#) released by the U.S. Department of Education highlights seven key challenges to providing school- or program-based mental health support across early childhood, K-12 schools, and higher education settings, and presents seven corresponding recommendations. This resource also includes many real-world examples of how the recommendations are being put into action by schools, communities, and states across the country.

Youth Employment and Training Programs Authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This [document](#) released by the Congressional Research Service highlights the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA, P.L. 113-128) which is the primary federal statute centrally focused on workforce development. It authorizes a group of programs to assist workers and employers in the labor market, with an emphasis on individuals with barriers to employment. This In Focus describes the three programs authorized in WIOA that target youth and are administered by the Department of Labor (DOL).

Resources

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America's Recovery: Labor Market Characteristics of People with a Disability. This Spotlight on Statistics [resource](#) released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is in observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Spotlight examines some of the major labor force characteristics of people with disabilities in the wake of COVID-19. It also shows that historical differences between people with and without disabilities remain largely unchanged during the pandemic and economic recovery.

Financial Literacy and Financial Education Policy Issues. This [report](#) released by the Congressional Research Service explores financial literacy, financial education, and related policy issues. First, the report describes federal government activities related to financial education, including the Financial Literacy and Education Commission (FLEC), which Congress created to coordinate efforts related to financial literacy and financial education throughout the federal government. Second, the report provides an overview of research on financial literacy and financial education, including best practices in financial education programs. Lastly, the report discusses relevant policy issues, including efforts to improve the effectiveness of FLEC and whether the federal government should increase support for local financial education programs.

Advancing Your Career through Inclusive Apprenticeship. This [resource](#) released by the Partnership on Inclusive Apprenticeship is designed for employers, one will find tips for calculating the return on investment of inclusive apprenticeship, the steps one can take to create an apprenticeship program, resources for making that program inclusive of people with disabilities, and information about how to fund one's program.

Becoming an Apprentice. This [resource](#) released by the Partnership on Inclusive Apprenticeship provides information to individuals interested in pursuing an apprenticeship as a way to advance their career. It also includes some tips for finding and applying to inclusive apprenticeship programs in high-growth, high demand industries.

Rural Apprenticeships for Young People: Challenges and Strategies for Success. This [report](#) released by the Urban Institute evaluates four rural registered apprenticeship programs in Maine, Arizona, Missouri, and Mississippi—which have succeeded despite challenges imposed by their environments—and identifies the key strategies in their approaches. The report begins with defining rural apprenticeship programs and exploring their obstacles and benefits. It then discusses each of the four cases and conclude with several policy recommendations for decision makers seeking to expand apprenticeship access in rural communities.

Resources

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Census Bureau Data Reveal Decline in School Enrollment. This [resource](#) released by the U.S. Census Bureau discusses how U.S. school enrollment dropped by 2.9 million from 2019 to 2020, with enrollment among the under-35 population dipping to its lowest level (52.4% of the total population) in over 20 years, according to data tables. The tables examine school enrollment at all levels during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, based on statistics from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

Job Corps Career Pathways Community of Practice (CoP). Job Corps (JC) has created a new Community of Practice CoP to provide information to help individuals find tools and resources to serve opportunity youth and connect with education, workforce, and industry partners. To check out the JCCP, visit: <https://jobcorpscareers.workforcegps.org/>.

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On November 9th the Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth will present a webinar entitled: **Promoting Career and Technical Education for Students with Disabilities.** This webinar will discuss state strategies for maintaining and increasing participation and performance of students with disabilities in career and technical education (CTE), both during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar will provide an overview of a brief published by the Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth). In addition, it will feature speakers from the PIPEline to Career Success for Students with Disabilities Project (a partnership between the Delaware Department of Education and the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity); the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction; and the Idaho Division of Career Technical Education. Speakers will also discuss successes and challenges they have encountered in delivering CTE to students with disabilities throughout the pandemic and lessons learned they will continue to apply following the pandemic. To register for this webinar, visit: https://csg-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KPaRC3PFRXmN5UoDVk3T8A?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_10-22-21.

On November 10th the Employment and Training Administration will host a webinar entitled: **Benefits of Becoming an Employment Network (EN) for Workforce Systems Series - Part II.** This webinar will consist of a panel discussion with different Employment Network professionals. Each panelist will give a brief description of their specific EN model. Next, the panelist will focus on best practices and lessons learned. Then, the panelist will answer a series of questions that will assist workforce administrators and other interested persons in understanding how to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities through ENs. To register for this webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2021/10/08/14/45/Benefits-of-Becoming-an-Employment-Network-ENs-for-Workforce-Systems-series-11-10>.

Resources

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Past Webinars/Webcasts

On September 30th the Office of Disability Employment Policy's LEAD Center hosted a webinar entitled: **Lessons from the Field: Virginia's State Accessibility Taskforce**. The webinar focused on Virginia's cross-system Accessibility Taskforce. The task force designs and implements innovative practices to improve accessibility within the workforce development system for all job seekers, including people who have disabilities, people who are underserved, and people with other challenges to employment. To view an archive of the webinar, visit:

<https://leadcenter.org/webinar/lessons-from-the-field-virginias-state-accessibility-taskforce/>.

On September 29th the National Council hosted its National Council Conversations video series event entitled: **Youth Substance Use Prevention**. During the event, two youth ambassadors were asked to offer peer perspectives on the work being done around substance use prevention and treatment. To view an archive of the webinar, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTK6PjMeuI>.

Upcoming Events

November 4-6. National Federation of Families' [2021 Virtual Conference](#).

November 15-21. [National Apprenticeship Week](#).

November 17. [Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week](#).

November 30 – December 1. Association for Career and Technical Education's [4th Annual Summit on Workforce Development through CTE](#).

December 1-3. National Youth Employment Coalition's [2021 Annual Forum Building the Future Boldly](#).

December 6-8. National Association of Workforce Development Professionals [2021 Youth Development Symposium](#).



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.