

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

On March 29th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program in Depth**. This webinar goes in depth on topics from TEGL 21-16, including eligibility determination, program design, procurement of youth providers, and the WIOA youth program elements. To register and view an archive of the webinar, visit:

<https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2017/03/15/09/59/WIOA-Wednesday-The-WIOA-Youth-Program-in-Depth-A-Walkthrough-of-the-Third-WIOA-Youth-Program>.

ETA Announces the Availability of New Youth Summer Jobs Community of Practice. The Youth Summer Jobs Community of Practice was developed to provide an online learning platform for workforce professionals, employers, and partners to learn and share information about summer work experiences.

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.

<https://youth.workforcegps.org/>

Headlines

(continued)

DOL Posts Blog [GetMyFuture.org: Essential Youth Resources, Now](#). The Acting Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration shared the launch of [GetMyFuture.org](#), a mobile-friendly web portal connecting young adults to career, education and job search resources. Think of it as your doorway to the hall of doors that stretch out before you as you begin your career. The site offers online tools and information for young adults age 16 to 24, and provides special resources for those experiencing barriers to success such as involvement in foster care, addiction, homelessness, teen parenting, or a lack of financial, family or community resources.

HHS Seeks Comment on Data Collection in Support of Evaluation of “Implementation Grants to Develop a Model Intervention for Youth/Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement at Risk of Homelessness: Phase II.” The Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) intends to collect data for an evaluation of the initiative, Implementation Grants to Develop a Model Intervention for Youth/Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement at Risk of Homelessness: Phase II. This builds on the previously approved “Planning Grants to Develop a Model Intervention for Youth/Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement at Risk of Homelessness” (Phase I). **Comments due within 30 days of publication of the [April 24](#) FEDERAL REGISTER.**

ENCORE.Org Announces #Gen2GenSummer Challenge! The #Gen2GenSummer Challenge is part of Encore.org's [Generation to Generation campaign](#), a national effort to inspire adults over 50 to make a positive difference in the lives of children and youth. From May through July, adults are encouraged to join alongside dozens of other influential partner organizations focusing on issues impacting kids during the summer months: stopping learning loss, increasing access to healthy meals and safe places to play, and supporting job preparation and creation. #Gen2GenSummer will encourage thousands of older adults to take action and volunteer with local organizations like yours. To obtain additional information, visit: <http://generationtogeneration.org/>.

CDE and AUCD to Host May 11 Twitter Chat on Supporting Workers with Mental Health Disabilities. In recognition of Mental Health Month, the Office of Disability Employment Policy's Campaign for Disability Employment (CDE) and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) are hosting a Twitter chat on Thursday, May 11, from 1:00-2:00 PM ET. Titled “#CDEmentalHealth: Supporting People with Mental Health Disabilities in the Workplace,” the chat will feature special guest Andy Imparato, Executive Director of AUCD. To participate in the conversation, use the hashtag #CDEmentalHealth. For additional information, visit: <https://twitter.com/CDEtweets>.

Headlines

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LEAD Center Sponsors Online Dialogue on ABE Act. The Leadership for the Employment and Economic Advancement of People with Disabilities (LEAD) Center is holding an online dialogue, "The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act: A Tool for Financial Stability and Employment Outcomes." The dialogue was created to help potential ABLE account owners, their families, and those who provide them with various supports and services to better understand and create plans for how these accounts can be used to assist youth and adults with disabilities in securing and maintaining competitive integrated employment. To register for the dialogue, visit: <http://leadcenter.epolicyworks.org/>. **The dialogue is open through May 12.**

The Hartford Launches Apprenticeship Program to Prepare Students for Careers in Insurance. [The Hartford](https://www.thehartford.com/apprentice) has partnered with the Connecticut Department of Labor, Arizona Department of Economic Security and local community colleges to launch an insurance apprenticeship program. The Hartford's apprenticeship program will offer an insurance-specific curriculum, paid on-the-job training and mentoring to equip students for key customer-facing roles in The Hartford's claims operation. The program is registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, which provides tuition assistance for participating students through its American Apprenticeship Grant Initiative. To obtain additional information about The Hartford's insurance apprenticeship program, visit: <https://www.thehartford.com/apprentice>.

[Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas Commit \\$5 Million for Workforce Development at North Carolina Community Colleges](#). Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas announced an additional \$5 million investment to connect community college students with career development opportunities, bringing the company's total investment to \$35 million over the last 13 years. These funds support the company's philanthropic focus on economic and workforce development.

Success Story



Los Angeles Conservation Corps YouthBuild

Sam (not his real name) came to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps YouthBuild as a high school dropout. He was raised by a single parent who worked long hours to support him and his three other siblings. At the age of 12, Sam decided to join a street gang, leading to his dropping out of school. As a gang member, he was arrested three times for fighting and possession of weapons. At this point, his mother pushed him to join the YouthBuild program

because she did not want her son either back in jail or buried in a grave.

Sam decided to make a change in his life and enrolled in the LA Corps YouthBuild program. He stopped hanging out with the gang and started focusing on attaining a high school diploma. He enjoyed the new environment because he felt as if he had been given a second chance to make a positive difference. Through the program, he attained his high school diploma and took a number of environmental trainings, through which he was certified in Asbestos, HAZWOPER, Lead Abatement, OSHA 10, Refinery Safety Overview, and First Aid/CPR. After completing the trainings, he was offered an opportunity to join the Southern California Heat & Frost Insulators Joint Apprenticeship union as a pre-apprentice. He is currently enjoying his work as an oil refinery insulator and is looking forward to more opportunities in the environmental field.

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 Native Youth Initiative. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is accepting applications for its Native Youth Initiative for Leadership, Empowerment, and Development. This program is designed to emphasize a comprehensive, culturally-appropriate approach to ensure that all young Native people can thrive and reach their full potential by fostering Native youth resilience, capacity building, and leadership.
Deadline: May 22. [read more...](#) (See grant no. HHS-2017-ACF-ANA-NC-1263).

Funding & Other Opportunities

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NEA Foundation Invites Applications for Learning and Leadership Grants. The [National Education Association Foundation](#) invites applications for its Learning and Leadership Grants program. The program provides grants to public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education to fund participation in high-quality professional development experiences such as summer institutes or action research; or grants to groups to fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson study, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff new to an assignment.

Deadline: June 1. [read more...](#)

ED Invites Applications for Funding under the “Educational Technology, Media, and Materials for Individuals with Disabilities” Program. The U.S. Department of Education is accepting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2017 for Educational Technology, Media, and Materials for Individuals with Disabilities – Stepping-up Technology Implementation.

Deadline: June 5. [read more...](#)

USDA Announces Funding Opportunity under the Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fields Program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's, National Institute of Food and Agriculture is accepting applications for its Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields Program (WAMS). The program supports research and extension projects that have robust collaborations to increase the participation of women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields that are relevant to USDA priorities.

Deadline: June 8. [read more...](#) (See grant no.USDA-NIFA-WAMS-006350).

[The Hartford to Donate \\$3 Million to Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Becoming Founding Partner of Workforce Development.](#) The Hartford announced a \$3 million donation to fund a founding partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of America that will help develop the next generation's workforce, creating 30 college and career centers in the next three years across the U.S. in local Boys & Girls Clubs. The Hartford will be the founding partner of the college and career centers framework, which will provide teen members of Boys & Girls Clubs with opportunities to explore career paths to help prepare them for their next step after high school. New college and career centers will launch this year at 10 local Boys & Girls Clubs.

Resources

Integrated Education and Training: A Career Pathways Policy and Practice. This report released by Center for Law and Social Policy, Inc., features a summary of a national Integrated Education and Training (IET) survey making the case IET strengthens career pathways and prepares students for good jobs. [read more ...](#)

College Enrollment and Work Activity of 2016 High School Graduates. This news release published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics observes young people each year, tracking how many high school grads go onto college and/or work. [read more ...](#)

Resource Guide for Youth Employment Programs: Incorporating Financial Capability and Partnering with Financial Institutions. This [new resource guide](#), created by the U.S. Treasury Department is for youth employment programs that are interested in enhancing financial capability and building partnerships with financial institutions. It maps out how and why such partnerships can help young people achieve greater financial well-being and employment success. [read more ...](#)

Building Blocks to Help Youth Achieve Financial Capability: A New Model and Recommendations. This report release by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, highlights how youth typically acquire critical attributes, abilities, and opportunities that support the development of adult financial capability and financial well-being. [read more ...](#)

Performance Partnerships: Agencies Need to Better Identify Resource Contributions to Sustain Disconnected Youth Pilot Programs and Data to Assess Pilot Results. This report developed by the General Accounting Office is required by the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010 to report on how its implementation is affecting federal agency performance management. This report identifies the key characteristics of two existing performance partnerships. It also provides an in-depth review of the design, implementation, and evaluation of 1 of the 2 initiatives—the disconnected youth pilots. [read more ...](#)

Paying for College: What Is Affordable? This brief release by the Urban Institute outlines the many factors that shed light on the issue of college affordability, including prices of different college paths and the resources that institutions, governments, and students from different backgrounds draw on to cover their expenses. [read more ...](#)

Resources

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Improving College and Career Outcomes of Low-Performing High School Students. This publication released by The Hamilton Project suggests that schools help disengaged students by integrating high school and post-high school planning into middle and high school curricula, and help non-college-ready students by providing college readiness assessments to high school juniors and college-success courses to seniors needing to improve their readiness. The paper also suggests complementing these two initiatives by having outside groups provide the individualized mentoring students need to develop plans that they are confident can be realized, as well as the support needed to overcome obstacles. [read more ...](#)

On April 26, The Hamilton Project hosted a policy forum entitled: **Leveling the Playing Field – Policy Options to Improve Postsecondary Education and Career Outcomes.** The forum explored several key challenges currently facing the United States in both K–12 and postsecondary education. The discussion spanned a range of policy issues, including: options to better finance higher education; risk sharing in the student loan program; K-12 teacher shortages; and the college and career pipeline for disengaged students. To view and archive of the webinar, visit: http://www.hamiltonproject.org/events/leveling_the_playing_field_policy_options_to_improve_postsecondary_educatio.

On April 25, the Federal Reserve Board hosted a webinar entitled: **Experiences and Perspectives of Young Workers.** The webinar focuses on highlights of the Federal Reserve Board's December 2016 report, "Experiences and Perspectives of Young Workers." The report provides a snapshot of the educational attainment, employment experience, job market outlook and financial self-sufficiency of 18- to 30-year-olds, based on data collected through a 2015 survey. Speakers included Heidi Kaplan of the Federal Reserve Board, Ofranama Biu of City University of New York and Amy Blair of The Aspen Institute. To listen to an audio archive of the webinar, visit: <https://bsr.stlouisfed.org/connectingcommunities/#59/experiences-and-perspectives-of-young-workers>.

On April 20, the American Youth Policy Forum hosted a webinar entitled: **ESSA and Supporting College and Career Readiness and Success for Youth Experiencing Homelessness.** This webinar discussed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements pertaining to students experiencing homelessness, highlighted promising state and district examples supporting college and career readiness for these youth, shared a young person's experience with school and related supports, and explored policy and practice recommendations. To view and archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.aypf.org/resources/8455/?documenttype=11%2C12%2C20%2C17%2C22&search=advanced>.

Resources

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Free Curriculum Helps Young Workers Strengthen "Soft" Skills. The Office of Disability Employment Policy offers free career development materials designed to sharpen the interpersonal, or "soft," skills of young workers. The "Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success" suite of materials includes a classroom-style curriculum and a set of videos with an accompanying discussion guide. Both resources can help young people, with and without disabilities, develop the critical attributes necessary for career success—such as communication, networking, enthusiasm and a positive attitude, teamwork, problem-solving skills, critical thinking and professionalism. To obtain the noted resources, visit: [the "Skills to Pay the Bills" curriculum](#); [order the "Skills to Pay the Bills" videos and discussion guide](#).

Upcoming Events

May 22-24. New Orleans, LA. [National Association of Workforce Development Professionals 2017 Annual Conference](#).

June 15. Washington, DC. The Corps Network's [Great Outdoors Day of Service](#).

June 19-23. Washington, DC. American Public Transportation Association [2017 Youth Summit](#).

June 20-21. Indianapolis, IN. Indiana Youth Institute's [2017 College and Career Conference](#).

June 28-30. San Diego, CA. The Education Commission of the States' [2017 National Forum on Education Policy](#).

June 29-30. Portland, ME. Positive Youth Development Institute and Collaborative for Perpetual Innovation's [Creating Positive Climates for Youth 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.