

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 Announces Release of a NEW Youth Training and Employment Guidance Letter! The Employment and Training Administration released Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 21-16-- Third Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I Youth Formula Program Guidance. It provides guidance and planning information to states, local workforce areas, and other recipients of WIOA Title I youth formula funds on the activities associated with the implementation of WIOA. To view TEGL 21-16, visit: https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=7159.

ED Invites Comments on “Study of an Information Strategy to Increase Enrollment in Postsecondary Education.” U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences demonstration study will evaluate the use of a promising messaging strategy designed to help TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) grantees meet the program’s goal of increasing college enrollment. **Comments due: May 22.** This notice is available in the [March 21](#) FEDERAL REGISTER.

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)

CCRE Releases New Website. The Center for Research and Reform in Education (CRRE) at Johns Hopkins University released its much anticipated new website called [Evidence for ESSA](http://www.evidenceforessa.org) (www.evidenceforessa.org). This free web-based resource provides easy access to information on programs that meet the evidence standards defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The website is designed for education leaders at the state, district and school levels, to provide information to state chiefs, superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, and anyone else interested in which programs meet the ESSA evidence standards.

ECS Releases “Tuition Assistance Programs for Foster Youth Pursuing Postsecondary Education.” The Education Commission of the States has released a 50-State review -- [Tuition Assistance Programs for Foster Youth Pursuing Postsecondary Education](#) – which can serve as a tool to better understand the state-level support for this vulnerable student population and provides a guidepost for possible policy redesign. An [accompanying interactive data visualization](#) provides an in-depth look at tuition assistance programs available in specific states and the number of foster youth in care.

[Baker-Polito Administration Awards \\$11.8 Million in Workforce Skills Capital Grants.](#) On March 3, the Baker-Polito Administration announced \$11.8 million in Workforce Skills Capital Grants to 32 vocational schools, community colleges, and traditional public high schools in Massachusetts, which will use the funds to purchase vocational technical equipment and expand skills training programs for careers in growing industries.



Success Story

AMIkids Inc. – FL

AMIkids Inc., headquartered in Tampa, Florida, has two DOL REO Intermediary grants that enable them to provide reentry case management, education and training, job placement, and mentoring services to nearly 2000 youth in 13 locations throughout Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina. In February 2016, AMIkids

initiated a monthly Vocational Education and Job Placement Newsletter to provide real-time performance information to all of their sub-grantees regarding participant enrollments, certifications, high school degrees earned and job placements. It also highlighted key organizational partnerships involved with mentor recruitment and community service activities, and fun hands-on applications of lessons (think 3D printing and judged culinary competitions). AMIkids saw an immediate response from their sub-grantees that competed for recognition as the top performing sub-grantee, and also loved the opportunity to share photos and accomplishments of all their 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

[DOL Announces Availability of \\$66M In Grants to Improve Employment Opportunities for Justice-Involved Individuals.](#) The U.S. Department of Labor announced \$66 million in available funding to organizations to develop or expand programs to strengthen access to opportunity for these individuals. The grants give organizations the opportunity to build customized interventions based on current evidence and research of “what works,” as well as promising practices. Organizations that apply for this funding are encouraged to select, implement and test different program services or program models. **Deadline: April 27.** [read more...](#)

Funding & Other Opportunities

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[DOL Announces the Availability of Nearly \\$500K in Grants to Help Native Hawaiians, Alaska Native Youth Develop STEM Job Skills](#). The U.S. Department of Labor announces the availability of \$497,000 in funding to serve Native Hawaiian and Alaskan Native youth and young adults, ages 14-24, to develop skills needed for high-growth, in-demand occupations and industries. These grants are designed specifically to provide skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields. They aim to increase Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native enrollment in STEM-related certificate and degree programs, as well as provide education mentoring programs and work experience in STEM-related professions. **Deadline: April 7.** [read more...](#)

[DOL Announces the Availability of Funding to Provide Job, Leadership Skills to Disadvantaged Youth](#). The U.S. Department of Labor announced the availability of grant funding to support and expand YouthBuild programs nationwide. For those programs that offer the "YouthBuild Construction Plus" model, participating youth can take advantage of expanded occupational skills training in additional in-demand occupations, such as health care, information technology or logistics. **Deadline: May 9.** [read more...](#)

ED Announces Funding Opportunity under the "Strengthening Institutions Program." The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education is accepting applications for its Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP). The program provides grants to eligible institutions of higher education (IHEs) to help them become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the institution's academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability. **Deadline: April 17.** [read more...](#)

ED Announces Funding Opportunity under the GEAR UP Program. The U.S. Department of Education's GEAR UP Program is a discretionary grant program that provides funding for academic and related support services to eligible low-income students, including students with disabilities and English learners, to help them to obtain a secondary school diploma and to prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education. **Deadline: April 19.** [read more...](#)

HHS Invites Applications for its Native Youth Initiative for Leadership, Empowerment, and Development Program. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families is accepting applications for its Native Youth Initiative for Leadership, Empowerment, and Development Program. The program will 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...](#)

Funding & Other Opportunities

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DOI Announces Funding Opportunity for Organizations to Work on Conservation Projects. The U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management is accepting applications for its 2017 Youth Opportunities to Work on Conservation Projects on Idaho Public Lands. The projects are designed to offer opportunities for qualified youth conservation corps to engage youth ages 16-30 in work on BLM Idaho conservation-related projects. **Deadline: June 30.** [read more...](#) (See grant no. L17AS00041)

Voya Announces Funding Opportunity. Voya is accepting applications for its Unsung Heroes Awards Program. The program provides grants to K-12 educators utilizing new teaching methods and techniques that improve learning. **Deadline: April 30.** [read more...](#)

Best Buy Foundation Announces Funding Opportunity. The Best Buy Foundation is accepting applications for its Community Grants program. The grants are designed to provide funds to local and regional nonprofit organizations that provide teens with places and opportunities to develop 21st century technology skills that will inspire future education and career choices. **Deadline: May 19, 2017.** [read more...](#)

Resources

Sample MOU and Infrastructure Costs Toolkit. The U.S. Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services released a Sample Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Infrastructure Costs Toolkit for hypothetical local areas to use as a reference guide or toolkit when developing their own MOU, including their one-stop operating budget, Infrastructure Funding Agreement (IFA), and cost allocation methodologies, pursuant to the requirements of section 121 of WIOA, its implementing regulations at 20 CFR part 678 and 34 CFR parts 361 and 463, and the relevant guidance. [read more...](#)

Vulnerable Youth: Federal Mentoring Programs and Issue. This report released by Congressional Research Services includes an overview of the purpose of mentoring, including a brief discussion on research of structured mentoring programs. It also describes the evolution of federal policies on mentoring since the early 1990s. [read more ...](#)

Resources

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National Nudge Campaign Prompting Low-Income/First-Generation Students to Complete FAFSA Works. This study released by University of Virginia reveals that providing students with concrete planning prompts to complete the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) can increase college enrollment by as much as two percentage points. Researchers at the University of Virginia, Harvard University, University of Pittsburgh, and West Point assessed the impact of a national financial aid nudge campaign that reached 450,000 high school seniors through the Common Application. [read more ...](#)

Impacts of Ramp-Up to Readiness™ After One Year of Implementation. This study released by Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest, examined whether the Ramp-Up to Readiness program (Ramp-Up) produced impacts on high school students' college enrollment actions and personal college readiness following one year of program implementation. The study also looked at Ramp-Up's impact on more immediate outcomes, such as the emphasis placed on college readiness and the amount of college-related teacher-student interactions taking place in high schools. [read more ...](#)

Graduation Rates for Selected Cohorts, 2007-12; Outcome Measures for Cohort Year 2007; Student Financial Aid, Academic Year 2014-15; and Admissions in Postsecondary Institutions, Fall 2015: First Look (Provisional Data). This First Look report contains data on Graduation Rates for Selected Cohorts, 2007-12; Student Financial Aid in Postsecondary Institutions, Academic Year 2014-15; and Admissions in Postsecondary Institutions, Fall 2015. The findings are from the winter data collection of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). [read more ...](#)

Limited Means, Limited Options: College Remains Unaffordable for Many Americans. This report released by the [Institute for Higher Education Policy \(IHEP\)](#), includes a first-of-its-kind analysis of net prices at over 2,000 colleges nationwide and urges federal, state, and institutional policymakers to address inequities in college affordability. These inequities enable a wealthy student to attend essentially any college while effectively shutting out many of her peers. [read more ...](#)

Resources

(continued)

Experience Required: The Diminished Employment Prospect of Teens & Young Adults in Los Angeles. The Workforce Development Board City of Los Angeles has released several documents that examine some of the impacts of the nation's economic slowdown over the past fifteen years on the employment experiences of teens and young adults in the Metropolitan Los Angeles (Metro LA) region. To view the documents visit: <https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2017/03/27/08/07/LAPlans>

On March 29, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: WIOA Wednesday-The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program in Depth. The webinar went in depth on topics from Training and Employment Guidance Letter 21-16, including eligibility determination, program design, procurement of youth providers, and the WIOA youth program elements. To 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>.

On March 1, the American Youth Policy Forum hosted a webinar entitled: Role of Data to Support College and Career Readiness and Success for Students in Foster Care. The webinar explored strategies for leveraging data to support college and career readiness and success (CCRS) goals for all students, with special emphasis on students in foster care. With access to quality data, education and child welfare agencies can work together to improve educational outcomes and promote CCRS for students in foster care. Presenters discussed a set of emerging practices that serve as examples of how states can use and link data to support CCRS. As states work to fulfill the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), this webinar also aimed to provide concrete strategies to leverage the data collection and reporting requirements related to students in foster care to achieve CCRS goals. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <http://www.aypf.org/resources/role-of-data-to-support-college-and-career-readiness-and-success-for-students-in-foster-care/?documenttype=11%2C12%2C20%2C17%2C22&search=advanced>.

Upcoming Events

April 5-7. New Orleans, LA. [Evidence Based "PATHWAYS" for Working With Reentering & Justice Involved Citizens.](#)

April 30-May 6. Small Business Administration's [National Small Business Week.](#)

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

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.](#)



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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.