

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 Nearly \$100 Million in Apprenticeship Grants to Close the Skills Gaps. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the awarding of grants to 28 public-private apprenticeship partnerships totaling nearly \$100 million through the Apprenticeship: Closing the Skills Gap grant program. These grants will support large-scale expansions of apprenticeship in industries including advanced manufacturing, healthcare and information technology. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200218>.

DOL Selects 12 States and the District of Columbia to Increase Employment of People with Mental Health Disabilities. The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL's) Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has selected 12 states and the District of Columbia to participate in its Visionary Opportunities to Increase Competitive Integrated Employment initiative. The chosen participants will receive support to help them develop policy designed to increase employment opportunities for people with mental health disabilities. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20200205>.

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)

Secretary DeVos Expands Earn and Learn Opportunities for Students at 190 Schools through Federal Work-Study Reform Initiative. U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced the creation of a new initiative that allows more students to gain on-the-job experience with employers in their field of study as part of their Federal Work-Study (FWS) program. The initiative, known as an experimental site, expands FWS opportunities for students at 190 institutions. This experiment also provides additional Job Location and Development program funds to participating institutions and expands the allowable uses of those funds, including permitting institutions to contract third-party intermediaries to help them build partnerships with businesses. These job development activities can be used to benefit students regardless of whether they participate in the FWS program. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-expands-earn-and-learn-opportunities-students-190-schools-through-federal-work-study-reform-initiative>.

Department of Education Seeks Comments on its Vocational Rehabilitation Funds Policy Clarification and Change. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services within the U.S. Department of Education has published a notice in the [February 28 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). This request issues an interpretation to clarify current policy and announce a change in policy regarding the use of Federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) funds reserved for pre-employment transition services. **Comments due: March 30.**

HUD Announces Additional \$260,000 to Public Housing Authorities to Assist Young People Aging Out of Foster Care. U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson announced an additional \$258,606 in funding for HUD's new Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative. Seven housing authorities will receive this funding, continuing HUD's efforts to assist young adults transitioning out of foster care and who are at risk of homelessness. Last month, HUD awarded nearly \$500,000 to the FYI Initiative. HUD's FYI Initiative is one that provides housing assistance and supportive services to young people with a child welfare history who are at-risk-of or experiencing homelessness. FYI, in conglomeration with local resources, will assist communities in ensuring that every young person who has had experience with the child welfare system has access to safe, affordable housing where they are supported to reach self-sufficiency by working toward their education and employment goals. To obtain additional information, visit: https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_018.

Headlines

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Federal Student Aid Delivers on Secretary DeVos' Promise to Modernize, Personalize Customer Experience. Delivering on U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos' promise to modernize and personalize customer experience with federal student aid, the Education Department announced today transformative upgrades to StudentAid.gov. The updated website now features new tools, which provide students with detailed information about the grants and loans they have received and guide them to a personalized recommendation for a loan repayment plan. Federal Student Aid also launched a pilot that allows a subset of the office's 42 million borrowers, for the first time ever, to make student loan payments directly on StudentAid.gov. These updates complement the President's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal, which includes calls to simplify student loan types, amounts, and repayment options and provide customers with access to an online portal with personalized information to help them easily understand their options and make informed decisions throughout the financial aid life cycle. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/federal-student-aid-delivers-secretary-devos-promise-modernize-personalize-customer-experience>.

JFF Selects Organizations to Provide Opportunity Youth with Expanded Access to Apprenticeships. Jobs for the Future (JFF) has selected 15 organizations from across the United States to receive hands-on support for their efforts to provide opportunity youth with expanded access to apprenticeships. With the support of the U.S. Department of Labor's Apprenticeship Expansion and Modernization Fund, JFF will work with these organizations to enroll 500 opportunity youth in Registered Apprenticeship programs by 2022. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.jff.org/what-we-do/impact-stories/center-for-apprenticeship-and-work-based-learning/new-jff-collaborative-increases-apprenticeship-access-opportunity-youth/>.

New Jersey Governor Announces P-TECH Grant for Trenton Central High School, Opening Pathways for Students to STEM Careers. Governor Phil Murphy announced a grant award of nearly \$200,000 to bring the P-TECH educational model to Trenton Central High School. P-TECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High School) is a model co-developed by IBM through which public high schools, community colleges, and businesses work collaboratively to create a program where high school students graduate with a high school diploma and an associate degree in a STEM field. Students in the six-year program also receive workplace experience through mentorships and internships. To obtain additional information, visit: <http://www.ptech.org/p-tech-network/our-schools/usa/>.

Headlines

(continued)

Cognizant U.S. Foundation Awards \$500,000 to Opportunity@Work to Launch New Initiative to Expand Career Access for Workers in the United States. The Cognizant U.S. Foundation awarded a \$500,000 grant to Opportunity@Work, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that individuals without a bachelor's degree can work, learn, and earn to their full potential. The grant will support research designed to map labor market supply and demand, skills, and career opportunities across the U.S. The funds will also help bolster Opportunity@Work's efforts to catalyze employers and workforce development organizations to drive inclusive hiring practices and support new on-ramps to employment. For additional information, visit: <https://www.marketwatch.com/press-release/cognizant-us-foundation-awards-500000-to-opportunitywork-to-launch-new-initiative-to-expand-career-access-for-workers-in-the-united-states-2020-02-04>.

Rockefeller Institute of Government Posts Blog: Financial Literacy Resources for Student Borrowers are Critical but Underused. This [third installment](#) blog in a [five-part series on student-loan debt](#) examines challenges students face in developing sufficient financial literacy as they prepare to take on student-loan debt. The series presents research from focus groups with current students and interviews with guidance counselors, financial-aid advisors, and policy experts that were conducted by undergraduate research interns at the Institute's Center for Law and Policy Solutions. Financial literacy is critical in helping students engage in responsible borrowing practices. Despite the presence of financial literacy programs—including online, in high school guidance offices, and from college admissions and financial aid counselors-- financial literacy is low among college students. This analysis elevates student voices as it explores why available resources are underused or ineffective. To view the full blog, visit: <https://rockinst.org/blog/the-white-knuckle-ride-to-financial-literacy-understanding-your-student-loans/>.

Success Story

East Georgia YouthBuild Program at the Thomson Housing Authority

On May 2, 2019, East Georgia YouthBuild program had their first student, Mario, pass all four parts of the GED. Mario comes from a single parent household and currently lives on a trailer block. Prior to enrolling in East Georgia YouthBuild, he would walk 3 miles to campus, working on his GED with no real goals or plans of what he wanted to do after testing. He decided he wanted to go back to school because he was facing employment barriers without a diploma.

While in the program, Mario shared that growing up he had a bad temper, seasonal depression, and suicidal ideation. He struggled to complete his vision board during Mental Toughness Orientation, explaining that he had never really thought about his future or living to see 20 before. Since joining the program, he has passed his GED, completed all required hours for East Georgia YouthBuild certification, passed the Certified Construction Worker Courses to graduate with the Augusta Technical College partner, works part-time with the maintenance department at the Thomson Housing Authority, and received a full-time job that offered travel with a local construction company. The day after passing his Georgia GED test, Mario celebrated his 21st birthday!

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

DOJ Invites Applications for its Opioid Affected Youth Initiative. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is accepting applications for its Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Opioid Affected Youth Initiative program. The program will support the efforts of states, communities, tribal jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations and institutions of higher education to implement programs and strategies that identify, respond to, treat, and support children, youth, and families impacted by the opioid epidemic. Grant number: [OJJDP-2020-17352](#).

Deadline: April 20.

Gerber Foundation Invites Applications for its Youth Programs. The Gerber Foundation is accepting applications for its West Michigan Youth Programs. Through the program, grants will be awarded to agencies located in or directly serving youth in the region with youth programming focused on individuals from birth through the age of 18. Special emphasis will be placed on health, nutrition, and dental issues; early childhood services and literacy; parenting education; education (including science, technology, engineering, arts/agriculture, and math); and life experiences (camp scholarships, AG science education, 4-H and FFA). Eligible applicants must be tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or a governmental entity. Grants may range from between \$100 and \$20,000. [read more...](#)

Deadline: March 15.

Community Foundation Boulder County Youth Program Invites Requests for Proposals for 15 Forever Fund. The [Community Foundation Boulder County](#) is accepting proposals for its 15 Forever Fund program. The aim of the program to address the needs and concerns of Boulder County youth from a peer perspective. Students involved in 15 Forever learn about philanthropy and local issues by managing their own grant cycle over the course of the school year, while area students raise funds for nonprofits working to address the community issues that 15 Forever members have prioritized. Eligible organizations must provide homelessness intervention and/or prevention services within Boulder County for the benefit of Boulder County youth between birth and age 18. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 15.**

Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation Invites Applications for its MassYouth Projects. The [Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its Masonry's B.E.S.T. (Build. Enrich. Strengthen. Transform) Community Grants program. Through the program, grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded to community-based projects focused on Michigan children and youth. Priority will be given to projects that increase the capacity of a community to participate in identifying a clear and compelling need and developing and implementing a solution; encouraging cooperation and developing self-reliance; targeting gaps in services; mirroring the diversity of the community; and/or solving or addressing critical local needs. Eligible applicants must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 16.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

YSA Invites Applications for its Youth Service Zone Grants. Youth Service America (YSA) is accepting applications from organizations for its Youth Service Grants. The grants are designed to offer organizations an opportunity to work collaboratively to increase youth volunteer rates in their community or state. Ten Zones will receive a grant of \$15,000 (\$5,000 to each of 3 collaborative leaders) to support program activities. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 27.**

JFF Invites Applications for its Video Competition. JFF is accepting applications for its "Why I Apprentice" video competition for youth apprentices. Registered Apprenticeship participants ages 16-21 are eligible to apply. Winners will receive \$1,000 and be invited to attend JFF's Horizons conference in June where their video will be premiered. The best videos will be shared on YouTube where youth across the country can discover what an apprenticeship could do for them. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 31.**

Rogers Foundation Issues RFP for Nevada K-12 Programs Working to Close the Achievement Gap. The [Rogers Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its Gift of Knowledge program. Through the program grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded to schools and nonprofits in Clark County, Nevada, in support of efforts to close the achievement gap for vulnerable children. Grant funding may be applied to any existing program or initiative at a public K-12 school in the Clark County School District that will improve student performance particularly among at-risk student populations. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 22.**

Ezra Jack Keats Foundation Invites Applications for Mini-Grants. The [Ezra Jack Keats Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its Mini-Grants Program. Through the program, grants of up to \$500 will be awarded to public school teachers and librarians in public schools in support of proposals that embody an imaginative approach to experiential learning. The program supports creative and innovative activities that take place in a classroom or out in the community, provide an enriched experience to students outside the standard curriculum, and help students meet curricular goals. Eligible applicants include public schools, public libraries, preschools, and Head Start programs in the United States and its commonwealths and territories, including Puerto Rico and Guam. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 31.**

Karma for Cara Foundation Invites Applications for Youth Service Project Grants. The [Karma for Cara Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its micro-grant program. Through the program, micro-grants of up to \$1,000 will be awarded to students 18 years of age and under to complete projects that benefit their communities. Micro-grants are intended to serve as a bridge between ideas and action, helping young citizen leaders execute and magnify their initiatives to help repair the world. Examples of eligible projects include transforming a vacant lot into a community garden, rebuilding a school playground, or helping senior citizens ready their home for winter. Students 18 years of age and younger are eligible to apply. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 1.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

The Gloria Barron Prize For Young Heroes Invites Applications for Its 2020 Awards. The Barron Prize for Young Heroes is accepting applications from inspiring, public-spirited young leaders ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive impact on people and the environment. The prize will honor 25 young leaders and fifteen top winners will receive \$10,000 to support their service work or higher education. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 15.**

Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Family Foundation, Penn GSE Invite Nominations for McGraw Prize in Education. The [Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Family Foundation](#) and the [University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education](#) are accepting nominations for their McGraw Prize. The prize is designed to celebrate innovation in education by recognizing outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to improving education and whose accomplishments are making an impact on the field. Three McGraw Prizes — recognizing achievement in pre-K-12 education, higher education, and science research — will be awarded at a ceremony in October in New York City, with each winner receiving \$50,000 and a sculpture. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 15.**

Resources

From Surviving to Thriving – Supporting Transformation, Reentry and Connections to Employment for Young Adults. This [report](#) released by CLASP, features insights of best practices from nine communities that are part of the Compass Rose Collaborative (CRC). Launched in 2017, the CRC began as a three-year program funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). The CRC connects young adults ages 18-24 who have had contact with the juvenile justice or criminal justice system to employment, education pathways, and supportive services across nine communities.

The Essential Funders' Guide to STEM-Focused Family Engagement: Seven Strategies to Support Families in Advancing Young People's STEM Interest, Persistence, and Achievement. This [guide](#) published by STEM Next Opportunity Fund -- is intended to raise awareness and build knowledge to increase grant maker support for practice, research, and policy solutions to better support families and address the race, gender and income gaps in STEM.

Resources

(continued)

Integrating Workforce Development Programs and Pregnancy Prevention Services. This [briefing paper](#) released by the Institute for Women Policy Research explores the availability of and need for pregnancy prevention services among individuals enrolled in job training in the United States. It begins with a brief discussion of access to contraception in the United States, then examines several studies that shed light on how programs within the workforce development system understand the need for pregnancy prevention services among their clients and strive to help meet this need. Because research on the integration of pregnancy prevention and workforce development services in the United States is limited, the paper also incorporates insights from interviews with five workforce development program leaders and considers how organizations in other countries have linked these services and the lessons they have learned about successful strategies for this integration. The paper concludes with suggestions for research and programmatic changes to better understand and address the need for pregnancy prevention services among job training participants.

The Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances Program: 2017 Report to Congress. This [report](#) to Congress from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides the most up-to-date findings from the national evaluation of the 91 Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI) expansion and sustainability grantees funded between 2013 and 2017. Since its inception in 1993, CMHI has provided services to more than 140,000 children, youth, and families.

Stepping-stone or roadblocks? The Impact of Two-Year College Entry on Baccalaureate Attainment and Labor Market Outcomes. This [report](#) released by the American Enterprise Institute compares the outcomes of otherwise similar groups of students who aspire to obtain a bachelor's degree, with the only difference being that one group begins college at a two-year college, while the other begins at a four-year university. Additionally, the report includes a sample to study if the effects of initiating college at a two-year institution differ across various student populations. The report concludes by examining several potential explanations for the disparities between students who initiate at two-year and four-year colleges. These include a slower accumulation of credits and early academic progress, challenges during the transfer process, a loss of credits at the point of transfer, and post-transfer academic shock. In this regard, two-year institutions may not be the stepping-stone that many policymakers and families have hoped for, unless additional efforts are made to improve the transfer pathway.

Resources

(continued)

The Corps Network Strengthening America through Service and Conservation. This annual [report](#) released by the Corps Network provides an update on their finances, as well as information about programs and initiatives housed within The Corps Network. It also includes the most recent data demonstrating the impact of the Corps movement.

Connecting Opportunity Youth to Postsecondary Credentials and Careers. This [brief](#) released by JFF shares key findings from research into best practices and recommends strategies for designing policies based on proven college and career pathways models.

Upcoming Events

March 8-14. Corporation for National and Community Service's [AmeriCorps Week](#).

March 31-April 2. Las Vegas, Nevada. Global Youth Justice Inc.'s [23rd Global Youth Justice Training](#).

March 29- April 1. National Indian Child Welfare Association's [38th Annual Protecting Our Children Conference](#).

April 16-18, 2020. New Orleans, LA. National Youth Leadership Council's [2020 National Service-Learning 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.