

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 the Availability of Several New Technical Assistance Resources. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has posted two new technical assistance resources to assist state and local workforce area practitioners. The resources can be found at the links identified below.

WIOA Youth Source Documentation Cheat Sheet. This resource lists the allowable documents Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth programs may use to document data elements for eligibility, services, and outcomes. To view the cheat sheet, visit: <https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2020/10/28/09/32/WIOA-Youth-Source-Documentation-Cheat-Sheet>.

WIOA Youth Program Elements Monitoring Checklist. This tool was developed for State and local areas to use in preparing for monitoring visits. To view the monitoring checklist, visit: <https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2017/03/22/09/55/~/~/link.aspx?id=7889449323D04F2EB7A2D7A89A5C668E&z=z>.

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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Summer 2020 Webcasts. This page on the Youth Connections Community of Practice highlights webcasts that feature local areas' experiences from serving youth during the 2020 summer. The conversations shares challenges, innovative practices, and adjustments made to support youth and help them attain successful outcomes. To listen and learn about the experiences and activities undertaken by the Bluegrass Area District in Lexington, Kentucky, visit: <https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2020/10/27/20/09/Summer-2020-Webcasts>.

Summer Jobs Safety (OSHA). This Youth Connections Community of Practice page features tools designed to get teens, parents, and employers to think proactively about safety. It also serves as a reminder for states and local workforce areas to review federal, state, and local safety and job health standards when placing youth in work experience or internships that may expose them to potential injuries. To view the tools, visit: <https://youthsummerjobs.workforcegps.org/resources/2020/10/20/14/58/Summer-Jobs-Safety-amp-35-40-OSHA-41>.

DOL to Mark Sixth Annual National Apprenticeship Week, November 8-14, 2020. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) [announced](#) that the sixth annual National Apprenticeship Week will occur from November 8 through 14, 2020. National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is a nationwide celebration that gives businesses, communities, and educators the opportunity to highlight their apprenticeship programs and apprentices, and demonstrate the value apprenticeship programs offer businesses, careers seekers, and the community as a whole. The weeklong initiative will focus on themes and industries in which apprenticeships are making a significant difference for American workers, including technology, healthcare, financial services, advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, and more. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20201007>.

DOL Announces First Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program. The U.S. Department of Labor announced Raytheon Technologies as the first Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program (IRAP), a major milestone in this Administration's goal to expand apprenticeships and create more job opportunities for American workers. The National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) serves as the Standards Recognition Entity (SRE) overseeing Raytheon's program. NIMS was recognized by the Department on September 23, 2020, as [one of the first SREs](#) under the Administration's new IRAP rule.

DOL Seeks Comments on its Apprenticeship Evidence-Building Portfolio Evaluation. The U.S. Department of Labor's Chief Evaluation Office has published a notice in the [October 26 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The Chief Evaluation Office of the U.S. Department of Labor commissioned the high priority Apprenticeship Evidence-Building Portfolio evaluation contract to build the evidence on apprenticeship, including apprenticeship models, practices, and partnership strategies in high-growth occupations and industries.

Headlines

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USICH Announces the Release of New Strategic Plan. The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) unveiled its new strategic plan, [Expanding the Toolbox: The Whole-of-Government Response to Homelessness](#). The strategic plan emphasizes addressing the root causes of homelessness and prioritizing trauma-informed care to support the success of each individual and family experiencing homelessness. The plan also focuses on the importance of promoting self-sufficiency across federal agencies as a way of ending the cycle of homelessness and dependency. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.usich.gov/news/usich-unveils-new-strategic-plan>.

Presidential Proclamation Marks National Disability Employment Awareness Month's 75th Annual Commemoration for 'Increasing Access and Opportunity'. President Donald J. Trump has issued a [proclamation](#) commemorating October 2020 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and encouraging workplaces and communities across the nation to honor the occasion through a variety of events and activities. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) leads NDEAM's national commemoration and selects its annual theme to help organizations nationwide as they plan their observances. This year, ODEP has chosen "Increasing Access and Opportunity" as NDEAM's theme and planned activities to coincide with the Department's celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20201001>.

OJP Announces More Than \$92 Million To Support Reentry. The Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) has [announced](#) more than \$92 million in awards to reduce recidivism among adults and juvenile offenders returning to their communities after confinement. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the National Institute of Justice, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded grants to jurisdictions, research institutions, and other organizations in support of proven science-based approaches to reintegrate offenders into communities. OJJDP awarded more than \$11.2 million under its Second Chance Act suite of grant programs to support reentry services for detained juveniles and incarcerated parents with children under the age of 18. To view the press release, visit: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/news/juvjust/office-justice-programs-announces-more-92-million-support-reentry>.

Headlines

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National Foundation for the Arts and the Humanities Seeks Comments on its CCLC Program. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) within the National Foundation for the Arts and the Humanities has published a notice in the [October 2 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The IMLS announced a data collection designed to document the program's implementation across sites and investigate the associated outcomes for participating youth, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Program site staff, and museum staff. The evaluation is intended to provide insight for programmatic improvements and learning for potential future implementations. **Comments due: November 30.**

NSF Seeks Comments on National Network Survey. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has published a notice in the [October 9 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The NSF unveiled "INCLUDES Big Idea" which is a comprehensive national initiative to enhance U.S. leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) discoveries and innovations focused on NSF's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and broadening participation in these fields. The vision of NSF INCLUDES is to catalyze the STEM enterprise to work collaboratively for inclusive change, resulting in a STEM workforce that reflects the population of the Nation. **Comments due: November 9.**

JFF Awarded \$12 Million DOL Contract to Expand Apprenticeship, Improve Diversity in Manufacturing. [JFF](#), a national nonprofit driving transformation in the American workforce and education systems, announced that its [Center for Apprenticeship & Work-Based Learning](#) has received \$12 million in new funding from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to expand apprenticeship in advanced manufacturing, with a specific goal of increasing the number of women and people of color in the industry's workforce. The DOL contract, which will last up to five years, calls for JFF to engage in efforts that result in at least 750 enrollments in Registered Apprenticeship programs in manufacturing per year, with 50 percent of the new apprentices coming from populations that are currently underrepresented in manufacturing. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/jff-awarded-12-million-dol-contract-to-expand-apprenticeship-improve-diversity-in-manufacturing-301144920.html>.

Headlines

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JPMorgan Chase Makes \$7 Million Investment in the Future of Work in Nashville. Over a year ago, JPMorgan Chase announced a \$350 million, five-year global initiative to prepare for the future of work and meet the growing demand for skilled workers. Nashville is announced as one of six cities receiving funds with \$7 million committed as part of the New Skills at Work investment which will provide substantial support to community college and other non-traditional career pathway programs and address systemic inequities. This \$7 million commitment in Nashville, Tennessee, will accelerate the development of career pathways critical for the city's rebounding economy. To view the press release, visit:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/nashville/news/2020/10/20/jpmorgan-chase.html>.

Rural Libraries across America Continue to Expand Programs and Resources. Public libraries across the country play a critical role in connecting community members to vital resources and programs, now more than ever. The Institute of Museum and Library Services announced the release of new data on the many thousands of rural public libraries in the United States and how they function in American society. [Rural Libraries in America: An Infographic Overview](#) provides an overview of the distribution, resources, and services of these important community assets. The brief uses IMLS data from the [2017 Public Libraries Survey](#) and updates the agency's [2013 analysis](#) of trends for small and rural library services. To view the press release, visit:

<https://www.imls.gov/news/rural-libraries-across-america-continue-expand-programs-and-resources>.

DOL Posts Blog: NDEAM 2020: Increasing Access and Opportunity. The U.S. Department of Labor published this blog, which highlights the observance of the 75th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Jennifer Sheehy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, wrote this blog and reflected on the changes to the way people perform work due to innovations in technology that help workers with disabilities more efficiently do their jobs. To read the full blog, visit:

https://blog.dol.gov/2020/10/01/ndeam-2020-increasing-access-and-opportunity?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_10-02.

AYPF Posts Blog: Top Ten Ways to Engage Students in Deeper Learning during COVID. The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) published this blog by Dr. Loretta Goodwin, AYPF Deputy Director. In this blog Dr. Goodwin considers how educators can help students remain engaged, motivated, and enthusiastically learning during the pandemic. To read the full blog, visit: <https://www.aypf.org/blog/10-ways-to-engage-dl-in-covid/>.

Headlines

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Aspen Institute Announces First-Ever Parent Powered Solutions Fund Awardees. Ascend at the Aspen Institute announced the recipients of the [Aspen Parent Powered Solutions Fund](#) – the first student parent-led fund dedicated to advancing the work of organizations and initiatives that support student parents' postsecondary success. The inaugural awardees are pursuing a host of issues – from creating student parent advisory councils and offering mental health counseling supports to providing emergency financial resources and compensating parents for their expertise. They will each receive \$25,000 over the next year to develop programs that support student parents in completing postsecondary programs. The [Ascend PSP Parent Advisors](#), whose first-hand experience informs Ascend's [Postsecondary Success for Parents \(PSP\) Initiative](#), selected these innovative solutions. To view the press release, visit: <https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-institute-announces-first-ever-parent-powered-solutions-fund-grantees/>.

Featured Program

DelawareFutures

In the fall of 2018, AaKhai enrolled with Delaware Futures, success one student at a time program, a free college and career readiness program offered to low-income and at-risk students funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth program. At that time, he was facing many challenges. His family lives under the federal poverty line and deals with mental health issues. AaKhai also suffers from medical problems related to Sickle Cell Anemia, which has sparked his interest in working in the medical field.

Upon entering the program, AaKhai was assigned to paid professional staff Class Advisors to provide customized, year-round support. Our shared goal with In-School Youth is to help students graduate from high school and become the best possible candidates for post-secondary training and careers. AaKhai's Advisors note that his barriers have led to difficulties with his teachers and disagreements with different professionals at school. At times he has suffered from a lack of focus and motivation. After the student and Delaware Futures Advisor met with teachers about his course load, the team was able to get him recommitted to his education. Since this meeting, the AaKhai has shown significant progress and leadership skills.

AaKhai meets regularly with his Class Advisors and receives Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling from the professional team at Delaware Futures. He also confides in a social worker on staff, who helps keep him motivated and offers strategies to navigate problems he encounters. This support keeps AaKhai motivated and focused on his goals. AaKhai also receives Tutoring and Study Skills Training and Dropout Prevention Services from certified education professionals during weekly study sessions. To support his engagement in Delaware Futures, AaKhai's family members have actively participated in parent meetings, college access training sessions, and recognition events where AaKhai has been congratulated for grades and class leadership.

Workplace Experiences have provided AaKhai with exposure to professionals working in Healthcare. He has actively participated in Delaware Futures graduate panels, career panels, presentations, and virtual job shadowing. He has also benefitted from Leadership Development activities led by regional trainers from Toastmasters International. During weekly Toastmasters sessions, AaKhai stood out as a talented public speaker. This skill helped AhKhai get elected president of his class at Delaware Futures. With this role, he is community outreach leader for his class, and through this opportunity he set up a Community Service project with the Friendship House of Delaware.

Featured Resource

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WEST END EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

AaKhai has received Supportive Services in the form of incentives for completing three-part job readiness training series on workplace norms and how to be a standout employee. This has helped him prepare for part-time summer employment. Ahkhai was also supported in applying for summer college bridge programs, which required him to have appropriate grades and standardized test scores. He was provided with an Adult Mentor and professional tutor who offered him hands-on SAT preparation.

AaKhai and his class have just completed a six-session Financial Literacy session offered by Delaware Futures and The Money School that focused on the importance of credit, building savings, and managing accounts that bear interest. After completing a paid work-study program with Delaware Futures environment/green jobs partner Delaware Nature Society his freshmen year, AaKhai opened a bank account with Delaware Futures partner WSFS Bank to help him save for his goals beyond high school.

AaKhai has had much success in the program over the past three years! He earned distinguished honor roll by the end of his first year in high school and has continued to work hard and thrive academically. Most recently, AaKhai was accepted into Drexel University's 2020 Summer Bridge Academy! He is on track to graduate with his high school diploma in 2021 and go on to college.

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 Two Notices of Funding Announcements for its Field Initiated Projects Program. The Administration for Community Living within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is accepting applications for its Field Initiated (FI) Project Program. The program is designed to generate new knowledge through research or to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities. Another purpose of the FI Projects program is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Grant number: [HHS-2021-ACL-NIDILRR-IFRE-0013](#) (Research); Grant number: [HHS-2021-ACL-NIDILRR-IFDV-0012](#) (Development). **Deadline: December 21.**

USDA Invites Applications for its Community Connect Grant Program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for its Rural Development Community Connect Grant Program. The program provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide broadband service in rural, economically-challenged communities where service does not exist. [read more...](#) **Deadline: December 23.**

Prudential Financial, Inc. Invites Application for its Community Awards. Prudential Financial, Inc. is accepting applications for its Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. This youth recognition program is based exclusively on volunteer community service and honors middle level and high school students for outstanding service to others at the local, state and national level. [read more...](#) **Deadline: Nov. 10**

NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars Invites Applications for its Aerospace Scholars Program. NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars is accepting applications for its Aerospace Scholars Program. The program is designed to connect with two-year degree seeking community college students to inspire them to become the next generation of the STEM workforce. NCAS gives community college students an opportunity to learn from experts about [NASA's](#) missions and current research in an online self-paced course. Students who succeed in the course may have the opportunity to attend a NASA experience where a NASA scientist would lead them in a competition with other like-minded students. [read more...](#) **Deadline: November 18.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

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YSA Invites Applications for its Afterschool Grants Program. Youth Service America in partnership with Charles Steward Mott Foundation is accepting applications for its Afterschool Grants program. Awardees will receive up to \$500 each to support youth-led service or service-learning in afterschool programs. Any afterschool program in the United States is eligible to apply. [read more...](#) **Deadline: December 4.**

H2O for Life Invites Applications for its Mini-Grants. H2O for Life will provide mini-grants of up to \$500 that will assist teachers and students on their journey to participate in their life-changing service-learning program. Grantees will be required to create a fundraising project budget and plan. [read more...](#) **Deadline: Ongoing**

NatGeo Invites Application for its Emergency Fund for Educators. National Geographic (NatGeo) is accepting applications for its COVID-19 Remote Learning Emergency Fund for Educators. The fund will distribute support from between \$1,000–\$8,000 to individual educators to use the power of science, social studies, and/or geography to help students understand the challenges and impacts of critical issues. Eligible lead applicants are K-12 (or equivalent) teaching professionals worldwide who work directly with students in the classroom. [read more...](#) **Deadline: Rolling.**

Resources

Listen Up! Youth Listening Session Toolkit. This [toolkit](#) was released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) includes a culmination of the Youth Listening Sessions (YLS) Special Project and is informed by the lessons learned, insights gained, and successful approaches used by the 2018 and 2019 YLS special project grantees. It also reflects tools and resources utilized by the YLS grantees, as well as from a variety of other sources, including those generated by federal and nonfederal entities involved in youth engagement.

Equity in Youth Apprenticeship Programs. This [toolkit](#) developed by the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE), in partnership with the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA). It is designed to assist leaders in building and scaling equitable youth apprenticeship programs for youth and young adults who have been historically marginalized by education and workforce systems — especially young people of color.

Resources

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Making Service Delivery Relevant for Latino Families during COVID-19 through Responsive Adaptation. This [fact sheet](#) released by the National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families provides key takeaways that practitioners can use to adapt service delivery to reach clients and maintain engagement in programs and services.

Unlocking Potential: A State Policy Roadmap for Equity and Quality in College in High School Programs. This [resource](#) released by the College in High School Alliance was developed to serve as a roadmap for states that want to design policy that drives meaningful change in access, equity, and quality for college in high school programs.

Keeping Youth Out of the Deep End of the Juvenile Justice System. This [report](#) released by the Urban Institute provides an overview of the Foundation's deep-end reform and the findings from Urban's and Mathematica's evaluation. It offers a high-level view of the Foundation's activities related to the reform, the activities sites developed and implemented, and the successes and challenges that the Foundation and sites encountered.

The Pathways to Careers Fund: Emergent Learnings | A Citywide Approach | More Than A Job. This [report](#) developed by the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions comprises three complementary briefs prepared by JFF for the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions, to document the work of the Pathways to Careers Fund, an initiative of the Opportunity Youth Forum. The report highlights documented lessons from effective partnerships between community-based organizations (CBOs) and employers focused on opportunity youth in five cities: Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Phoenix, and Seattle.

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On November 18th, the American Youth Policy Forum will host a webinar entitled: **Researcher-Policymaker Collaboration in COVID-19: Lessons Learned from Boston's Summer Jobs Program.** This webinar will discuss how RPPs rapidly delivered and used research to expand and redesign summer jobs programming to be safe and enriching for young people during the pandemic. To register for the webinar, visit: <https://www.aypf.org/event/researcher-policymaker-collaboration-in-covid19/>.

Resources

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Past Webinars/Webcasts

October 29th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Evaluation Planning for Remote Workforce Services and Online Learning**. The webinar highlighted initial efforts by states and local areas to deliver workforce development services remotely and ideas for state workforce agencies to consider for evaluation of their remote and technology-based services. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2020/09/30/11/57/Evaluation-Planning-for-Remote-Workforce-Services-and-Online-Learning>.

On October 27th, the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the Office of Apprenticeship hosted a webinar entitled: **Expanding Opportunity: Apprenticeships for Individuals with Disabilities**. During the webinar presenters discussed about expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities through apprenticeship programs. As part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, this webinar will share strategies that businesses and partners are using to ensure apprenticeships are welcoming for individuals with disabilities and practical examples from ODEP's Apprenticeship Inclusion Model initiative. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2020/09/22/15/59/Expanding-Opportunity-Apprenticeships-for-Individuals-with-Disabilities>.

On October 22nd, the Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures hosted a webinar entitled: **Advanced Topics in Strengthening Youth/Young Adult Peer Support Clarifying the Youth Peer Support Role**. The webinar covered how your organization can support youth peer staff, supervision strategies for supporting youth peers, and recommendations on how youth peer support specialists can support their youth while maintaining boundaries. To view and archive of the webinar: <https://www.pathwaysrtc.pdx.edu/webinars-2020#covid>.

On October 9th, the Center for American Progress hosted a webinar entitled: **From Education to the Workforce**. During the webinar, presenters discussed how K-12, higher education, and industries can partner to establish pipelines and policies to ensure LGBTQ youth have access to training, mentorship, and good-quality, high-wage jobs. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.americanprogress.org/events/2020/09/11/490343/from-education-to-the-workforce/>.

Resources

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On October 8th, the Hamilton Project hosted a webcast entitled: **Higher Education & COVID-19: The Future of Learning, Opportunity, and Work**. The webcast discussion examined the future of higher education and workforce development during COVID-19 and beyond. The webcast event will featured a keynote address from Representative Bobby Scott (Va.-03), chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor. The webcast also coincided with the release of a paper by Richard Arum (University of California, Irvine) and Mitchell Stevens (Stanford University), offering ideas to ensure traditional colleges and universities and federal college funding programs respond to the acute learning needs brought on by the pandemic and successfully prepare the future workforce; and the release of a Hamilton Project analysis and two accompanying online interactives on career earnings by college major and a student debt calculator. To view an archive of the webinar, visit:

https://www.hamiltonproject.org/events/higher_education_covid_19_the_future_of_learning_opportunity_and_work.

Upcoming Events

November 8-11. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges [2020 National Conference on Juvenile Justice](#).

November 8-14. [Sixth Annual National Apprenticeship Week](#).

November 10 & 12. National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health [2020 Virtual Mini-Conference: Equity in Access, Services, and Outcomes for Children, Youth, and Families During COVID-19](#).

November 12-18. [Global Entrepreneurship Week](#).

November 17-19. [2020 Global Youth Justice Conference](#).

November 18-20. Coalition for Juvenile Justice's [2020 Annual Conference](#).

Upcoming Events

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November 21. [Family Volunteer Day.](#)

November 19. [Children's Grief Awareness Month.](#)

December 7-9. National Association of Workforce Development Professionals [2020 Virtual Youth Symposium.](#)

December 7-10. National Youth Employment Coalition's [2020 Annual Forum.](#)

February 25, 2021. [Digital Learning Day.](#)



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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.