

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 Campaign to Share the Benefits of Apprenticeships with Job Seekers and Employers. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the launch of a campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of registered apprenticeships, and increase participation by business leaders and job seekers nationwide. The “Discover Apprenticeship” campaign is part of the Department’s broader \$858 million investment since 2017 to grow apprenticeship programs in the U.S. and advance the Trump Administration’s commitment to add one million new apprentices by Sept. 30, 2021. Spearheaded by the Department’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA), the campaign will help fulfill the Department’s goals to spur greater employment and support the growth of American businesses. The [Discover Apprenticeship campaign](https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200918) seeks to help connect job seekers and job creators through expanded apprenticeships and show them how apprenticeships can help workers achieve the American Dream, regardless of whether they are starting or changing their careers. The campaign will also support the Department’s efforts to attract individuals who are under-represented in apprenticeships historically. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200918>.

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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DOL Announces First Group of Standards Recognition Entities for Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs.

As a critical part of the Administration's efforts to expand access to in-demand job opportunities, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced that it has recognized an initial 18 organizations as Standards Recognition Entities (SREs) to oversee the development of high-quality Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs). SREs are third party industry and workforce leaders that will evaluate and recognize high-quality IRAPs consistent with the Department's standards. The 18 SREs are the first group of SREs to receive recognition under new regulations the Department published earlier this year to expand apprenticeship opportunities in industries where apprenticeships have been underutilized. The recognition of these entities follows a rigorous review from the Department to ensure that they have the capacity and quality-assurance procedures needed to monitor IRAPs. SREs can now begin to work with employers and other entities to establish, recognize and monitor high-quality IRAPs that provide apprentices with industry-recognized credentials. SRE recognition is valid for five years. To view the press release, visit:

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200923>.

DOL Awards \$29 Million to Create Workforce Opportunities in Rural Communities.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced an award of \$29 million to 27 grant recipients through the Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities (WORC) program, in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Delta Regional Authority (DRA). WORC grants enable communities within the Appalachian and Delta regions that have been hard-hit by economic transition, and recovering slowly to develop local and regional workforce development solutions that align with economic development strategies. Grant recipients will work with industry and community partners to promote new, sustainable job opportunities and long-term economic vitality through grant activities that address the specific needs of businesses and workers in their communities. To view the press release, visit:

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200929>.

DOL Awards \$4.1 Million to Increase Women Participation in Apprenticeship, Expand Job Opportunities.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has awarded \$4.1 million in grant funding to help recruit, train and retain more women in quality pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs. Administered by the Department's Women's Bureau and the Employment and Training Administration, the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grants are designed to help women pursue occupations in non-traditional industries to organizations in California, Florida, Illinois, New York, Texas and Washington State. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20200928>.

Headlines

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DOL Awards Over \$22 Million to Industry Intermediaries to Support Continued Apprenticeship Expansion and Opportunity. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) recently awarded approximately \$22 million in contract investments to 12 Industry Intermediaries to continue the Department's efforts to expand the number of apprenticeship opportunities in growing sectors across the country. This effort will further Registered Apprenticeship expansion strategies in high growth industries including information technology (IT), cybersecurity, telecommunications and 5G advanced manufacturing, hospitality, healthcare and health IT, transportation and logistics, and energy. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200925-3>.

DOL Announces Phased Reopening of Job Corps Campuses. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced plans for the national reopening of Job Corps campuses with select centers welcoming students starting Oct. 20, 2020. Each Job Corps Center, subject to national office oversight, will determine the best approach to resume on-site operations ensuring the health and welfare of the students and staff. Not all Job Corps campuses will resume physical operations at the same time. The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, in partnership with the Job Corps Center operators, is closely monitoring national, state, and local health and safety guidelines to determine which campuses are ready to reopen. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200925-2>.

The Federal Government Invites Input into Federal Journey Mapping Resource Tool. Have you helped a loved one navigate disability services? Who or what has been most helpful? What's been most frustrating? A cross-government team, brought together as part of the [Improving Customer Experience with Federal Services CAP goal](#) (co-owned by the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Veterans Affairs) is conducting a customer journey effort to test how a human-centered perspective can yield better results. This project, focused on the experiences of individuals with a developmental disability, is building off its first [pilot project](#) of a more deliberately coordinated inter-agency research effort to understand how customers during a life experience navigate across multiple Federal agencies and even levels of government. This can help to identify moments or opportunities that are most meaningful to actual people to improve. Please share your story and input at: <https://go.usa.gov/xGvsM>.

Headlines

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OJP Announces More Than \$92 Million To Support Reentry. The U.S. 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), 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. For additional information about these awards, see the OJP [fact sheet](#). To view the press release, visit: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/news/juvjust/office-justice-programs-announces-more-92-million-support-reentry>.

ED Seeks Comments on Proposed Priority and Definitions for Use in Discretionary Grant Competitions. The Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published a notice in the [September 8 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The Secretary of Education proposes to establish a priority and definitions for discretionary grant programs that would promote the use of the Department of Education's discretionary grants funds to support remote learning. **Comments due: October 8.**

HHS Seeks Comments on Assessing Models of Coordinated Services for Low-Income Children and Their Families (AMCS) Data Collection. The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published a notice in the [September 15 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). HHS is requesting an extension to continue collecting data for the study, Assessing Models of Coordinated Services for Low-Income Children and Their Families. Data collection has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will not be complete by the current expiration date of October 31, 2020. There are no changes proposed to the current instruments. **Comments due: within 30 days of the September 15 publication of the notice.**

Headlines

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ED Seeks Comments on Perkins Innovation and Modernization Grant Program. The Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, within the U.S. Department of Education has published a notice in the [September 24 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). HHS is accepting comments on proposed priorities, requirements, a definition, and selection criteria under the Perkins Innovation and Modernization Grant Program. The Department is particularly interested in comments on **Proposed Priority 4--Serving Students from Low-Income Families**. ED is interested in feedback about how well this priority would assist in the determination of whether a proposed project would predominantly serve students from low-income families as well as whether the proposed priority would be challenging or burdensome for applicants to meet and, if so, how the proposed priority could be revised. Additionally, ED invites comments about the appropriateness of the proposed data sources applicants may use to demonstrate that the proposed project will serve students from low-income families. **Comments due: October 26.**

New York Announces Nearly \$9 Million to Support Job Training Opportunities. New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that 66 businesses, schools, and community-based organizations across the state have been awarded nearly \$9 million as part of the State's historic Workforce Development Initiative. The grants are federally funded and will support job training opportunities across the State for more than 3,600 New Yorkers adapting to the post-COVID economy. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-9-million-awarded-part-new-yorks-historic-workforce-development>.

Tech and Philanthropic Leaders Launch Million Girls Moonshot to Close the Gender Gap in STEM. The Intel Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation have joined STEM Next Opportunity Fund and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to launch the Million Girls Moonshot. The effort is designed to engage one million school-age girls in the U.S. in STEM learning opportunities over the next five years. The organizations will provide grant funding and in-kind resources to Mott-funded afterschool networks in all 50 states to increase access to hands-on, immersive STEM learning experiences. To view the press release, visit: <https://milliongirlsmoonshot.org/blog/pressreleasemgm>.

Headlines

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NCSL Posts Blog: State Approaches Foster Retention and Better Outcomes for Workers with Disabilities. The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), as part of its work with the State Exchange on Employment & Disability (SEED), published this blog which highlights the benefits of worker retention for individuals and employers, as well as the state economy and workforce at large. It also includes examples of recently enacted policies to increase retention and return-to-work outcomes of people with disabilities and those ill or injured on or off the job. The policies listed in the blog were gleaned from NCSL and SEED's report, "Work Matters: Making Progress in Employment for People with Disabilities." To read the full blog, visit: https://www.ncsl.org/blog/2020/09/08/state-approaches-foster-retention-and-better-outcomes-for-workers-with-disabilities.aspx?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_09-18.

Florida Department of Education Taps Pioneering Nonprofit to Boost Entrepreneurial Skills, Mindset for High School Students. [Uncharted Learning](#), a national nonprofit committed to helping students develop resilience and problem solving skills through entrepreneurship announced its collaboration with the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) and the [Florida Association of Career and Technical Education](#) (FACTE) as part of the state's effort to give more students access to high-quality courses that develop entrepreneurial skills and mindsets. Through the program, FLDOE is investing \$1 million in entrepreneurial education, including grants to K-12 school districts and secondary schools that want to offer entrepreneurship programs. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/florida-department-of-education-taps-pioneering-nonprofit-to-boost-entrepreneurial-skills-mindset-for-high-school-students-301139061.html>.

Featured Resource

WEST END EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

When Brittany entered West End Neighborhood House's GED program in April 2018, she wasn't just doing it for herself. A single mother who wanted to set a good example for her children, Brittany also wanted to make her grandparents proud. She wanted a brighter future.

During her time in the Education & Employment program, Brittany struggled to keep up with everything that was going on in her life. Her father was hospitalized for a time and then passed away, leaving her to care for her grandmother as well as her sons while she continued working and attending GED classes. Brittany found guidance from West End staff, who provided her with counseling and case management, a flexible schedule, transportation assistance, holiday gift donations, and other supportive services. "I didn't believe I could do it," Brittany recalls, "but I was motivated by West End staff, family, and friends. I was determined not to fail again."

Within two months Brittany passed the Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science GED subtests before encountering difficulty with the Math section. During the months that followed, she explored career pathways, participated in financial literacy activities, attended job fairs, and built her resume with digital literacy certifications. When she earned Customer Service certification from the National Retail Association, she applied her natural interpersonal skills to become better qualified for work experience.

Brittany also completed a successful internship with West End Neighborhood House as a front desk receptionist, winning over peers and coworkers with her positive attitude and cheery disposition. She fondly remembers growing her support network and learning time management while working and attending classes in the same building. Everyone cheered for her when she passed the Math section in November 2018, earning her GED! In April of 2019, Brittany was hired on as a temporary staff for West End's summer camp program, where she continued to thrive and became a vital part of the West End community.

Featured Resource

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WEST END EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

Since her successful completion of the GED, internship and temporary staff assignment, Brittany has gained employment with the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, as a Case Manager for the Community Partner Support Unit. Brittany is now in the process of earning her college degree. In her words, "My sons will not be statistics, and now I won't be either."

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

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Availability of \$150 Million To Invest in Workforce Training for Key U.S. Employment Sectors. The U.S. Department of Labor announced the availability of \$150 million in the H-1B One Workforce Grant Program to invest in training for middle- to high-skilled H-1B occupations within key sectors in the U.S. economy, including information technology and cyber security, advanced manufacturing and transportation, to upskill the present workforce and train a new generation of workers to grow the future workforce. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200924-0>. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=329075>. **Deadline: November 12.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

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AstraZeneca Invites Applications for its StepUp! Program. The AstraZeneca is accepting applications for its STEPUP! Grant program. The program provides grants of up to US\$10,000 to help small, innovative, youth-focused and youth-led non-profits to deliver health promotion messages effectively in under-resourced and marginalized communities worldwide. [read more...](#) **Deadline: October 12.**

ARC Invites Applications for its INSPIRE Initiative. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is accepting applications for its Investments Supporting Partnership in Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE) Initiative. The initiative makes funding available for projects that address the substance abuse crisis by creating or expanding a recovery ecosystem that will lead to workforce entry or reentry for individuals in recovery from substance abuse disorder (SUD). Projects are encouraged to support the post-treatment-to-employment continuum, which could include investments in healthcare networks that support substance abuse recovery professionals; recovery-focused job training programs; and initiatives designed to coordinate or link recovery services and training, among others. [read more...](#) **Deadline: Letters of Intent Due by October 16; Applications due November 13.**

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. Awardees will be required to create a fundraising project budget and plan. [read more...](#) **Deadline: Ongoing.**

Resources

A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities. This updated [guide](#) was released by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) at the Department of Education. It adds information about dual enrollment in high school and postsecondary courses and the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE Act), along with guidance on transition planning, options after leaving school, and related laws. The guide can also help students and youth with disabilities and their families to better understand how state and local agencies work together to facilitate improved outcomes and ensure that all students and youth are equipped with skills and knowledge to achieve their post-school and career goals.

Resources

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Advancing the Use of Core Components of Effective Programs: Suggestions for Researchers Publishing Evaluation Results. This [brief](#) was released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Human Services Policy at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. It explains why it is important to collect and report on a wide range of program characteristics and the kinds of characteristics that should routinely be collected and reported in order to facilitate future meta-analyses that can help the field identify core components of effective programs

U.S. National Strategy for Financial Literacy 2020. This [publication](#) developed by the U.S. Financial Literacy and Education Commission (FLEC) details the federal government's financial literacy priorities and underscores its plan to collaborate with state, local, and tribal governments and the private sector to strengthen financial capability for all Americans. Building Americans' financial skills is essential to enabling a dynamic economy and to encouraging individuals to effectively manage financial challenges. The National Strategy also highlights evidence-based best practices and other methods to improve consumers' knowledge and skills. The federal government works through the FLEC to provide leadership and guidance in the area of financial education, particularly through policy development, research coordination, and focused programs and resources. The FLEC supports, informs, and improves the broader field to better equip Americans with the skills, knowledge, and tools necessary to make decisions that enhance their financial well-being.

Ten Core Competencies for Youth and Young Adult Centered Mental Health Systems. This [report](#) released by the Center for Law and Social Policy discusses ten core competencies outlined in the report which could address existing gaps in youth- and young-adult-centered mental health systems, and how they can reflect values that translate into skills, attitudes, knowledge, and abilities of system participants.

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On October 8th, the Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution will host a webcast discussion entitled: **Higher Education & COVID-19: The Future of Learning, Opportunity, and Work.** The webcast discussion will examine the future of higher education and workforce development during COVID-19 and beyond. To register for the webcast, visits:

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

Resources

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Past Webinars/Webcasts

On September 1st, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **What Makes a Work Experience Work? Insights and Perspectives from YouthBuild Graduates.** During the webinar graduates shared their personal work experiences, including the assets and challenges, what they learned in terms of technical and soft skills, what employment and/or post-secondary education they've entered since the work experience, and what job placements they've since had (or have) that will lead to their next career pathway step. To view and archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2020/07/17/19/16/What-Makes-a-Work-Experience-Work-Insights-and-Perspectives-from-YouthBuild-Graduates>.

On September 16th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Technical Assistance Kick-Off for Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grantees.** This webinar highlighted the types of activities that will be offered to help Youth Apprenticeship grantees meet their programmatic needs; introduce the members of the technical assistance (TA) team, including coaches and subject matter experts; and provide information about upcoming Youth Apprenticeship Readiness TA resources and activities. To view and archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2020/08/12/17/14/TA-Kick-Off-for-Youth-Apprenticeship-Readiness-Grantees>.

On September 8th, NORC at the University of Chicago hosted its first webinar in its webinar series entitled: **Using SBIRT to Talk to Adolescents about Substance Use.** This four-part webinar series introduces health professionals to the SBIRT model as a way to learn from adolescents about their substance use, talk about what might motivate them to make a decision to reduce or abstain (if needed), and execute a plan to do so. Along with cutting-edge, evidence-based education, the expert presenters will provide sample scripts and role plays so participants gain strategies to use right away with adolescents in many settings. This free education is ideal for anyone who wishes to gain an in-depth understanding of SBIRT and its use with adolescents, designed for both those who are new to SBIRT and for those who want more advanced training beyond an overview. To view and archive of the webinar and register for the other webinars, visit: <https://sbirt.webs.com/talking-2-adolescents-series>.

Resources

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On September 21st, the Federal Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs hosted entitled: **The Benefits and Importance of Using YPAR with Youth with Incarcerated Parents**. This webinar discussed the variety of roles youth may hold and the importance of leveraging developmental relationships while conducting Youth with Incarcerated Parents. Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR). Participants were also able to hear directly from a youth about their experiences with YPAR. Additionally, the webinar was especially useful for researchers who conduct YPAR working with youth who have or have had an incarcerated parent. To view and archive of the webinar, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocVnXmP9EWE&feature=youtu.be>.

On September 25th, the Center for American Progress hosted a webinar entitled: **The Opportunity and Counseling Corps: Helping K-12 Students and Young Adults Recover From the Coronavirus Crisis**. The webinar explored the Opportunity and Counseling Corps proposal and what it would look like for young people and new social workers. Participants heard from grassroots organizations, providers such as Saga Education that have been doing this work before the pandemic, workforce policy experts who can speak to the risks of young people graduating into a recession, and policymakers working to respond to the this crisis. To view an archive of the webinar, visit:

https://www.americanprogress.org/events/2020/09/11/490334/opportunity-counseling-corps/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=amprog_elq&utm_campaign=12&utm_content=42848.

Upcoming Events

October 2020. [National Disability Awareness Month](#)

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

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](#).

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

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



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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.