

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 Awards \$12.3m in Funding to Support Job Exploration, Training Options for Young People.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of \$12.3 million in grants to five national out-of-school time organizations to expand local work readiness programs. The second round of Workforce Pathways for Youth grants will support programs that provide jobs skills, training, and offer work experiences for young people from age 14 to 21. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20220714-0>.

DOL to Recognize Importance of Disability, Equity in Workforce during National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2022.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced that, in recognition of the vital role people with disabilities play in making the nation's workforce diverse and inclusive, "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation" has been chosen as the theme for October's [National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2022](#). Led by its [Office of Disability Employment Policy](#), the department's annual observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month acknowledges the contributions to the nation's economy made by workers with disabilities, current and past. The commemoration also showcases supportive and inclusive policies and practices benefiting workers and employers. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20220622>.

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 \$50m Grant Funding Availability to Help Close Equity Gaps, Expand Access to Training Needed for Good-Paying Jobs. To bolster community colleges and other institutions' efforts to deliver more equitable education and training, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of a \$50 million funding opportunity to help people in marginalized and underrepresented populations overcome barriers to the career and technical education programs they need to be connected to good-paying jobs. Administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration, this third round of [Strengthening Community Colleges Training grants](#) will enable community colleges – individually or collectively – to address equity gaps and meet the skills development needs of employers and workers more effectively. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20220602-1>.

DOL Awards \$121m in Apprenticeship Building America Grants to Expand, Diversify, Modernize Registered Apprenticeship Programs. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of more than \$121 million in Apprenticeship Building America grants to strengthen and modernize Registered Apprenticeship programs and enable workers to find a reliable pathway to the middle class. The department awarded more than \$58 million of the total funding to grantees focusing on equity partnerships and pre-apprenticeship activities. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20220707-0>.

DOL Posts Blog: 32 Years of the ADA: Celebrating a Victory and a Vow. The U.S. Department of Labor's, Assistant Secretary for Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) Taryn Williams reflects on the 32nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and its impact on employment. As part of this commemoration, Williams highlights the historic nature of the 1999 Olmstead ruling and how it set the stage for an important dimension of ODEP's work, advancing competitive integrated employment. She also explores how the ADA has guided ODEP in responding to changing needs in recent years, including the shifting employment landscape caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and an increased focus on worker mental health. To view the full blog, visit: <https://blog.dol.gov/2022/07/15/32-years-of-the-ada-celebrating-a-victory-and-a-vow>.

HUD Announces \$621,000 To Keep Former Foster Youth Housed. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the awarding of nearly \$621,000 to 14 public housing agencies (PHAs) in 12 states to provide housing assistance to youth who are aging out of foster care and are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The funding, awarded through HUD's Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Program, will make available 60 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) to these PHAs. To view the press release, visit: https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_22_139.

Headlines

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ED Announces Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) Information to be Verified for the 2023–2024 Award Year. The Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published a notice in the [July 8 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). ED provides Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Information to be Verified for the 2023 - 2024 Award Year. For each award year, the Secretary of Education publishes in the Federal Register a notice announcing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) information that an institution and an applicant may be required to verify, as well as the acceptable documentation for verifying FAFSA information.

ED Seeks Comments on its Student Assistance General Provisions Involving Three Loan Programs. The Office of Postsecondary Education within the U.S. Department of Education has published a notice in the [July 13 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) addressing student loans and affordability issues. This rulemaking specifically discusses issues involving loans under the William D. Ford Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program, the Federal Perkins Loan (Perkins) Program, and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program. The Department notes "the proposed changes would bring greater transparency and clarity and improve the administration of Federal student financial aid programs to assist and protect students, participating institutions, and taxpayers." **Comments due: August 12.**

ED Seeks Comments on its ARP–HCY State Coordinators Survey. The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published a request in the [July 15 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). OESE is seeking comments from the public on this one-time grant program administered as part of the American Rescue Plan. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is seeking to understand how funds under this onetime grant program are being used. Specifically, the Department is seeking to learn about the distribution of the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief–Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) funds by State educational agencies (SEAs), the characteristics of local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving funds, and the characteristics of LEAs who chose not to participate in the distribution of funds in each state. Additionally, the Department would like to gather information on how SEAs are using the funds that were set aside at the State level under this program. Information obtained in this survey will be used to inform technical assistance and support provided by the Department and the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), resources developed by NCHE, and further studies. **Comments due: September 13.**

Headlines

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Administration Announces More Than \$10 Million in Grants to Expand High-Speed Internet to Minority-Serving Colleges and Universities. The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced it has awarded the first five grants as part of the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (CMC). These grants, totaling \$10,642,577.03, will be used to fund internet access, equipment, and to hire and train information technology personnel. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves announced the grants at an event in New York with Mercy College, one of the first grant recipients. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/press-release/2022/biden-administration-announces-more-10-million-grants-expand-high-speed-internet>.

Mayor Bowser Launches Career Coach DC Program. Mayor Muriel Bowser announced the launch of the Career Coach DC program and highlighted investments in District programs to help residents progress in their careers from internships, summer employment, to training and supports. Career Coach DC, created through a \$3.4 million investment, offers career assessment, personalized coaching, and supports that connect DC residents to education, training, and employment opportunities. Career Coach DC is free for DC residents 18 years and older who have not yet completed a 4-year college degree, or those who are low- or moderate-income. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: <https://octo.dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-launches-career-coach-dc-program>.

College or Career? California Invests \$500 Million in Program that Tackles Both. A question that has long vexed American secondary education is whether to prepare students for college or a career. With the creation of the Golden State Pathways Program, California has decided to invest in both. The state budget sets aside \$500 million in competitive grants to establish a new program to ensure students "advance seamlessly from high school to college and career." Its goal is to help students transition from high school to well-paying, skilled careers. The pathways include A-G course requirements for admission to state universities and the opportunity to earn 12 college credits through dual enrollment, AP or IB classes. Work-based learning must be part of the pathway, and schools must offer support to students along the way. To obtain additional information, visit: https://www.bakersfield.com/news/college-or-career-california-invests-500-million-in-program-that-tackles-both/article_bd3869ca-006e-11ed-8a8f-030325dc452b.html.

Headlines

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Senator Whitehouse Announces Funding to Launch Offshore Wind Job Training Certification Program for High School Students. U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse joined representatives of the North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce and the offshore wind industry to announce \$375,000 in federal funding for the creation of a new offshore wind energy Career and Technical Education (CTE) certification through the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). The Congressionally Directed Spending request submitted by Whitehouse was included in the omnibus bill that President Joe Biden signed into law in March. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/release/whitehouse-announces-funding-to-launch-offshore-wind-job-training-certification-program-for-high-school-students>.

AYPF Posts Blog: Make No Choice Without Youth Voice. The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) released a blog which describes how youth engagement in decision-making, especially about issues that directly affect young people's lives, has benefits not only for the young person, but also for institutions, systems, and society at large. To view the full blog, visit: <https://www.aypf.org/blog/make-no-choice-without-youth-voice/>.

Annie E. Casey Posts Blog: Maryland Enacts Sweeping Youth Justice Reforms. This blog released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation highlights work Maryland lawmakers have done to pass a series of wide-ranging reforms that aim to position young people with justice system involvement for long-term success. To view the full blog, visit: <https://www.aecf.org/blog/maryland-enacts-sweeping-youth-justice-reforms>.

Transition Activities and Services for Justice-Involved Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities. This [resource](#) released by the Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth) provides an overview of state policymakers' comprehensive strategies to better support justice-involved youth and young adults with disabilities (Y&YADs) in their transitions to the workforce or postsecondary education. These considerations were identified during a roundtable discussion with practitioners, policymakers, and individuals with lived experience hosted by the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy and the White House Office of Public Engagement. CAPE-Youth is drafting two detailed research briefs that will expand upon these policy considerations to support justice-involved Y&YADs during their education, employment, and more transitions.

AmeriCorps joins White House and Department of Education to Launch National Effort to Support Student Success. AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, joined the White House launch of the National Partnership for Student Success (NPSS) to meet President Biden's call for 250,000 more tutors and mentors to accelerate student recovery and success. NPSS is a coordinated, research-based, locally driven, all-in effort worthy of the young people of the United States and their potential. To view obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.americorps.gov/newsroom/americorps-joins-white-house-department-education-launch-national-effort-support-student>.

Featured Resources

SkillSource: North Central Workforce Development Area - Washington

Skyler contacted SkillSource in June 2020 as a 17-year-old struggling to thrive in traditional education during the pandemic. SkillSource trainer Christy Mataya used assessments and interviews to identify his strengths as being a fast worker, working well with others, and being a tactile learner. Skylar worked on the WSU Chelan County Extension Eco-Stewardship project that summer, learning to work as part of a team on a variety of outdoor projects. In August 2020, Skyler transitioned to online learning with staff support due to the pandemic. As with many of his peers and instructors, he struggled with making progress in the online environment. But Skyler persevered and passed all of his GED tests by April 2021. Skyler then received his High School Equivalency in June of 2021 when he walked with his class in the first in-person SkillSource Learning Center graduation in two years.

With his high school equivalency and work readiness on his résumé, Skyler began a SkillSource funded internship at Keyhole Security. Skyler was particularly interested in learning more about the operations of a retail store. Dave Langlois, general manager of Keyhole Security, wanted to provide more training opportunities because Skyler excelled in his internship. Skyler completed the internship and On-the-Job Training (OJT) to learn more as a Locksmith Technician, learning industry specific tasks. While completing his training, SkillSource assisted with additional supports (a uniform and driver's license fees) to set him up for success in his new career.

The pandemic has been hard on both students, career seekers and businesses. Despite the adversities presented, Keyhole Security and Skyler have found success together. Skyler is now working fulltime, earning \$16.00 hour as a Locksmith Technician 2 and looks forward to continuing grow with the company. Congratulations to Skyler and Keyhole Security! You really "locked it in"!

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

ED Invites Applications for its FSCS Program. The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) within the U.S. Department of Education has published a notice in the [July 13 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The purpose of the Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) Program is to improve the coordination, integration, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for children and families, particularly for children attending high-poverty schools. **Deadline: August 12.**

YSA Invites Applications for its School of Service Lead Agency Grants. Youth Service America (YSA) in partnership with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation is accepting applications for its 22-23 School of Service Lead Agency Grant program. The program is designed to support K-12 schools in the United States to assist with activating student volunteers through school-wide activities on/around National Days of Service. Awardees will receive grants up to \$3,000. [read more...](#) **Deadline: August 12.**

YSA Invites Applications for its Afterschool Grants. Youth Service America (YSA) with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation will award 15 \$500 Afterschool Grants to support youth service and service-learning in afterschool programs during the 22-23 year. US-based programs that engages 50+ middle and high school students is eligible to apply. [read more...](#) **Deadline: August 12.**

DOJ Invites Applications for its Youth Violence Prevention Program. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is accepting applications for its FY 2022 Youth Violence Prevention Program. The program is designed to further the Department's mission by preventing youth violence and delinquent behavior. Grant number: [O-OJJDP-2022-171400](#). **Deadline: September 12.**

Resources

Reentry Resource Center. This [resource](#) is one-stop-shop for information and resources on crime prevention and reentry policies, programs, services, supports, and other related efforts for the public and professionals.

State Policy Playbook to Advance Youth Apprenticeship. This [playbook](#) outlines actions state leaders can take to enable and support the expansion of youth apprenticeship within a larger work-based learning and career readiness ecosystem.

Resources

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Employment Programs for Young People with Histories of Foster Care. This [study](#) released by the Urban Institute was grounded in the idea that to help employment programs and the young people they serve succeed in reaching their goals, it is important to understand better how these programs differ based on who they serve, their service delivery methods, and goals by which they assess success.

Preparing Youth for the Future: Teen & Young Adult Career Readiness Programs at Big Sister Association of Greater Boston. This [toolkit](#) produced by Big Sister in conjunction with American Student Assistance aims to equip organizations that serve female-identifying youth and young adults with the tools to start or expand on their own career exploration and planning programs. The guide will explore the core values that should drive programs like Our Big Futures, essential program components, and strategies to build a partnership network, measure success and ensure program sustainability, as well as provide an action plan for users to develop their own career readiness program.

College Completion Strategy Guide. This [strategy guide](#) is a collaboration among MDRC, the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, The Education Trust, and The Institute for College Access and Success provides clear policy guidance and summarizes the research on strategies to increase college completion. With this strategy guide, state and system policymakers can advance meaningful change in higher education with evidence-based policy.

Youth Engaged 4 Change. This [website](#) includes youth focused resources and opportunities that inspire and empower young people to make a difference in their lives and in the world around them by improving their knowledge and leadership skills – content directed by young people.

Resources

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Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On August 3rd, the Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth will host a webinar entitled: **Expanding Apprenticeships as a Career Pathway for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities**. The webinar will highlight the benefits of apprenticeships as well as provide an overview of approaches states can take to design and implement pre-apprenticeship, registered and non-registered apprenticeship programs as viable career pathways for career seekers with disabilities. To register for the webinar, visit: https://csg-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i-m3z7SxRF27hGAI2uPUMw.

On August 9th, the National Skills Coalition will host a webinar entitled: **From Theory to Reality: How Skills Advocates are Advancing Digital Skills Policy**. During this webinar attendees will hear directly from state and local leaders about how they've advanced new policies that measure digital skills and create more equitable upskilling pathways for workers in frontline jobs. Attendees will also find out how advocates have created digital upskilling programs that meet worker need and business demand. Additionally, attendees will also get the latest updates on federal digital skills policy – including how the field can ensure the rollout of \$2.75 billion Digital Equity Act investment helps close equity gaps, and upcoming opportunities to ensure that Congress incorporates digital skills into legislation such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, higher education bills, and new investments in industry-specific skills. To register for the webinar, visit: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LEZJIXcPRmO2WK7ImfH26Q?emci=60aa8a91-3b08-ed11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=b16f2cc5-1b0c-ed11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=2677549.

Resources

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Past Webinars/Webcasts

On June 29th, the LEAD Center hosted a webinar entitled: **Celebrating Olmstead: How Blending, Braiding, and Sequencing Leads to Integrated Employment**. The webinar was the second in a series of webinars on blending, braiding and sequencing resources and funding to support employment outcomes, and to promote equity and inclusion for people with disabilities. To view an archive of the webinar, visit:
<https://leadcenter.org/webinar/celebrating-olmstead-how-blending-braiding-and-sequencing-leads-to-integrated-employment/>.

On July 27th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Connecting with Local Youth Workforce Systems-Stories from the Field**. This session featured a panel of experts offering examples and tips from the field related to the public workforce system for youth and youth adults. It included brief overviews of local boards, American Job Centers, and youth service providers, then featured discussion among panelists with expertise on the ground in these areas. To view and archive of the webinar, visit:
<https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2022/06/29/18/08/Connecting-with-Local-Youth-Workforce-Systems-Stories-from-the-Field>.

On June 21st, the University of Maryland School of Social Work hosted a webinar entitled: Incorporating Evidence-Based Practices: **An Array of Services & Supports for Youth & Families**. During the webinar presenters identified and explored the characteristics of various types of services and supports and the questions to consider in a service mapping exercise. To view an archive of the webinar, visit:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CC_62U76q_4&list=PLvwWJsRJoLMPeDWrTY3VI7e-l1p4qzGsP&index=3.

Upcoming Events

August 3, 17, & 31. [American Youth Policy Forum Youth Summit](#).

August 8-10. Youth Service America's [50by250 Partner Summit](#).

September 22. Federal Aviation Administration's [Advisory and Rulemaking Committees Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force](#).



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.