

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 Apprenticeship Building America Program, \$113m in Available Funds to Strengthen, Modernize Registered Apprenticeships. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced a grant program to strengthen, modernize, expand, and diversify its Registered Apprenticeship Program to enable more workers to earn while they learn and find reliable pathways to the middle class. Part of President Biden's [ongoing strategy to strengthen Registered Apprenticeships](#), the department's "Apprenticeship Building America" program will make \$113 million in grant funding available, including up to \$50 million to support equity partnerships and pre-apprenticeship activities to increase enrollment in [Registered Apprenticeship Programs](#). The grants will further the Biden-Harris administration's goals and priorities for a strong and equitable post-pandemic economic recovery by connecting Americans to good quality jobs in priority industry sectors, including critical supply chain industries and among populations disproportionately affected by the pandemic. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20220223>.

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)

NYEC Announces Mental Health Needs of Youth Employment Programs Questionnaire. The Surgeon General recently released an advisory report, "[Protecting Young People's Mental Health](#)," in which the devastating impacts of the pandemic and the alarming increases in mental health needs of young people are outlined. The National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) is coordinating a brief questionnaire to help understand how workforce providers are grappling with this crisis. Your input will provide insight into the youth employment field's current capacity to screen, connect, and serve youth with mental health needs. To learn more, visit: <https://form.jotform.com/220084775338157>. **Deadline for completion of this instrument is March 11, 2022.**

ED Announces New Updates to College Scorecard Make Tool More Useful for Students and Families with Data About College Costs, Graduation Rates, and Post-College Earnings. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) released updates to the [College Scorecard](#) that make the tool more useful for students and families weighing college options. The tool also includes new and updated information that may be beneficial to school counselors, college access providers, researchers, and other critical stakeholders. The Department improved the College Scorecard interactive web tool, in addition to restoring several metrics that help students gauge how their prospective institution compares to other colleges across costs, graduation rates, post-college earnings, and other metrics. The changes reflect the Department's [priority](#) of supporting and encouraging inclusive, affordable postsecondary programs that provide strong career outcomes for students. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/new-updates-college-scorecard-make-tool-more-useful-students-and-families-data-about-college-costs-graduation-rates-and-post-college-earnings>.

Secretary Cardona Opened the 2022 Advancing Equity in Career-Connected Education Summit. U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona, delivered opening remarks at the 2022 Advancing Equity in Career-Connected Education [Summit](#). This virtual conference brought together hundreds of officials and external stakeholders to share ways to help youth and adults access quality career pathways. The virtual event, hosted by the Department's Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education ([OCTAE](#)), was comprised of a forum to exchange research, evidence-based strategies, and innovative practices that advance equity across career-connected education. Presenters included representatives from federal, state, and local agencies, and institutions of higher education students, teachers, and researchers. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-cardona-open-wednesdays-2022-advancing-equity-career-connected-education-summit>. To obtain additional information, visit: https://cte.ed.gov/cal/2022-advancing-equity-in-career-connected-education-summit?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.

Headlines

(continued)

Google Creates \$100 Million Fund for Skills Training Program. Google stated that it was creating a \$100 million fund to sponsor an ambitious project to expand effective skills training and job placement programs for low-income Americans. The Google-backed initiative is targeting a big problem: how to find, train and create paths to good jobs in the modern economy for the nearly two-thirds of American workers who do not have a four-year college degree. The tech giant is working with three nonprofit groups on the effort: Year Up, which focuses on upward mobility programs for the disadvantaged; Merit America, an organization that offers tech training programs for adults without a bachelor's degree; and Social Finance, which designs student-friendly financing and repayment plans. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.mdrc.org/news/mdrc-news/google-creates-100-million-fund-skills-training-program#:~:text=Google%20Creates%20%24100%20Million%20Fund%20for%20Skills%20Training,training%20and%20job%20placement%20programs%20for%20low-income%20Americans>.

CareerWise Partners with OneTen to Create Career Opportunity for Young Black Talent. [CareerWise](#) announced it has been named as an endorsed talent developer for [OneTen](#), a coalition of leading executives who have committed to upskill, hire and advance one million Black workers in America over the next 10 years into family-sustaining jobs with opportunities for advancement. CareerWise has modern youth apprenticeship programs in Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, New York and Washington, D.C. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20220217005046/en/CareerWise-Partners-With-OneTen-to-Create-Career-Opportunity-for-Young-Black-Talent>.

AYPF Posts Blog: For Native Education, Community Is the Answer. The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) released a blog which discusses the significant difficulties and hardships many Indigenous youth experience throughout the United States. These challenges can be directly traced to the impact of colonization on tribal communities such as what Indigenous youth experienced in the boarding school system. For many Indigenous young people, their realities include historical and intergenerational trauma, the loss of culture and language, the fight for sovereignty and treaty rights, the urgency of poverty, and lack of societal representation and visibility. To view the full blog, visit: <https://www.aypf.org/blog/for-native-education-community-is-the-answer/>.

Featured Resources

DELAWARE FUTURES

Amayah joined Delaware Futures as a high school sophomore. While battling everyday concerns as an adolescent, Amaya also faced homelessness, the death of a parent, and parental unemployment. Amayah's engagement with Delaware Futures has matured her in various areas of her life. Upon joining Delaware Futures, Amayah was below grade level; with weekly tutoring, encouragement, and relationships with advisors and tutors, Amayah completed required courses and is no longer basic skills deficient. Amayah participated in multiple Financial Literacy workshops, Community Service projects, and leadership opportunities. Amaya is now a senior with a pathway in Early Childhood. Amayah's goal is to enroll in Polytech's Adult Education program to pursue a career in becoming an Early Childhood Educator.

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

Gulf Coast Community Foundation Invites Applications for its Scholarship Program. The [Gulf Coast Community Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its 2022-23 scholarship program, through which the foundation will assist students of all ages in pursuing higher education at accredited two- and four-year colleges, universities, or technical schools. Eligible applicants must reside in the Florida counties of Sarasota, Charlotte, or Boca Grande, and they must plan to attend a qualifying postsecondary institution during the 2022-23 academic year. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 4.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

WE Schools Invite Nominations for its Volunteer Grant. WE Schools will award \$200 to students in grades 4 through 12 for volunteer projects. Applicants must describe how they would use the grant, which may include a current project or an idea for a new initiative. [read more...](#)
Deadline: March 7.

William T. Grant Foundation Invites Applications for its Youth Service Improvement Grants. The William T. Grant Foundation is accepting applications for its Youth Service Improvement Grants program. The program is designed to support activities to improve the quality of direct services for young people ages 5 to 25 in the five boroughs of New York City. Eligible organizations must be tax-exempt as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and have an operating budget between \$250,000 and \$5 million, if the organization serves youth only. If the applying organization serves youth and other populations, its operating budget must be less than \$20 million and its youth services budget must be between \$250,000 and \$5 million. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 10.**

YSA is Accepting Applications for its Heartwarming Young Heroes Grant Program. Youth Service America (YSA) will award up to \$50,000 in grants for youth-led service projects and community-building activities during Global Youth Service Day (April 29 – May 1, 2022). Grants will range from \$100 to \$500. Youth ages 5-25 in the United States (including U.S. territories and military bases & DoD schools) and Canada are eligible to apply. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 11.**

It Gets Better Project Invites Applications for its 50 States 50 Grants. It Gets Better Project in partnership with American Eagle is accepting applications for its 50 States to 50 Grants. 50 Awardees will receive up to \$10,000 grants to support projects that uplift, empower, and connect LGBTQ+ youth in schools in all 50 states. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 15.**

Rocky Mountain Power Foundation Invites proposals for Education/STEM Programs. The [Rocky Mountain Power Foundation](#) will award grants of up to \$10,000 in support of education/STEM efforts including electrical safety, energy efficiency education, higher education institutions, K-12, literacy and reading programs, STEM education initiatives, teacher/professional educator development, workforce development/careers and employability, and youth development. Grants will range between \$2,000 and \$5,000 in support of projects that have a bearing on communities served by Rocky Mountain Power or Pacific Power in Utah, Wyoming, southeastern Idaho, Oregon, central/southeastern Washington, and northern California. Eligible applicants must be tax-exempt as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 15.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

Boston Scientific Foundation Invites Applications for its STEM Programs. The [Boston Scientific Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its education grants program, which will support programs focused on improving STEM educational opportunities and academic development for economically disadvantaged K-12 students. All submissions must target the needs of economically disadvantaged populations within 60 miles of Valencia, California; Spencer, Indiana; Cambridge, Marlborough, or Quincy, Massachusetts; or Twin Cities, Minnesota. Eligible applicants must be tax-exempt as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or a public school or agency. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 15.**

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Donohue Family Foundation, SkillPointe Foundation Invite Applications for the Workforce Development Scholarship. The [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation](#), the Donohue Family Foundation, and the [SkillPointe Foundation](#) are accepting applications for the Donohue Family SkillPointe Scholarship program. The program is designed to assist individuals of all backgrounds pursue vocational training in industries such as construction, communications, energy, health care, manufacturing, public service, technology, and transportation. A total of fifty scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded during 2022 and 2023. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 31.**

Kessler Foundation Invites Applications for its Community Employment Grants. The Kessler Foundation is accepting applications for its Community Employment Grants program, which will award grants of up to \$40,000 to enable New Jersey organizations to support, train, and place people with disabilities in competitive-integrated employment. The grants will support a wide array of programs including transition-to-work for youth and adults, employment-related transportation solutions, vocational training, workplace preparation, and strategies to support recruitment, hiring, placement, and retention. Eligible applicants must serve New Jersey residents and be recognized as a tax-exempt entity according to the Internal Revenue Code. Applicants may include nonprofit agencies, public or private schools, and public institutions, such as universities and governmental entities (state, local, federal) based in the United States or any of its territories. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 8.**

HHS Invites Applications for its Drug-Free Communities Support Program. The Center for Disease Control within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is accepting applications for its Drug-Free Communities Support Program. The program is designed to establish and strengthen collaboration to support the efforts of community coalitions working to prevent youth substance use. Eligible applicants are community-based coalitions addressing youth substance use that have not yet previously received a DFC grant. Grant number: [CDC-RFA-CE22-2205](#). **Deadline: April 11.**

Funding & Other Opportunities *(continued)*

HHS Invites Applications for its Drug-Free Communities Support Program – Competing

Continuation. The Center for Disease Control within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is accepting applications for its Drug-Free Communities Support Program – Competing Continuation. The program is designed to establish and strengthen collaboration to support the efforts of community coalitions working to prevent youth substance use. Eligible applicants are community-based coalitions addressing youth substance use that have previously received a DFC grant but have experienced a lapse in funding or have concluded the first five-year funding cycle and are applying for a second five-year funding cycle (Year 6). Grant number: [CDC-RFA-CE20-2004CC22](#). **Deadline: April 11.**

Resources

Addressing the Needs of Youth with Disabilities and Other Intersecting Identities: State

Strategies for Program Implementation. This [brief](#) released by CAPE-Youth discusses how states can implement workforce programs to meet the unique needs and leverage the unique strengths of youth and young adults with disabilities who have other intersecting identities (e.g., who belong to a racial minority group or involvement with the justice system). This brief includes policy considerations like adapting existing programs and creating new ones, coordinating with community organizations to enhance services, and developing more culturally responsive workforce staff through targeted hiring and training.

Measuring Access to Individual Placement Support and Employment Outcomes for Historically

Underserved Groups. This [issue brief](#) released by the Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment initiative reviews the research on providing Individual Placement Support for historically underserved groups and suggests a standardized template for states to track race and ethnicity in IPS programs.

Improving Mental Health Service Delivery: Focus on Coordinated Specialty Care for Youth with First Episode Psychosis Using Resources Available through the Workforce Development System and American Rescue Plan.

This brief released by the Office of Disability Employment Policy published discusses the importance of early intervention in mental health service delivery for youth experiencing their first episode psychosis through Coordinated Specialty Care. It describes how elements of CSC service delivery, including supported employment and education, can be funded using traditional and less traditional funding sources, including through the workforce development system. It also outlines the significant investments in mental health and substance use service delivery and related infrastructure by the Biden-Harris Administration.

Resources

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National Service Reports. These [reports](#) released by AmeriCorps detail dollars invested and number of AmeriCorps members serving in each state and demonstrate the scope of AmeriCorps' presence throughout the nation with programs in more than 40,000 locations.

Barred from Employment: More Than Half of Unemployed Men in Their 30s Had a Criminal History of Arrest. This [study](#) published in the journal Science Advances suggest that employment services should focus more on the special challenges facing the unemployed who have criminal history records. The study examined the involvement of men with the criminal justice system through 2017. For the study, being unemployed was defined as being without a job for four weeks or more during the past year. Researchers examined arrests, convictions (including guilty pleas), and incarceration that occurred after age 18, excluding traffic-related offenses. The study found that men between the ages of 30–38 who were unemployed in 2017 had substantial levels of involvement with the criminal justice system. The majority had been arrested at least once, almost 40% had been convicted at least once, and more than 20% had been incarcerated at least once. The results were very similar when researchers included recently discouraged workers and those who were working fewer hours than they wanted.

Digest of Education Statistics 2020. This [resource](#) released by the National Center for Educational Statistics provides new and historical data on all aspects of education. It is a comprehensive statistical reference for all levels of education in the United States. Topics include educational attainment, finances, federal funds for education, libraries, and international comparisons. The Digest also includes data on the number of schools, colleges, teachers, students, and graduates.

Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic on Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Education in the United States (Preliminary Data): Results from the 2020-21 National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS). This [report](#) released by the National Center for Educational Statistics examines the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on elementary and secondary education in the United States in the 2019-20 school year, by selected school, principal, and teacher characteristics.

Resources

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Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On March 2nd, the Employment and Training Administration will host a webinar entitled: **Digital Inclusion: Targeted Strategies for Reaching Underserved Populations**. During the webinar participants will hear about ongoing challenges, lessons learned, and successes of Oregon's pilot for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) participants, who are also part of underserved communities, to provide computer hardware, internet access, and training to help ensure successful and sustainable reemployment. To register for the webinar, visit:

<https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2022/02/08/13/41/Digital-Inclusion-Targeted-Strategies-for-Reaching-Underserved-Populations>.

On March 8th, the National Youth Employment Coalition will host its third monthly **"Ask Away!"** Q&A session with the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Division of Youth Services (DYS). During the session the DYS team will answer questions participants may have on policy, performance metrics, eligibility, waivers, and more. To register for the session, visit:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcuqqpzkpHdZ133hF1noluKnMFfJN0NNd>.

Past Webinars/Webcasts

On February 15th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Career Assessment Toolkit**. During the webinar participants learned about each career assessment tool and how they can be leveraged with customers to explore career options and paths to employment. To listen to an archive of the webinar, visit:

<https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2022/01/04/18/26/Career-Assessment-Toolkit>.

Upcoming Events

March 10-22. The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics' [2022 Annual Disability Statistics Conference and State-of-Science Conference on Disability Statistics](#).

April 2022. National Reentry Resource Center [Second Chance Month](#)

April 20-22. Minneapolis, MN. [National Youth Leadership Conference's 33rd Annual National Service-Learning Conference!](#)



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We welcome your input.

Please let us know how these newsletters might be improved to better serve your needs. If you have comments, contact the Employment and Training Administration's Division of Youth Services at **(202) 693-3030** or e-mail: youth.services@dol.gov.

The Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) does not take responsibility for non-endorsed DOL/ETA resources included in the newsletter.