

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 Career Pathways Evidence Coffee Break Video Series. The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL's) Chief Evaluation Office, in partnership with the Employment and Training Administration has developed a series of four short videos highlighting key findings from the recently released [Career Pathways Descriptive and Analytical Project](#). Individuals who design and implement career pathways programs, work at a community college, or are a prospective career pathway grantee or business leader, this video series will provide helpful information about the research and evidence behind career pathways. To view the recently released videos, visit: <https://careerpathways.workforcegps.org/resources/2022/03/24/12/42/Career-Pathways-Descriptive-and-Analytical-Project>.

DOL Awards Nearly \$2 Million in Grants to Help Low Wage-Earning Women Access Employment Rights, Benefits. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of nearly \$2 million in grant funding to support efforts by six non-profit organizations to help low wage-earning women understand and exercise their employment rights and benefits. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20220929>.

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)

READOUT: Assistant Secretary Taryn Williams Applauds Efforts of US Conference of Mayors to Support Workers' Mental Health. At a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the U.S. Department of Labor's Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy Taryn Williams applauded the launch of the Mental Health and Employment Working Group as it seeks to identify policies, plans and practices to address and support workers' mental health needs in the nation's cities. In opening remarks at the conference's Executive Leadership Meeting in Miami, Williams praised the collaboration between the department's State Exchange on Employment and Disability and the conference that led to the working group's development. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit:
<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ODEP/ODEP20220916>.

Department of Education Announces Awards Totaling Nearly \$1 Billion to Provide Students with Safe and Supportive Learning Opportunities Critical to Their Success. The Department of Education announced awards totaling nearly \$1 billion through the **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)**. The Stronger Connections grants will help schools provide all students with safe and supportive learning opportunities and environments that are critical for their success. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit:
<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-awards-nearly-1-billion-56-states-and-territories-provide-students-safer-and-healthier-learning-environments-1>.

Survey for Youth-Serving Frontline Workers. The American Institutes for Research (AIR) has launched the [Power of Us Workforce Survey](https://www.powerofussurvey.org), a national survey designed to reach workers in youth-serving fields across sectors and geographies. Through the Power of Us Workforce Survey, youth-serving staff and volunteers can contribute to a national effort to explore, define, and elevate youth fields workforce and their essential work with youth. If we know more, we can do more to support the youth fields workforce to thrive. Take the survey today!
www.powerofussurvey.org.

The Corporation for National and Community Service Seeks Comments for its Data Collection Instruments. The Corporation for National and Community Service (operating as AmeriCorps) published a request in the [September 16 FEDERAL REGISTER](https://www.federalregister.gov). The purpose of this information collection is to finalize collecting data for the previously approved National Civilian Conservation Corps (NCCC) impact studies. The studies assess the performance and impact of NCCC programs on members and communities served by the program. AmeriCorps also seeks to continue using the currently approved information collection until the revised information collection is approved by OMB. The currently approved information collection is due to expire on 12/31/2022. **Comments due by November 15.**

Headlines

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HHS Seeks Comments on New Data Collection Proposal for its Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Education Grant Program. The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in collaboration with the Office on Trafficking in Persons published a request in the [September 28 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The purpose of this information collection is to propose a new data collection activity for the Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Education (HTYPE) Demonstration Grant Program Process Evaluation. The process evaluation will explore whether the program is being implemented as intended, describe the successes and barriers that have been encountered, and highlight the changes that may be needed to support program implementation. **Comments due by November 28.**

Fifth Third Foundation and National Urban League Mark Workforce Development Month, Celebrate Success of Workforce Development Program. The Fifth Third Foundation and the National Urban League are commemorating September's Workforce Development Month by announcing results from the first year of a collaborative workforce development program that provides career advancement opportunities through upskilling and re-skilling services to under-employed participants. The \$1 million investment from the Fifth Third Foundation has helped individuals across eight selected affiliate Urban League organizations gain meaningful employment and earn a livable wage. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: <https://www.53.com/content/fifth-third/en/media-center/press-releases/2022/press-release-2022-09-28.html>.

Google.org Widens Kids' Access to Computer Science Education by Awarding \$5 Million to National 4-H Council. National 4-H Council announced a \$5 million grant from Google.org, Google's philanthropic arm, to expand computer science skills and education to underserved youth across the country. This grant will continue to build upon Google.org's support of computer science in 4-H that has [reached 1.4 million students](#) since 2017. With this funding, 4-H will increase the reach of the [Computer Science Career Pathways program](#) for students from rural and under-resourced communities who have had minimal computer science education. The new grant will help teach young people through Cooperative Extension's in-person 4-H programs and online resources. These resources will provide access to computer science education to youth nationwide, including 6 million 4-H'ers and more than 3,500 educators across the 4-H system anytime and anywhere. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/googleorg-computer-science-education-5-million-national-4-h-council>.

Headlines

(continued)

Catalyze Challenge Awards over \$5 Million to Innovative and Equitable Solutions that Bridge the Gap between Classroom and Career. In an effort to spark innovation in education and connect young learners to meaningful economic opportunities, the [Catalyze Challenge](#) has announced 25 new grant winners today, each to receive up to \$500,000 in funds. Winners were selected from a pool of roughly 550 total applicants, based on the strength of their solutions to better connect education and career in their communities, and their commitment to driving equity through models rooted in career-connected learning. Grantees represent a range of nonprofits, community organizations, entrepreneurs, employers, and cross-sector partnerships. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/catalyze-challenge-awards-over-5-million-to-innovative-and-equitable-solutions-that-bridge-the-gap-between-classroom-and-career-301623100.html>.

Featured Programs

Business Wire, a Berkshire Hathaway Company Article - Teens Can Earn While They Learn Thanks to WIOA Programs in Their High Schools

More than 8,000 Learn4Life students benefit from the schools' Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act partnerships

When students are given the opportunity to learn something they can apply in real life, they are more engaged in school and perform better academically. This is one reason why [Learn4Life](#), a network of 85+ public high schools, integrates Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) partnerships into its learning model. This allows students to prepare for jobs by developing professional skills, land paid internships and earn high school credits while achieving industry-recognized certificate. Established in 2014, WIOA is a work-training program that helps eligible students learn new skills for tomorrow's workforce. Learn4Life has more than 8,000 students who receive universal workforce development services from 40+ WIOA partners across California.

Aaliyah M., a Learn4Life student in San Diego just completed a 20-week paid internship with WIOA partner [Access Inc.](#), training as a brand ambassador spreading the word about various programs at local community events. She and fellow students are learning principals of direct marketing, speaking and presentation skills, and visual communication cues. Teachers create assignments in which the students demonstrate their understanding of the marketing and communications principals they've put into practice during the internship.

Sacramento student Isaías T. had participated in job readiness programs at his Learn4Life school in the past and was eager to join a WIOA program to be trained in high-earning, in-demand construction-related jobs. Through the North State Building Industry Foundation, Learn4Life students receive hands-on experience while working toward an OSHA-10 Construction Safety certification, which is necessary for any job on a construction site.

The program is completely free to students, and WIOA provides training, tutoring, mentorship, leadership development, wraparound services and more. To view the full article, visit:

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20220920005417/en/Teens-Can-Earn-While-They-Learn-Thanks-to-WIOA-Programs-in-Their-High-Schools>.

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 Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth. The Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) published a request in the [August 8 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). ED is accepting applications for its FY 2022 Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3) and offers opportunities for prospective applicants to obtain optional technical assistance from the Agencies prior to applying. The FY 2022 P3 authority enables pilot sites to blend FY 2022 Federal funds and obtain waivers of program requirements, including statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements that are barriers to achieving improved outcomes for youth-serving programs included in the authority. Under P3, pilots can test innovative strategies to achieve significant improvements in educational, employment, and other key outcomes for disconnected youth using the flexibility provided by P3. **Deadline: October 7.**

Kids Gardening Invites Applications for its Budding Botanist Grant. Kids Gardening is accepting applications for its Budding Botanist Grant. 20 high schools in the U.S. will receive \$1,000 grants to support the development of new and expansion of existing gardens that teach students about environmental sustainability and the importance of biodiversity. [read more...](#) **Deadline: October 14.**

Coalition for Service-Learning Looking for Youth Champions. The Coalition for Service-Learning is seeking young people ages 14-24 to share their service-learning experiences and help shape the national agenda as we advocate for increased federal funding for service-learning programs. [read more...](#) **Deadline: October 16.**

FNDI Invites Applications for its Native Agriculture and Food Systems Scholarships. The [First Nations Development Institute](#) (FNDI) is accepting applications for its Native Agriculture and Food Systems Scholarships, which seek to encourage more Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian college students to enter agriculture and food systems fields to better assist their communities with their food systems efforts. Through the program, First Nations will award 20 to 25 scholarships totaling \$1,000 to \$1,500 for the 2022-23 academic school year to Native college students majoring in agriculture and agriculture-related fields. Eligible applicants must be full-time undergraduate or graduate students majoring in an agricultural-related field or be able to demonstrate how their degree program relates to Native food systems; be tribally affiliated and able to provide documentation; have at least a 2.75 GPA; and must demonstrate a commitment to helping their community reclaim local food-system control. [read more...](#) **Deadline: October 18.**

Prudential Invites Applications for its Emerging Visionaries Program. Prudential is accepting applications from young people ages 14-18 who bring powerful vision and real change to societal challenges. Awardees qualify for up to \$15,000, an all-expenses-paid trip to Prudential HQ, and coaching and skills development. [read more...](#) **Deadline: November 3.**

Funding & Other Opportunities *(continued)*

ED Announces Funding Opportunity under the CESC Program. The Office of Postsecondary within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) published a request in the [September 22 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). ED is accepting applications for its Center of Excellence in Spatial Computing (CESC) Program. The program is designed to help increase the number of highly qualified Americans available for hire within the high-tech labor pool. A consortium of public and private nonprofit IHEs that includes at least one Historically Black College or University (HBCU), Tribally Controlled College and University (TCCU), or other Minority-Serving Institution is eligible to apply. **Deadline: November 7.**

NSF Invites Applications for its Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) Program. The National Science Foundation (NSF) is accepting applications for its Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) Program. The program seeks proposals that center equity and belonging, and further the well-being of individuals and communities who have historically been and continue to be excluded, under-served, or underrepresented, due to gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability status, neurodiversity, geographic location, and economic status, among others, as well as their intersections. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 11, 2023.**

Resources

Identifying Gaps in Youth Employment Programs' Capacity to Address Youth Mental Health Needs-National Survey. This [report](#) released by the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) Identifies Gaps in Youth Employment Programs' Capacity to Address Youth Mental Health Needs. It also identifies the many challenges practitioners face on micro and macro levels, insights into what young people are experiencing, and the types of interventions and support that are needed.

Advancing Digital Equity for All: Community-based Recommendations for Developing Effective Digital Equity Plans to Close the Digital Divide and Enable Technology-Empowered Learning. This [resource](#) provides recommendations for equitable broadband adoption to support leaders crafting digital equity plans, an aspiration that became an emergency for many schools and families during the pandemic. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed earlier this year supports that goal, allocating \$2.75 billion under the Digital Equity Act to ensure that all people and communities can reap the full benefits of the digital economy.

Resources

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Workforce and Labor Policy: Resources for Congressional Staff. This [report](#) published by the Congressional Research Service focuses primarily on major workforce and labor programs, including those supporting the federal government's role in labor standards (e.g., minimum wage rates, overtime pay), workforce development and employment services, worker safety and health, income support for workers (e.g., unemployment insurance, pension benefits), labor relations, and labor unions. The report also includes information on the federal government's role in the enforcement of worker discrimination protections.

Outcomes for Students with Alternative High School Credentials. This [Statistics in Brief](#) released by the National Center for Education Statistics uses data from the High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSL:09), a national study of more than 23,000 ninth-graders in 2009. Students were surveyed in high school and again in 2016.

OECD Child Well-being Dashboard. This [tool](#) released by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is for policy makers and the public to monitor countries' efforts to promote child well-being. Built using a selection of headline indicators from the OECD Child Well-being Data Portal, the dashboard contains 20 key internationally comparable indicators on children's well-being outcomes, plus a range of additional context indicators on important drivers of child well-being and child-relevant public policies.

2022 Kids Count Data Book: 2022 State Trends in Child Well-Being. This [data book](#) released by Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT describes how children in America are in the midst of a mental health crisis, struggling with anxiety and depression at unprecedented levels.

Baccalaureate and Beyond (B&B:16/20): A First Look at the 2020 Experiences of 2015–16 College Graduates During the COVID-19 Pandemic. This [report](#) released by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) presents the experiences of 2015–16 bachelor's degree earners during the COVID-19 pandemic, 4 years after graduation. Tables in the report include information on professional and personal experiences, federal student loan repayment, employment status and characteristics, changes to work arrangements, and unemployment compensation.

Lessons From a Historic Decline in Child Poverty. This [report](#) released by Child Trends finds that the social safety net was responsible for much of the historic 59% decline in child poverty over the last 25 years. The report examines three potential drivers of the decline in child poverty — economic factors, demographic shifts, and social safety net programs— to determine the likely causes of this drop. The study's release comes as officials wrestle to safeguard children from the economic aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and create opportunities for longer-term economic mobility.

Resources

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FYSB Announces New Podcast Series. The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) recently released a new podcast series [Elevate Youth Programming](https://teenpregnancy.acf.hhs.gov/content/elevate-youth-programming-podcast), which was developed specifically for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention programs and other youth-serving organizations. Each episode of the podcast features experts discussing best practices, tips, and strategies to strengthen programming. The first season has four episodes. To listen to an archive of the podcast, visit: <https://teenpregnancy.acf.hhs.gov/content/elevate-youth-programming-podcast>.

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

October 13th the Department of Labor will host a webinar entitled: **DOL's Career Pathways Evidence Coffee Break: Video Screening and Q&A with Researchers**. This webinar will highlight key findings from the recently released Career Pathways Descriptive and Analytical Project. Attendees will screen a series of four short videos from our Evidence Coffee Break series, where researchers from Abt Associates share actionable information for practitioners thinking about designing or improving career pathways programs and hold a live question and answer session with the study team. To register for the webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2022/08/16/15/00/DOL-s-Career-Pathways-Evidence-Coffee-Break-Video-Screening-and-QA-with-Researchers>.

On November 9th Abt Associates will host a webinar entitled: **Promoting Equitable Access to Good Jobs through Career Pathways**. During the webinar Abt Associates will share the results of multiple national research and evaluation projects that illuminate specific strategies career pathways and related workforce programs can utilize to improve all participants' opportunity to access good jobs. Guest presenters who are implementing many of these strategies will share key features of their programs as well as practical ideas and advice. To register for the webinar, visit: <https://www.abtassociates.com/insights/events/promoting-equitable-access-to-good-jobs-through-career-pathways>.

Resources

(continued)

Past Webinars/Webcasts

On September 20th the National Wraparound Initiative (NWI) hosted a webinar entitled: **No More Garbage In Garbage Out: How to Get Good Survey Response Rates So You Can Make the Most of Your Wraparound Data.** This webinar reviewed best practices in data collection using surveys such as the WFI-EZ, and review research on the relationships among system factors, Wraparound provider organization conditions, Wraparound fidelity, and youth and family outcomes as well as instruments that provide data for all these variables. Presenters shared best practices for obtaining high WFI-EZ response rates and describe ways that WrapStat, and other measures of the Wraparound Fidelity Assessment System (WFAS), can facilitate data collection best practices and high response rates. General lessons about factors that influence the implementation process, Q&A, and dialogue among presenters and participants will conclude this session. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://nwi.pdx.edu/previous-nwi-webinars/>.

On September 14th, the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) hosted a webinar entitled: **Using WIOA Title II Funding to Support Family Literacy Programming.** During the webinar presenters discussed how Family literacy is a critical inter-generational strategy to help adult learners and their children build literacy and language skills. Its importance has been accentuated throughout the pandemic as students who are parents or caregivers dealt with the challenges of remote instruction. Additionally, presenters also examined how states are using their WIOA Title-II funding and other resources for family literacy programming. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDKXIndlvol>.

On September 13th, the Rockefeller Institute of Government hosted a podcast entitled: **The Numbers Behind Student Debt Relief.** The Biden Administration recently announced a student loan debt relief plan offering up to \$20,000 in debt forgiveness for certain borrowers. The announcement also contained details about a new income-driven repayment plan that will reduce monthly payments for lower and middle-income borrowers. On this episode of Policy Outsider, Brian Backstrom, director of education policy studies at the Institute, joins guest host Joel Tirado to discuss the details of this relief plan and the interesting challenge of calculating the size of its benefits. To view an archive of the podcast and transcript, visit: <https://rockinst.org/issue-area/ep-55-the-numbers-behind-student-debt-relief/>.

Upcoming Events

October 3-7. [National Voter Education Week.](#)

October 6-9. The Center for Law and Social Policy's [New Deal for Youth: If Not Us, Then Who?](#)

October 20. Afterschool Alliance [23rd Annual Lights On Afterschool!](#)

November 3-5. Oklahoma City, OK. National Federation of Families' 2022 Conference, [Families Can't Wait: Providing Essential Support for Today's Challenges and Tomorrow's Wellness.](#)

November 10. National Youth Leadership Council [International Service-Learning Forum.](#)

November 14-16. Charlotte, NC. National Association of Workforce Development Professionals [2022 Youth Development Symposium.](#)

November 14-20. U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) 8th Annual [National Apprenticeship Week.](#)

April 2-5, 2023. Reno, Nevada. National Indian Child Welfare Association's [41st Annual Protecting Our Children Conference.](#)



To subscribe or unsubscribe to the Youth Resource Connections Newsletter, visit: http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services and click the "Subscribe to E-mail Updates" button.

We welcome your input.

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

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