

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 \$15M Funding Availability to Help Youth, Young Adults Prepare for College, Career Success. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of \$15 million in grant funding to support programs that help youth – particularly those in rural areas, people of color and people with disabilities – to overcome obstacles to educational and workforce success with training and career guidance. Administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration, [Workforce Pathways For Youth](#) grants will support connections between out-of-school time organizations and state and local workforce partners to deliver career-focused programs to equip teens and young adults with the skills they need to succeed in college or in the workforce. The department will award \$15 million in eight grants in varied amounts of up to \$2 million each. Projects serving young people in marginalized communities will be given priority. To view the press release, click [here](#). The funding announcement is available at: Grant No. [FOA-ETA-23-06](#). To view the prospective applicant webcast, click [here](#). **Deadline: May 19.**

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)

DOL Posts Blog and Announces New Community: Yes, WIOA Can!...Unleash the Full Power of the Nation's Workforce Development System. The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Acting Assistant Secretary Brent Parton discusses the Yes, WIOA Can! Initiative, designed to provide a clear message that reflects a broader strategy that the DOL is using to pursue bold and innovative actions to strengthen the workforce infrastructure, while centering equity in everything we do. The blog also noted the launched of a [Yes, WIOA Can!](#) online community to explain how the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act can be used to further innovation, equity, and job quality. To view the full blog, click [here](#).

ETA Issues TEGL 09-22 – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I Youth Formula Program Guidance. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 09-22. The TEGL provides guidance and planning information to states, local workforce areas, and other recipients of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I youth formula funds on the activities associated with the implementation of WIOA. To read the TEGL, click [here](#).

Secretary Walsh Unveils Strategy to Expand Access for All Young People to Pathways Toward High-Quality Careers. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh convened the "[Youth Employment Works Summit](#)" at U.S. Department of Labor headquarters on March 9, 2023, to unveil the department's strategy for building a workforce in which all young people can prepare for opportunities for high-quality careers. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves; public and private stakeholders in government, business, labor, non-profits, and trade groups; and more than 150 youth employment experts and young people joined the Secretary to discuss how they can organize to deliver upon the strategy's goals. As part of the [Youth Employment Works strategy](#), the department issued a national [Call to Action](#) inviting stakeholders and partners in the field to participate in advancing this effort. To view the press release, click [here](#).

DOL Selects Nine Communities, Partners to Expand, Improve Workforce Opportunities for All Young People. To expand opportunities for youth workers across the nation and improve their employment outcomes, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has selected nine communities and their associated partners in its Youth Systems Building Academy. The nine chosen "communities" held their first in-person session from March 7-9, 2023, and will collaborate online before the academy convenes again in the summer of 2023. Administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration, the [Youth Systems Building Academy was established in December 2022](#) to provide training and technical assistance to workforce systems and their community partners to help them explore, design, test, implement or expand approaches to attract young workers and support them once they join the workforce. The academy seeks to strengthen local organizations' ability to serve young people between 16 to 24 years of age who are disconnected from school and the workforce, and those in marginalized and underrepresented communities. The initiative aligns with the Youth Employment Works strategy mentioned above. To view the press release, click [here](#).

Headlines

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DOL Announces \$48M in Funding Available to Support Pre-Release Job Training, Services for Incarcerated People. With meaningful employment secured, formerly incarcerated people can fully integrate into their communities more successfully and avoid relapse. To help remove barriers to employment the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the [availability of \\$48 million in funding](#) to provide training and employment services to incarcerated individuals before their release from state correctional facilities, or county or local jails. The department's [Employee and Training Administration](#) will award up to 15 grant projects – each ranging from \$1 million to \$4 million – to provide returning citizens with legal assistance, counseling, job search strategies and other foundational skills prior to release and to provide apprenticeships, occupational training that leads to industry-recognized credentials and supportive services once they return to their communities. To obtain additional information, click [here](#).

ODEP Posts Blog: Data Spotlight: Employment of Women with Disabilities in Skilled Trade Professions. As part of its Women's History Month observance, the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) published a blog which analyzes data on the employment of women with disabilities in skilled trade professions, which are a key component of the Biden Administration's [Good Jobs Initiative](#). Among the key findings is that among disabled women in the workforce, about 455,000 (10.2%) work in the skilled trades, with the largest representation in transportation and production (47% and 43%, respectively). To view the full blog, click [here](#).

HUD Seeks Comments on its Youth Homeless Systems Improvement Program. The Office of Community Planning and Development within the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development published a request in the [March 20 FEDEARL REGISTER](#). HUD is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget for the information collection of its Youth Homeless Systems Improvement (YHSI) program. The YHSI projects will focus on systems change to create and build capacity for Youth Action Boards; collect and use data from different systems to improve the youth homeless response system; develop strong leaders within a community; and improve the coordination, communication, operation, and administration of homeless assistance projects, including prevention and diversion strategies. **Comments due by May 19.**

Headlines

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Education Department Announces Use of Secret Shopping to Protect Students, Crack Down on Institutions that Lure Students with Lies. The U.S. Department of Education (Department) announced that the Enforcement Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) will use secret shoppers as an additional tool to monitor postsecondary institutions' compliance with the laws and regulations governing their participation in the federal student aid programs. In particular, secret shoppers will evaluate recruitment, enrollment, financial aid, and other practices of postsecondary institutions to help identify potentially deceptive or predatory practices used to recruit and enroll students. To obtain additional information, click [here](#).

HUD Makes \$30 Million in Funding Available for Public Housing Agencies to Help Youth Aging out of Foster Care. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that it will make available \$30 million to public housing authorities (PHAs) on a non-competitive basis through HUD's Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative to provide housing assistance to young adults who are transitioning out of foster care or have already left foster care. Unfortunately transitions out of foster care can be an unstable time and can result in experiences of homelessness. FYI makes Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance available to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs). This funding will help connect youth in foster care with stable housing and strengthen the community response of homelessness. To obtain additional information, click [here](#).

New York Governor Announces \$10 Million Available to Improve Mental Health Services for Youth and Families. Governor Kathy Hochul announced \$10 million in state funding is available to create a pair of statewide networks that youth and families will be able to rely on for behavioral health information, support, and services. Administered by the New York State Office of Mental Health, the funding will help establish two separate networks, including one dedicated to helping youth and another aimed at assisting families. To obtain additional information, click [here](#).

Governor Whitmer Awards \$3 Million to Help Under-Represented Youth Build Brighter Futures in Michigan. Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) announced the recipients of Young Professionals grants totaling \$3 million to provide under-represented young residents with a meaningful introduction to the world of work, including on-site, hybrid and virtual career exploration and preparation activities, jobs skills and earned income. To obtain additional information, click [here](#).

Featured Programs

WIOA Youth Program Highlight and Success Story

A story of acceptance, perseverance, determination, and LOVE

Mandinso "Mandy" was referred to WIOA Youth program by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. Mandy had attempted to engage in college studies, but their health and wellness did not allow them to engage in post-secondary education. This was due to the prospect of remote learning during the height of the pandemic. Mandy's case manager and the Jump on Board for Success (J.O.B.S) program with Washington County Mental Health, which case manages individuals ages 16-22 who live with emotional health concerns but are focused on employment, referred Mandy to WIOA. Mandy had completed a year of stipend volunteering with Outright Vermont as a peer coordinator and Mandy knew they wanted a career in social justice. Mandy's first work experience was with a practiced mentoring employer at the Vermont Granite Museum to learn data entry, office skills, and train in managing the museum's social media accounts. Mandy wrote press releases to advertise and promote grants, community events and seasonal gatherings, updated daily and weekly postings and learned from the museum's director how to draft text that would benefit a wide audience. However, Mandy struggled with wellness and attendance at the museum, so the decision was made to end the experience and focus on health, housing, and personal stability. A restructure plan occurred with J.O.B.S. and Mandy received new case management with their contractor, HireAbility (VT state Vocational Rehabilitation services). This was a more active approach to assist Mandy with supports. Mandy now had a full team to address wellness concerns. Mandy was still struggling with mental health concerns, withdrawing socially and emotionally. WIOA and J.O.B.S job developed a new placement that would focus on Mandy's interest in social justice. Another Way (AW), a community center focused on providing judgement-free services to individuals who need support navigating programmatic structure and engaging in a mentoring work experience was another avenue for Mandy to explore, and which helped build on Mandy's office and organization skill set.

This next step led Mandy to reengaging and establishing better self-care patterns to focus on the work of helping others in training as a Shift Worker. Mandy was trained in Covid protocols for the house, greeted guests and recorded safety information, offered coffee and a warm space to assess the individuals needs for the day. AW offers space for an individual to get dry in bad weather, internet access to research supports, peer support to access mental health and substance abuse counselling and free meals.

Featured Programs

(continued)

Mandy trained as a high school student in culinary but did not want to pursue that career. They were able to engage those skills and took on extra training hours by making breakfast two times a week at Another Way. It was clear early on that Mandy's inclusive nature was a fit for the mission and values of AW. Mandy was able to learn from experienced staff on how to provide support and services to individuals experiencing hard days. During the mid-training review, WIOA offered the OJT process as it was clear that staff did not want to lose Mandy once funding had wrapped. However, during that discussion AW moved to a direct hire to avoid paperwork but also to send a clear message to Mandy of their worth and hire ability.

Although Mandy was successfully employed in social services and really enjoyed the work and had been able to turn their health around by engaging, their housing is still unstable, and AW could not offer more than part time hours. Mandy now works for Pathways, as a telephone operator who provides crisis response. As part of Mandy's ISS, they have engaged with WIOA to explore AmeriCorps as a continued training option. Mandy has explored services in New York City to work with the homeless population and hopes to learn more about social justice and inclusive service program delivery. Mandy moved into a shared living arrangement in a very rural community. They live with an elderly homeowner through the Home Share program. Mandy exchanges socialization and light house duties for very inexpensive living costs. Over the next year Mandy continued to work with WIOA and partners to save and find ways to engage in their long-term goal of living and working in New York City.

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

Southern Poverty Law Center Invites Applications for its Educator Fund. The Southern Poverty Law Center's Learning for Justice (LFJ) is accepting applications for its Educator Fund. The Educator Fund supports educators who embrace and embed social justice, anti-bias and anti-racist principles throughout their classrooms and schools. It will also fund classroom level (\$500 - \$2,500 grants) and school and district level (\$2,500 - \$25,000 grants) for projects focused on restorative discipline, youth civic engagement, or dismantling oppressive narratives. [read more](#). **Deadline: April 14**

Institute for Citizens and Scholars Invites Applications for its Civic Spring Fellowship. The Institute for Citizens and Scholars is accepting applications for its Summer 2023 Civic Spring Fellowship. The Fellowship will accept applications from teams of four to seven young people to strengthen their civic capacities while addressing an identified community need. Teams will receive up to \$14,000—including \$1,800 stipends for Fellows. [read more](#). **Deadline: April 14.**

NEA Foundation Invites Applications for Professional Development Opportunities. The [NEA Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its Learning and Leadership grants. Through the program, grants of between \$1,500 and \$5,000 will be awarded to support NEA members' professional development. Grants will be awarded to individuals to participate in high-quality professional development like summer institutes, conferences, seminars, travel abroad programs, or action research; and groups to fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson plan development, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff. [read more](#). **Deadline: April 27.**

ILF Invites Applications for Efforts to Support Well-Being of Students Outside the Classroom. The [Imagine Learning Foundation](#) (ILF) invites applications for its 2023 funding cycle. The ILF aims to bridge connections between classroom learning and positive learning environments outside the classroom by promoting and expanding access to these programs at home and in the community. The foundation will award up to \$300,000 or more to organizations dedicated to supporting the well-being of students outside the classroom, with anticipated grant awards in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000. [read more](#). **Deadline: April 30.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

NAP invites applications for its Native Youth Grantmakers Program. The [Native Americans in Philanthropy](#) (NAP) invites applications for its [Native Youth Grantmakers](#) program, which is designed for Indigenous youth aged 18 to 24 who are connected to their community (urban, rural, or reservation) and want to grow their leadership skills, advocate for Native youth and youth programs, and learn more about the philanthropic sector. Eligible applicants must be finished with high school; 18 to 24 years old by March 14, 2023; and self-identified Indigenous (Native American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Native Hawaiian). As part of the application process, applicants must provide the name and contact information of their sponsoring Tribe, Tribal college or university, or organization and their chosen mentor. Alternatively, NAP invites Tribes, Tribal colleges and universities, and Native-led organizations to nominate a youth (aged 18 to 24) from their community to participate in Native Youth Grantmakers. [read more](#). **Deadline: April 30.**

William T. Grant Foundation Invites Applications for Research to Reduce Inequality. The [William T. Grant Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its Research Grants on Reducing Inequality program. This program supports research studies that aim to build, test, or increase understanding of programs, policies, or practices to reduce inequality in the academic, social, behavioral, or economic outcomes of young people ages 5 to 25 in the United States, along dimensions of race, ethnicity, economic standing, language minority status, or immigrant origins. Grants of up to \$600,000 for up to three years will be awarded in support of descriptive studies that describe, explore, or explain how programs, practices, or policies reduce inequality; intervention studies that provide causal evidence on the effectiveness of programs or policies for reducing inequality; and measurement development studies that can enhance the work of researchers, practitioners, or policy makers to reduce inequality. Proposals are encouraged from organizations that are under-represented among grantee institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges, and Universities (TCUs), Alaska Native-Serving Institutions, Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions, and Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs). Eligible applicants must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. [Read more](#). **Deadline: Letters of inquiry are due by May 3.**

USDA Invites Applications for its Community Connect Grant Program. The Rural Utilities Service within the U.S. Department of Agriculture published a request in the [March 20 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). USDA announced a funding opportunity under its Community Connect Grant Program. The program will provide financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide service at or above the broadband grant speed to all premises in rural, economically challenged communities where broadband service does not exist. The deployment of broadband services on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis stimulates economic development and provides enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. **Deadline: June 20.**

Resources

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On May 11th, the Employment and Training Administration will host a webinar entitled: **Adding CareerOneStop to Your Workforce Development Toolkit**. During the webinar, attendees will learn about CareerOneStop and how it can be leveraged to help their library patrons with their job search and career exploration needs. Presenters will also cover the main content sections of the site, review several tools, and visit some of CareerOneStop's sites for targeted audiences, including youth and people with a criminal conviction. To register for the webinar click [here](#).

Past Webinars/Webcasts

On March 28th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Co-enrollment Across WIOA Core Programs: Requirements, Promising Practices, and Resources**. This webinar provided a refresher on the requirements, insight on the data, and ideas for improving data collection, and reporting of co-enrollment with WIOA core programs. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

On March 21st, the Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth hosted a webinar entitled: **Navigation and Use of the CAPE-Youth Website**. The webinar highlighted new features of the website and how policymakers and state agencies can use its resources to best serve youth and young adults with disabilities. To view the webinar, click [here](#).

On February 18th, the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the Office of Apprenticeship (OA) hosted a webinar entitled: **Empowering Stories from Black Women in Inclusive Apprenticeships**. The webinar featured apprentices as well as guests from the Partnership on Inclusive Apprenticeship (PIA), an initiative funded by ODEP. PIA's experts shared resources, tools, and ideas to help individuals create inclusive apprenticeship programs that are appealing to apprentices from underrepresented groups. During the webinar, attendees also heard success stories from Black female apprentices (one who is a Veteran and one who has a disability) and learned about the many benefits of apprenticeship. To view the webinar, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

April 2023. U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance [Second Chance Month](#).

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

April 4-7. Indianapolis, Indiana. Join the National Youth Employment Coalition for the [2023 Annual Forum: Transforming Vision into Action](#) in Indianapolis April 4-7! The national conference brings together youth leaders, practitioners, policymakers, and stakeholders interested in advancing the lives of opportunity youth and young adults. Attendees will work together, across geographies and sectors, to empower each other to transform ideas.

April 11-13 & 18-20. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau's [23rd National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect](#).

April 14 - May 14. Youth Service America's [35th Annual Global Youth Service Month 2023](#).

April 16-22. Points of Light's [National Volunteer Week](#).

April 28-30. Youth Service America's [35th Annual Global Youth Service Day 2023](#).

May 1-3. Washington, D.C. National Skills Coalition's [Skills Summit](#).

May 8-10. New Orleans, LA. National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) [39th Annual Conference](#).

May 16-18. Washington, DC. Youth Economic Opportunities' (YEO's) [2023 Global Youth Economic Opportunities \(YEO\) Summit](#).

June 14-15. New Orleans, LA. Jobs for the Future's [Horizons: Without Limits](#) Summit.



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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.