

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

ETA issues TEGL 05-23 - Complying with Nondiscrimination Requirements: Discrimination Based on Actual or Perceived Religion, Shared Ancestry, or Ethnic Characteristics are Prohibited Forms of Discrimination in the Workforce Development System. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 05-23. This guidance provides information to the public workforce system and other entities that receive federal financial assistance under Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), as well as education and training programs or activities receiving Department of Labor (DOL) financial assistance, regarding the prohibition on discrimination based on actual or perceived religion, shared ancestry, or ethnic characteristics. Click here to read the [TEGL](#).

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)

ETA issues TEGL 16-20, Change 1- Updated Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Procedural Guidance. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 16-20, Change 1. This guidance provides updated procedural guidance to state workforce agencies (SWA) on the WOTC certification process. This Change 1 and the materials and forms it discusses supersede the guidance outlined in Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No. 16-20, Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Procedural Guidance (March 31, 2021). Click here to read the [TEGL](#).

DOL Announces \$98 Million in Available Funding to Support Delivery of Academic, Skills Training, Employment Services for Young People. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of \$98 million in funding to support the delivery of pre-apprenticeships in high-demand industries including construction, healthcare, information technology and hospitality. Funded through the department's [YouthBuild Program](#), the grants will help provide educational guidance, occupational skills training and employment services to disadvantaged young people, ages 16 to 24, in communities where barriers to academic and career skills development persist. The program aligns with the historic federal investments in the Biden-Harris administration's [Investing in America agenda](#) to create good jobs. They also support the department's [Youth Employment Works](#) strategy, which seeks to ensure youth find "no wrong door" when accessing employment and supportive services. Click here to view the [press release](#). Grant number: [FOA-ETA-24-36](#). **Deadline: February 1, 2024.**

Acting Secretary of Labor Su, Secretary of Education Cardona, White House Officials Celebrate Youth Apprenticeships at Graduation Ceremony. At Department of Labor's headquarters in Washington today, Acting Secretary Julie Su, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, Domestic Policy Advisor to the President Neera Tanden, Department of Commerce Senior Counselor Zoe Baird, and other public and private sector leaders gathered to kick off [National Apprenticeship Week 2023](#) with a graduation ceremony for students who recently completed apprenticeship programs. The event was one of more than 1,300 events and resolutions planned from Nov. 13 to 19 to highlight the value and importance of Registered Apprenticeships. The learn-as-you-earn model provides youth and others with work-based and experiential learning and creates career pathways to good-paying jobs and equips them for career success. Registered Apprenticeships also offer employers with a talent pipeline of entry-level workers to support their workforce development needs and strengthen their communities' economies. Click here to view the [press release](#).

Headlines

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DOL Kicked Off 9th Annual National Apprenticeship Week. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the start of National Apprenticeship Week, an annual event that includes plans in 2023 for more than 1,300 events and proclamations nationwide, united by the theme, "Registered Apprenticeship: Superhighway to Good Jobs." Through Nov. 19, this year's 9th annual event brought employers, industry associations, labor organizations, community-based organizations, workforce partners, education providers and government leaders together to showcase the importance of Registered Apprenticeship in improving job quality and expanding U.S. workers' access to good-paying jobs in many industries. Click here to view the [press release](#).

DOL Selects 12 States and District of Columbia for National Effort to Expand Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced its selection of 12 states—California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Tennessee — and the District of Columbia to participate as fiscal year 2024 "core states" in its [National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network \(NEON\) initiative](#). As a result, government agencies in these states will receive consulting, capacity building support and ongoing mentoring to increase [competitive integrated employment](#) for individuals with disabilities. Click here to view the [press release](#).

DOL, IPC International Establish National Registered Apprenticeship Program in Electronics Manufacturing Sector. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced that IPC International Inc., a global association of electronics industry manufacturers and suppliers, has established a national Registered Apprenticeship program to develop talent through industry standards and formal certification pathways. The department's partnership with IPC aligns with its continuing effort to build a workforce to connect workers with good-paying jobs created by the CHIPS and Science Act and President Biden's "Investing in America" agenda. The agreement enables IPC to offer paid training and experiential learning opportunities to recruit, train and retrain the skilled workers needed to build critical components used in electronics systems. Click here to view the [press release](#).

Headlines

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HHS Seeks Comments for its Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Demonstration Prevention Plans. The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published a notice in the [November 16 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). This FYSB notice is proposing to collect comprehensive Prevention Plans from grant recipients that have been awarded funding for a new prevention demonstration project to design and implement prevention and intervention services tailored to prevent at-risk youth from experiencing homelessness. FYSB awarded 11 grants in September 2023 and anticipates awarding a second cohort next year. The number of respondents reflects a potential second cohort of grant recipients that would also be required to submit the Prevention Plan. **Comments due: January 16, 2024.**

Mark Your Calendars! Exploring the Future of Public Transportation Research National Online Dialogue Opens Next Week. In partnership with the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) invites participation in an ePolicyWorks national online dialogue titled "Exploring the Future of Public Transportation Research." Launched on Tuesday, November 21, this important virtual conversation aims to enhance policies and practices that will make public transit safer, cleaner, and greener, as well as more resilient, inclusive, and equitable. Through January 5, 2024, FTA and ODEP will seek input on ways to improve public transit for everyone, including individuals with disabilities. To receive dialogue updates, [register with ePolicy Works](#).

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$74.4 Million in Funding Opportunities to Improve Behavioral Health. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced notices of funding opportunities this week for grant programs that address behavioral health challenges in local communities by preventing substance use initiation, reducing the progression of substance use, and addressing other related concerns. The grant opportunities total about \$74.4 million and are part of the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities to beat the overdose epidemic and tackle the mental health crisis – two key pillars of the President's Unity Agenda for the nation. Click here to view the [press release](#).

At White House Tribal Youth Summit, USDA Announces New Resources to Empower Native American Young People. At the 2023 White House Tribal Youth Summit, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offered new resources to inspire Native American youth to explore Indigenous foodways and knowledge and highlight career paths at USDA and beyond. These efforts are part of USDA's commitment to empowering tribal self-determination and bringing Indigenous perspectives into agriculture, food, and nutrition. Click here to obtain additional information and view the [press release](#).

Headlines

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FCC Proposes Creation of Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposed the creation of a Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program that would allow the Commission to obtain valuable data concerning the cybersecurity and advanced firewall services that would best help K-12 schools and libraries address the growing cyber threats and attacks against their broadband networks. The effort is part of Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel's Learn Without Limits initiative to ensure connectivity in schools and libraries so everyone, everywhere has access to high-speed Internet services. Click here to obtain additional information and view the [press release](#).

JPMorgan Chase Announces \$3.5 Million in New Commitments to Scale Apprenticeship Programs. JPMorgan Chase announced new and expanded philanthropic commitments totaling \$3.5 million to support the scaling and development of apprenticeship programs nationwide. These commitments expand on the firm's broader efforts to help more people, particularly those from underserved backgrounds, enter the workforce and compete for quality careers by gaining meaningful work experience and developing crucial skills. Click here to obtain additional information and view the [press release](#).

Michigan Launches \$10M Scholarship Program for Students Seeking High-Demand Jobs. Students and adults seeking a path into in-demand jobs such as health care, information technology, advanced manufacturing, construction and automotive could get a state-funded scholarship of up to \$4,000 over two years to lower costs of their education, officials announced Monday. The new scholarship, known as the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship, will be awarded to high school students, and adults with a high school equivalency completed in 2023 or later from \$10 million in the state's 2023-24 budget. Click here to view the [press release](#).

Featured Programs

Region 2 WIOA Youth Program Highlights and Success Stories

HS enrolled into the WIOA Youth Program as a 22-year-old, high school graduate who aged out of the foster care system. HS completed the Test of Adult Basic Education as part of the enrollment process and was determined not to be basic skills deficient. HS's employment counselor reviewed labor market information with her for Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers as this was her career interest and goal. HS expressed that she wanted to enroll in CDL Class A Training. HS's case manager reviewed the training provider directory, curriculum, and upcoming class schedule with her. Prior to completing an occupational skills training, HS wanted to add introductory training related to administration and customer service to her resume as these skills are transferable among different industries, so her employment counselor provided HS with a LinkedIn Learning account where she successfully completed an administrative learning path, earned a credential, and worked with her employment counselor to revise her resume to reflect her achievements.

HS then enrolled in the CDL Class A Tractor Trailer Driver Training provided by Shippers' Choice of Virginia, Inc. HS informed her employment counselor that she wanted to attend Shippers' Choice because she had already been in contact with the school through her own research, and they provide the hands-on training that she needed to become a great driver. HS was provided with 160 hours of range, road and classroom training and accessed a vehicle to take the DMV test. HS successfully completed the training earned her CDL Class A license. HS's employment counselor helped update her resume to include the training and license that she had obtained. HS recently gained employment at Swift Transportation as a Company Driver. During the 4-week training, she earned a flat rate of \$800 per week. Her contract stated she would earn \$0.55 cents per mile with a \$1k minimum weekly guarantee. She will work 60-70 hours per week. In this position, she qualified for retirement, medical, dental, and vision coverage as part of the benefits plan.

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

CreateConnectCare Announces Call for Creative Expression! CreateConnectCare invites young people, age 11- 18, to raise awareness of mental health issues, promote mental well-being, and help turn the tide against mental health stigma through creative expression activities. [read more...](#) **Deadline: December 15.**

KidsGardening Invites Applications for its 2024 Youth Garden Grants. KidsGardening invites applications for its 2024 Youth Garden Grants program. A total of 50 youth garden programs will be awarded \$500 in funding and a collection of gardening supplies. Organizations must have 15 or more youth participating in its garden program and support, work with, or serve communities with a majority of individuals that are under-resourced (systematically denied resources and opportunities based on race, gender, ethnicity, income level, abilities, geographic location, etc., or currently experiencing hardship such as a natural disaster, etc.). Any organization in the United States or U.S. Territories is eligible to apply. [read more...](#) **Deadline: December 15.**

Chesapeake Bay Trust Invites Proposals for its Environmental Education Grant Program. The [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#) is accepting proposals for its Environmental Education Grant Program. The program funds programs and initiatives that advance environmental literacy and result in students having the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and motivation to take informed and responsible actions to protect and improve the environment. [read more...](#) **Deadline: December 21.**

Classics for Kids Foundation Invites Applications from K-12 Music Programs. The [Classics for Kids Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its matching grant program, which will award grants to schools or nonprofit organizations in support of incorporating string instruments in K-12 music education programs. All instruments in the string family are supported (including guitars and ukuleles). Applicants must have nonprofit status and be based in the United States. [read more...](#) **Deadline: December 31.**

Big Lots Foundation Invites Applications from Programs that Enrich Lives of Families, Children. The [Big Lots Foundation](#) is accepting applications in support of programs in the areas of health care, housing, hunger, and education, especially those serving women and children. Eligible applicants must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and be in communities where Big Lots operates stores (across the United States) or distribution centers (Columbus, Ohio; Tremont, Pennsylvania; Durant, Oklahoma; Montgomery, Alabama; Rancho Cucamonga, California), or has its corporate office (Columbus, Ohio). [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 1, 2024.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

Wildhorse Foundation Invites Applications from Northwestern Tribes. The [Wildhorse Foundation](#) will award grants to eligible government, Tribal and non-profit organizations in the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation homeland. Grants of up to \$30,000 will be awarded to support projects focused on the arts; cultural activities; education; environmental protection; gambling addiction prevention, education, and treatment; historic preservation; public health; public safety; and salmon restoration. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 1, 2024.**

Taco Bell Foundation Invites Applications for Ninth annual Live Más Scholarship. The [Taco Bell Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its ninth annual [Live Más Scholarship](#) (LMS). Up to \$10 million in scholarships will be awarded to ambitious students ages 16 to 26 across the country who are pursuing higher education, preparing for the workforce, or using their passion to ignite change in their communities and beyond. Applicants are required to submit a two-minute video describing their passion, a positive change they want to make in the world, and how education will help them achieve that goal. No grades, essays, or test scores are needed. Previous scholars of the program have gone on to pursue a variety of passions, from the creative arts to social justice to entrepreneurship. This year, more than \$3 million of the funds are specifically reserved for Taco Bell team members. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 3, 2024.**

William T. Grant Foundation Announces Funding Opportunity. The William T. Grant Foundation is accepting applications for its Research Grants on Reducing Inequality. The research grants on reducing inequality fund research studies aims 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 5-25 in the United States. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 10, 2024.**

NEA Announced the Availability of \$ \$1,482,000 to Invest in Shakespeare in American Communities Program. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is accepting applications for its Shakespeare in American Communities (SIAC) program. The program brings professional performances of William Shakespeare's plays and related educational activities to middle and high school students in communities across the United States, including youth in juvenile justice facilities. In 2025, the program will expand its focus to include works inspired by Shakespeare, as well as offer apprenticeships for early and mid-career theater administrators and technicians. NEA funds will support program management expenses as well as subgrants to participating theater companies. Grant number: [NEAPS2402](#). **Deadline: January 18, 2024.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

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HUD Announces Availability of Funding for YHSI Grant. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is accepting applications for its Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) grants. The grants are designed to support selected communities develop and implement systems infrastructure to better address youth homelessness. The grants will focus on systems change to create and build capacity for Youth Action Boards; collect and use data that work with at-risk youth; develop strong leaders within a community; and improve the coordination, communication, operation, and administration of homeless assistance projects to better serve youth, including prevention and diversion strategies. Grant number: [FR-6700-N-96](#). **Deadline: February 15, 2024.**

Borealis Philanthropy Invites Applications for its FTG Rapid Response. The [Borealis Philanthropy Fund for Trans Generations](#) (FTG) provides significant resources to emerging trans-led groups with limited access to national funding streams. The FTG prioritizes funding for organizations addressing health and healing, education, anti-violence, employment, housing, criminalization, leadership development, grassroots organizing, movement building, mutual aid and direct services, and arts and culture. The FTG rapid response fund will provide support for situations that require immediate response and for proactive activities that pursue strategic opportunities. Organizations and fiscally sponsored projects based in trans communities that are facing high levels of harm and who have limited access to foundation support will be prioritized. Grant awards will range from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Eligible organizations or projects must be trans-led, and organizations must be tax-exempt as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or fiscally sponsored. Projects must be based in the United States and U.S. territories. [read more...](#) **Deadline: February 6, 2024.**

FTA Invites Applications for its ICAM Pilot Program. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) within the U.S. Department of Transportation has published a notice in the [November 15 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). This notice invites applications for its Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM) pilot program. This program seeks to improve coordination to enhance access and mobility to vital community services for older adults, people with disabilities, and people of low income. **Deadline: February 13, 2024.**

DOI Invites Applications for Program that Provides Youth Engagement, Education, and Employment. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) within the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is accepting applications for its Public Land Corps Act Youth Corps Program. The purpose of the Fish and Wildlife Service Public Land Corps Act Programs is to provide work and education opportunities for youth (defined as ages 16-30 inclusive, and up to age 35 for veterans) participants in the areas of natural and cultural resource conservation, development, and scientific research. Participants perform work on our nation's public lands by providing additional, unique capacity designed to boost the impact of the FWS for the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the American people. Grant number: [F24AS00129](#). **Deadline: September 1, 2024.**

Resources

Leveraging AmeriCorps Programs as a Workforce Development Strategy in Your Community.

This [toolkit](#) speaks to a workforce development audience and focuses on what AmeriCorps is; how workforce development organizations can leverage AmeriCorps in their organizations to meet their missions (e.g. hosting AmeriCorps members to boost their capacity); and how national service can be an integral part in a community's workforce development strategy and programming.

Final Report: Evaluation of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe/Job ChalleNGe Program. This [report](#) released by Mathematica describes their findings from and presents lessons from experiences of three National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program grantees and participating youth.

Youth At-Risk of Homelessness: An Early Picture of Youth and Services Examining a Coach-like Case Management Program for Youth and Young Adults with Foster Care Histories. This [report](#) released by the Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation and Office of the Administration for Children & Families describes the services offered through Pathways and the comparison hubs, characteristics of the hubs, and baseline characteristics of the youth and young adults who enrolled in the Youth At-Risk of Homelessness grant program study through the first year of enrollment.

Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention for LGBTQIA2S+ Youth: Full Series of Guides.

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center in partnership with NORC at the University of Chicago released a full [series of guides](#) to help professionals, families, and communities support the mental well-being of LGBTQIA2S+ youth. This novel series offers action-oriented strategies for supporting youth and highlights sources of joy and positive elements of being LGBTQIA2S+. In addition to a resource guide and four companion focus guides designed for specific populations, the series includes recommended resources and a glossary of terms. A complimentary [brief webinar](#) is also available and provides an overview of the series.

National Science Foundation Publishes "Report to Nation III – Accelerating Collaborative, Systemic Change to Broaden Participation in STEM. This [report](#) released by the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Eddie Bernice Johnson INCLUDES Initiative discusses how the INCLUDES Initiative will approach measuring systems change. It also includes project spotlights that showcase progress toward broadening participation outcomes for the INCLUDES Initiative. As the INCLUDES National Network continues to grow and strengthen toward its goal of a diverse, inclusive STEM enterprise, the report shares information on new projects and new opportunities to join the INCLUDES National Network.

Resources

(continued)

Financial Well-Being and Wealth-Building for Opportunity Youth – Learning from a Survey of the Opportunity Youth Forum. This [report](#) released by Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions lays out the initial learning agenda for this project. It presents findings from the first year of research drawing primarily on data from a survey of the Opportunity Youth Forum (OYF) network. This survey explored how supports focused on financial stability and financial capability are currently present in OYF communities, challenges to the financial lives of opportunity youth, and opportunities for cross-sector partnerships.

Service As a Pathway to Economic Opportunity: A Roadmap for Governors. This [roadmap](#) released by the National Governor's Association highlights actionable strategies for Governors and state policymakers to meet critical state needs while expanding access to economic opportunity by leveraging service programs as career development opportunities, especially for youth from underserved communities. The roadmap also lays out five key elements with related policy options for Governors to consider as they develop and execute a vision for service-to-career pathways in their states.

Advancing Apprenticeship -- Opportunities for States and Business to Create and Expand. This [publication](#) released by the National Governors Association highlights the significance of Registered Apprenticeship Programs as one of several strategies and opportunities that employers and states can implement and offer to individuals as a viable path toward securing and prospering in a career.

Strategy Brief Healthy Organizations: How Can Youth Peer Support be Funded Through Medicaid? This [brief](#) from Casey Family Programs covers why Medicaid-funded youth peer support is a promising complement to child welfare services, how Medicaid can be used to fund peer support, and what questions can help guide child welfare administrators as they learn more about the possibilities in their own state.

New State Education Practices Release: State-level PK-12 Web Tables. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has released new web tables on the [State Education Practices site](#), a website that provides state-level data—primarily data collected by organizations other than NCES—on elementary and secondary education reform efforts in eight topic areas.

Resources

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Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On December 13th, the Employment and Training Administration will host a webinar entitled: **Unveiling Innovations: U.S. Department of Labor Competency Model Clearinghouse's Latest Tools**. The webinar will explore tools and innovations designed to empower the public workforce system, businesses, non-profits, human resources professionals, and career counselors to identify key competencies needed across industries. Click here to register for the [webinar](#).

On January 18, 2024, the Employment and Training Administration will host a webinar entitled: **CareerOneStop Tools for Youth**. During the webinar attendees will learn about tools and resources to help youth explore career ideas, gain insight into their work values and interests, learn about effective resume writing, job search methods, and more. Click here to register for the [webinar](#).

Upcoming Events

March 4-6, 2024. [2024 NYEC Annual Forum](#).

April 3-6, 2024. Saint Paul, MN. [The National Service-Learning Conference - From Passion to Action](#).

May 5-11, 2024. [Youth Apprenticeship Week](#).



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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.