

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 Invites Applications for its Job Quality Academy. The U. S. Department of Labor (DOL) is launching the **Job Quality Academy**, presenting a unique opportunity to help the workforce system focus on enhancing good jobs and opportunities for workers. DOL has partnered with Jobs for the Future (JFF) and other national partners to design and deliver the Academy. The Academy is a professional development and strategic planning experience, with up to 16 community-representing teams receiving intensive technical assistance towards developing job quality action plans for their communities. Selected community teams will attend two three-day in-person summits in Washington, DC in the spring and summer of 2023. Teams will learn how good job principles can be incorporated into workforce development strategies from experts in the field. With support and technical assistance along the way, Job Quality Academy participants will develop an action plan to put these ideas into practice by the end of the Academy. Momentum continues to build around the importance of defining a good job. Good jobs are the foundation of an equitable economy that lifts workers and families and makes businesses more competitive. To support this notion, DOL is leading the [Good Jobs Initiative](#) and recently released [Training and Employment Guidance Letter \(TEGL\) 07-22, Increasing Employer and Workforce System Customer Access to Good Jobs](#). This work to advance job quality can't be done in silos; we want great partners like you on this journey. Are you ready to learn how you can spur the creation of good jobs in your region? [Apply today](#) and find out more about this opportunity during the upcoming pre-applicant [webinar](#)!

Looking for more information and resources to support your youth program?



Visit the **Youth Connections Community of Practice** for the latest training, promising practices, and technical assistance tools.

Headlines

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DOL Awards \$33M in Grants to Prepare Justice-Involved Youth, Young Adults for Workforce Success. In communities around the country that have historically experienced disinvestment, leading to high rates of poverty and violent crime, young people with arrest or conviction records face difficulties in finding and keeping a good job. To help these youth and young adults, from ages 15 to 24, to succeed in the workforce and in their communities, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of \$33 million in Growth Opportunities grants to programs in 11 states. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20230110>.

DOL Awards \$325K to Provide Education, Training, Supportive Services to Migrant, Seasonal Farmworker Youth, Young Adults. As much as Americans depend upon young migrant and seasonal farmworkers to supply fruits and vegetables to their households, few may realize the difficulties these workers face on farms throughout the nation. To address some of these inequities, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of \$325,000 in grants to three organizations to support the delivery of educational and career training services for youth and young people from 14-to-24 employed in agriculture. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20230118>.

DOL Selects 7 States for Continued Effort to Improve Employment Outcomes for People with Mental Health Conditions. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the selection of seven states to participate in the second round of an initiative that seeks to align state policy and funding to advance [competitive integrated employment](#) for individuals with mental health conditions. Administered by the department's [Office of Disability Employment Policy](#), the Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment initiative provides states with tailored and targeted technical assistance to expand evidence-based practices, such as the Individual Placement and Support model of supported employment. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20221215>.

Headlines

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DOL Seeks Comments on Digital Literacy and Resilience. The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration published a request in the [December 8 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). DOL is requesting information on successful approaches related to digital skills attainment and competency development in education and training efforts, the strategies our education and workforce development systems are employing to assess and ensure individuals are digitally resilient, and any challenges the education and public workforce systems are facing. DOL is also requesting information on strategies to advance digital equity and inclusion in the workforce. **Comments due by February 6.**

DOL Posts Blog: COVID-19 and Employment Trends for People with Disabilities. The U.S. Department of Labor released a blog which examines data showing that the employment-population ratio for people with disabilities fully recovered in August 2021 and has remained above its pre-pandemic level, likely due to greater workplace flexibilities. While this trend is encouraging, significant gaps between the labor force participation and employment remain between people with and without disabilities, the post's authors note, and the department's Office of Disability Employment Policy continues to work to close the gaps through inclusive, equitable employment policies that consider the needs of all workers. To view the full blog, visit: <https://blog.dol.gov/2023/01/03/covid-19-and-employment-trends-for-people-with-disabilities>.

ODEP Announces New Interactive Data Maps. The Office of Disability Employment Policy's (ODEP), Research and Evaluation team within the U.S. Department of Labor recently published two new interactive data maps to help policymakers, employers and others better understand the disability employment landscape in their states and across the U.S. The first, the [Employment-Population Ratio Map](#), illustrates how the employment rate, or employment-population ratio, varies by state and race/ethnicity among working-age adults with disabilities. The second, the [Median Annual Earnings Map](#), shows how median earnings differ by state and sex among currently working adults with disabilities. Both maps are based on American Community Survey data from 2016-2020.

NatEshipWeek! National Entrepreneurship Week (NatEshipWeek) 2023 will take place February 11-18. This annual initiative is designed to support entrepreneurial stakeholders across the United States. National Entrepreneurship Week uplifts entrepreneurship throughout the country and provides valuable resources, information, and education to entrepreneurs everywhere. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.natleshipweek.org/>.

Headlines

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NSF Launches Prize Challenge to Develop Innovative Learning Technologies for K-12 Students.

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) launched a \$6 million prize challenge to develop innovative learning technologies for K-12 students, made possible through a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Schmidt Futures, and the Walton Family Foundation. The three-phase, one-year challenge, known as the Visionary Interdisciplinary Teams Advancing Learning, or VITAL, Prize Challenge, will encourage interdisciplinary teams from the science and engineering research and startup or small-business communities to advance innovative concepts into prototypes for potentially game-changing learning technologies. More details can be found in the [VITAL Dear Colleague Letter](#) or on the [VITAL Prize Challenge webpage](#). The VITAL Prize Challenge portal will begin accepting concept papers in Winter 2023. To receive an email notification about when and how to submit a concept paper, sign up for NSF's [email newsletter for VITAL](#). To view the press release, visit: <https://beta.nsf.gov/news/nsf-launches-prize-challenge-develop-innovative>.

HHS Awards Nearly \$245 Million to Support Youth Mental Health and Help the Health Care Workforce Meet Families' Mental Health Needs.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded nearly \$245 million in Bipartisan Safer Communities Act funding – \$185.7 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and nearly \$60 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) – to support youth mental health, help the health care workforce address mental health needs, and fund other critical mental health supports. Addressing the mental health crisis is a top priority of the Biden-Harris Administration, as part of President Biden's Unity Agenda. The bipartisan legislation signed into law by President Joe Biden in June provided HHS with vital resources to help children and families across the country. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/01/09/hhs-awards-nearly-245-million-support-youth-mental-health-and-help-health-care-workforce-meet-families-mental-health-needs.html>.

ED Announces Award Deadline for Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Programs.

The Federal Student Aid within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) published an announcement in the [January 18 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). ED Secretary announced the 2023–24 award year deadline dates for the submission of requests and documents from postsecondary institutions for the Federal Perkins Loan (Perkins Loan) Program, Federal Work-Study (FWS), and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) programs (collectively, the "Campus-Based programs"). **Deadline dates for each program are specified in the chart in the Deadline Dates section of the notice.**

Headlines

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ED Seeks Comments on “NCES Longitudinal, Cross-Sectional, and International Studies” System of Records. The National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) published a request in the [January 18 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). ED is seeking comments on the modified system of records entitled “National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Longitudinal, Cross-sectional, and International Studies,” formerly known as “National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Longitudinal and Cross-sectional Studies,” (18–13–01). This system is used to fulfill NCES’s legislative mandate to collect, report, analyze, and disseminate statistical data on the condition and progress of education in the United States and other nations at the early childhood, preschool, elementary, secondary, postsecondary, and adult levels, including data on the critical influences, contexts, and transitions of: students in elementary, secondary, postsecondary, and graduate education, and into employment and adult experiences; children at early childhood stage; homeschooled students; the general adult population; and participants in career training. **Comments due: February 17.**

PA Labor & Industry Awards \$2.5 Million to Pennsylvania Programs Developing Student Pathways to Employment. Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Secretary Jennifer Berrier announced **Schools-to-Work Program (STWP)** grant awards totaling more than \$2.5 million, created to develop and expand career pathways for high school students while also helping to eliminate barriers to employment. With this grant funding, 11 registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs will enhance partnerships between schools, employers, organizations, and training centers across the commonwealth to prepare students for employment within targeted industries. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://pennwatch.org/pa-labor-industry-awards-2-5-million-to-programs-developing-student-pathways-to-employment/>.

NLC Invites Applications for its Youth Excel Fellowship. The National League of Cities (NLC) is accepting applications from City leaders for its Youth Excel Fellowship. The Youth Excel Fellowship is designed primarily as a professional development and capacity-building opportunity for early to mid-career city officials with some responsibility over youth, education, and/or workforce development programs and policy. In keeping with Youth Excel’s goals, individuals from underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. Interested cities can learn more about [Youth Excel here](#) and access the [Fellowship application here](#). Additionally, NLC will be hosting an [informational call](#) on February 20th at 1:00pm Eastern for potential applicants to learn more.

Headlines

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Fidelity Investments Launches Invest in My Education (ME)SM Providing Access to Education and Support to Historically Underserved Students. As part of its long-standing commitment to financial education and inclusion, Fidelity Investments announced a \$250 million commitment that will provide access to education and support for up to 50,000 Black, Latinx, and historically underserved students through the launch of its Invest in My Education (ME)SM program. The social impact initiative is the latest step in Fidelity's ongoing commitment to historically underserved communities. In tandem, the firm is continuing to take deliberate steps to strengthen its commitment to diversity and inclusion at every level within its own organization and maintaining its focus on delivering relevant products and services to its increasingly diverse customers. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: <https://newsroom.fidelity.com/pressreleases/fidelity-investments-launches-invest-in-my-education--me---providing-access-to-education-and-support/s/33cef760-be17-4ddb-aedd-858588d6bdbb>.

Gates Foundation CEO Announces Largest-Ever Annual Budget, Explains Foundation's Approach to Fighting Poverty, Disease, and Inequity. In his annual letter Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation CEO Mark Suzman announced the foundation will spend US\$8.3 billion this year to continue its work fighting poverty, disease, and inequity. He also shared examples of how the foundation uses its resources, voice, and convening power to call attention to and help find solutions for problems that otherwise might be neglected. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: [https://www.gatesfoundation.org/ideas/media-center/press-releases/2023/01/gates-foundations-largest-budget-to-fight-poverty-and-disease#:~:text=SEATTLE%2C%20WA%20\(January%2016%2C,pov%20disease%20and%20inequity](https://www.gatesfoundation.org/ideas/media-center/press-releases/2023/01/gates-foundations-largest-budget-to-fight-poverty-and-disease#:~:text=SEATTLE%2C%20WA%20(January%2016%2C,pov%20disease%20and%20inequity).

Featured Programs

Youth Services System, Inc.

Caitlyn dropped out of high school during her junior year and faced additional barriers of being unemployed and homeless.

She enrolled in the Year-Round Youth Program with Youth Services System, Inc. (YSS, Inc.) in August 2020. While there, she was able to gain work experience by participating in the YSS, Inc. Work Experience Program. Caitlyn developed basic employment skills, explored different occupations, developed soft skills, built her resume, and earned money.

Caitlyn also enrolled in Adult Education classes to earn her graduate equivalent diploma and signed up for an apartment through YSS, Inc.'s Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program.

Caitlyn earned her graduate equivalent diploma in December of 2021 and was living in her own apartment by the end of January 2022. In July 2022, she applied for and gained full-time employment at Northwood Health Systems teaching Life Skills.

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

American College Health Foundation Invites Applications for its Mental Health Award.

The [American College Health Foundation](#) in partnership with the Weiss Fund of the American College Health Foundation is accepting applications for its Stephan D. Weiss Student Mental Health Award. The award is intended to encourage student(s) to develop creative initiatives that will enhance mental health service delivery to students through an innovative program that could be replicated at another college or university. The award will provide \$5,000 along with a commitment from the institution of an additional \$5,000 of actual funds or in-kind support for efforts to promote and improve the quality of mental health support for college students. [read more...](#) **Deadline: February 15.**

EPA Invites Applications for its Pollution Prevention Works: A Storytelling Challenge for Students.

The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched this challenge promoting innovation in pollution prevention at industrial and federal facilities. The Challenge invites high school and college students to tell a story with videos, written stories, infographics or story maps that illustrate how U.S. businesses found through EPA's [Toxics Release Inventory \(TRI\) P2 Search Tool](#) are reducing toxic chemical releases through innovative pollution prevention (P2) practices that have a positive impact on the environment and communities. Participants have a chance to win up to \$5,000. [read more...](#) **Deadline: February 17.**

Accesslex Institute Invites Applications for its Diversity Pathway Intervention Grant Program.

The [AccessLex Institute](#) is accepting applications for its Diversity Pathway Intervention Grant Program which provides funding to programs and initiatives aimed at helping college students and/or college graduates from historically underrepresented groups successfully matriculate into law school and the legal profession. The program's central goal is to increase the knowledge base around effective methods for increasing the enrollment and success of law students from historically underrepresented racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Awardees will receive grants between \$200,000 and \$300,000 for up to 24 months. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 1.**

Gulf Coast Community Foundation Invites Applications for its Scholarship Program. The [Gulf Coast Community Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its 2023-24 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 2023-24 academic year. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 3.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

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 28-30). Grants will range from \$100 to \$500. Youth ages 5-25 in the United States (including territories and military bases & DoD schools) and Canada are eligible to apply. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 5.**

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 8.**

FTA Invites Applications for its AoPP Program. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) within the U.S. Department of Transportation published a request in the [January 9 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). FTA announced the opportunity for entities to apply for a total of \$20,041,870 in available funding (\$20,000,000 in funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and \$41,870 for FY 2021) for the Areas of Persistent Poverty Program (AoPP Program). Funds will be awarded competitively for planning, engineering, or the development of technical or financing plans for projects to assist Areas of Persistent Poverty or Historically Disadvantaged Communities. FTA may award additional funding that is made available to the program prior to the announcement or project selections. Eligible applicants include entities that are eligible recipients or subrecipients under [49 U.S.C. 5307](#), [5310](#), or [5311](#) located in Areas of Persistent Poverty or Historically Disadvantaged Communities. **Deadline: March 10.**

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.**

ED Invites Applications for its Special Education Parent Information Centers Program. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) published a request in the [January 12 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). ED is accepting applications for its Special Education Parent Information Centers program which is designed to ensure that parents of children with disabilities receive high-quality, relevant, and useful training and information to help improve outcomes for their children. **Deadline: March 28.**

LfJ Invites Applications for its Educator Fund. Learning for Justice (LfJ) is accepting applications for its Educator fund. The fund is designed to support educators who embrace and embed social justice, anti-bias, and anti-racist principles throughout their classrooms and schools. The program will fund classroom level, school level, and district level projects up to \$25,000. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 14.**

Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes Invites Applications for its 2023 Awards. The [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](#) is accepting applications from outstanding young leaders ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and the environment. Awardees will receive \$10,000 to be applied to their higher education or to their service project. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 15.**

Resources

Collecting and Analyzing Data for the Secondary Program Quality Indicators in the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. This [guide](#) released by the U.S. Department of Education summarizes the input from workgroups to assist state agency administrators and data analysts in strengthening the implementation of the new program quality indicators, refining data collection and analysis procedures, and promoting the use of data in advancing equity in CTE programming.

Apprentices by State. This interactive [map](#) released by Department of Labor provides key statistics on apprentices who began, are currently participating in, and have completed apprenticeships by year and geographic location.

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On February 7th, the Employment and Training Administration will host a webinar entitled: **Yes, WIOA Can! Post, Like, Follow, Share! Using Social Media as an Outreach and Marketing Tool.** This technical assistance (TA) webinar is the second of the Next Level Now (NLN) Collaborative webinar series on Outreach and Marketing using the WorkforceGPS platform. The goal of this webinar is to provide TA to workforce entities on successfully utilizing social media platforms to further outreach and marketing efforts. To register for the session, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2023/01/11/19/49/Outreach-and-Marketing-for-the-Public-Workforce-Development-System-2>.

On February 14th, the National Youth Employment Coalition will host its 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/tZYtfu-qajlpGtwsrZohm0ghKp6NZur8fd_f.

On February 15th, the Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion will host a webinar entitled: **Organization-Wide Accessibility: Everyone Plays a Part.** During the webinar participants will hear from a panel of experts about effective strategies for creating a workplace culture that encourages employees at all levels to embrace a holistic view of accessibility. This approach yields benefits such as increased productivity, improved retention of employees with disabilities and strengthened diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility efforts. To register for the session, visit: <https://askearn.org/event/organization-wide-accessibility>.

Resources

(continued)

Past Webinars/Webcasts

On January 30th the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Yes, WIOA Can! Building Strong Business Partnerships**. This webinar provided information on how the workforce system can engage businesses by providing recruitment and retention strategies that focus on methods which can be used to promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA). To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2023/01/09/18/06/Yes-WIOA-Can-Building-Strong-Business-Partnerships>.

On December 9th, the American Youth Policy Forum hosted a podcast entitled: **Credible Messengers: Lived Experience Is Expertise**. This podcast—led by [Youth Policy Consultants](#)—looks at how well-trained, resourced, supported, and paid credible messengers can serve young people navigating the youth legal system, child welfare system, K-12 schools, or college. To view an archive of the webcast, visit: <https://www.aypf.org/resource/aypf-podcast-on-credible-messengers/>.

Upcoming Events

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

April 4-7. Indianapolis, IN. 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. Register online or email julia.frohlich@nyec.org for any questions.

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