

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 Seeks Comments for YouthBuild Work Site Description and Housing Census. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) with the U.S. Department of Labor has published a notice in the [March 20 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). This notice is soliciting comments concerning a proposed revision for information collection request (ICR) titled, "YouthBuild Work Site Description and Housing Census." ETA is proposing changes to the Annual Housing Census portion of ETA-9143 form that reduces the burden collection. **Comments due: May 20.**

ETA issues TEN 23-23 - Quality Pre-Apprenticeship Programs. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 23-23. This notice describes the scope and characteristics of quality pre-apprenticeship programs. It replaces prior guidance from 2012 and is intended, in part, to ensure that Departmental policies are fully aligned with more recent language from both the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) in Apprenticeship and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) rules. This notice also reinforces ETA's vision for quality pre-apprenticeships and discusses how Registered Apprenticeship programs can integrate quality pre-apprenticeship programs as one strategy in meeting their EEO requirements. To read the TEGL, [click here](#).

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 Unveils New Resource to Increase Competitive Integrated Employment for People with Disabilities. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) introduced new resource aimed at boosting the participation of people with disabilities in competitive integrated employment. The [Competitive Integrated Employment Transformation Hub](#) brings together resources from across the federal government to provide practical guidance, policy information and evidence-based best practices for people with disabilities, their families, employers, employment service providers and state agencies. Competitive integrated employment ensures that people with disabilities are paid competitive wages and work in environments where the majority of employees do not have disabilities. To obtain additional information and view the press release, [click here](#).

DOL Appoints 30 Leaders to Serve on Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship, Share Expertise. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the appointments of 30 members to serve on the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship to advise the Secretary of Labor on issues related to the national apprenticeship system. Through their work on the committee, members will leverage their knowledge and experience to provide advice and recommendations on ways to use the apprenticeship training model to improve equitable access to career pathways for America's workers and jobseekers. To obtain additional information and view the press release, [click here](#).

DOL Posts Blog: Federal Youth Apprenticeship Pathway. The Department of Labor (DOL) released this [blog](#) which announced the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA's) launch of the first ever Federal Youth Apprentice Pathway. This pilot program will provide career training and experience working in the Offices of Apprenticeship, Workforce Investment, and Job Corps with the opportunity for a permanent federal position after completing the three-year program.

ODEP Hosts Online Dialogue: Advancing Disability Inclusion in Very Small Businesses. The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) is hosting this dialogue to help develop resources, tools and actions to address the needs of very small businesses that employ or are owned by people with disabilities, ODEP invites the public to participate in the national online dialogue. To log in, register and submit your ideas and insights on current policies and disability-inclusive practices, or comment and vote on ideas submitted by others [click here](#). **Deadline: May 6.**

Headlines

(continued)

ED Seeks Comments for its Evaluation of Transition Supports for Youth with Disabilities. The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published the [March 29 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). This notice is soliciting comments that addresses the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. **Comment due: June 28.**

Schools Nationwide Receive \$13.5 Million in FAA Grants to Develop the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals. Thirty-two schools will receive \$13.5 million in grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to help attract and train students for careers as pilots and aviation maintenance technicians. Recipients can use the funding to establish new educational programs; provide scholarships or apprenticeships; conduct outreach about careers in the aviation maintenance industry; and support educational opportunities related to aviation maintenance in economically disadvantaged areas. To obtain additional information check out the [FAA website](#).

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Launch of Nearly \$50 Million Initiative to Support Opioid Treatment and Recovery Services in Rural Communities. In support of President Biden's Unity Agenda, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced the launch of nearly \$50 million for HRSA's Rural Opioid Treatment and Recovery Initiative and released the initiative's funding application. Funding will support establishing and expanding comprehensive substance use disorder treatment and recovery services in rural areas, including by increasing access to medications for opioid use disorder, such as buprenorphine. To obtain additional information and view the press release, [click here](#).

Forum for Youth Investment Announces its BEST Youth Initiative. The Forum for Youth Investment in partnership with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), invites applications for its Building Ecosystems Statewide for Thriving (BEST) Youth Initiative this summer. The Initiative is an opportunity for states to create enabling environments for true system alignment that comprehensively and equitably meet the needs of youth and their families. The BEST Youth Initiative is a three-year effort to facilitate state-based, cross-system, cross-sector collaboration to improve outcomes for youth ages 5-24 in up to five states. To obtain additional information, [click here](#). **Deadline: May 3.**

Headlines

(continued)

CSW Posts Blog: Trauma & Resilience Quick Guides – Turning Knowledge into Action. The Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) released this blog which discusses how the interest in trauma and resilience in workforce development has grown in recent years, contributing to an increase in workshops, literature, and online resources. Despite growing awareness and availability of these resources, translating knowledge into action remains a considerable challenge. The blog also discussed how CSW disseminated insights on this topic through the [Trauma & Resilience at Work Quick Guides](#), offering essential knowledge and practical strategies for fostering trauma-informed practices and resilience in the workplace. To view the full blog, [click here](#).

NGA Welcomes 6 States into Youth Mental Health Policy Academy.

Alabama, Hawai'i, Kentucky, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Virginia will participate in the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) Policy Academy to Drive Thriving Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing. The Policy Academy offers participating states a yearlong opportunity designed to support them in advancing holistic efforts to protect and support strong youth mental health and emotional wellbeing across state agencies, including strategies across prevention, awareness, treatment, and community and youth engagement. To obtain additional information [click here](#).

Home Depot Foundation Invests \$1 Million to Train Skilled Tradespeople to Rebuild Communities after Disaster. To further extend its mission of training the next generation of skilled tradespeople, The Home Depot Foundation is granting \$1 million to its veteran-led disaster response partner Team Rubicon to build a new trades training program. Through the "TRades Academy," Team Rubicon will provide its students with on-the-job training in carpentry, electrical, plumbing and HVAC as they rebuild homes in communities impacted by natural disasters. Once trained, graduates will be equipped to work with general contractors and nonprofit organizations, addressing the skilled trades gap in these communities and broadening support after natural disasters. To obtain additional information, [click here](#)

Usher's New Look Embarks on AI-Focused Collaboration with IBM to Set Students up for Career Success. [Usher's New Look](#) (UNL) and IBM announced a collaboration to provide free career readiness training through [IBM SkillsBuild](#). With a focus on [artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#) and professional workplace skills, IBM will provide UNL with training and customized learning plans for student learners. This effort aims to benefit thousands of UNL's young learners nationwide, including high school and college-age youth from communities traditionally underrepresented in technology. To obtain additional information and view the press release, [click here](#).

Featured Resource

WIOA Youth Program Highlights and Success Stories Region 2

YD enrolled into the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program as an 18-year-old, high school graduate in November 2020. She entered the program unemployed (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) with a documented disability. At the time of enrollment, YD was dual enrolled in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Program and had been working towards earning her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification. YD completed an interest assessment at enrollment and scored high in Humanitarian, which aligned with client's interest of securing employment in the healthcare industry. YD and her employment counselor reviewed labor market information (LMI) for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) and Medication Aids and after extensive LMI review, YD determined that a Medication Aide certification would enhance her CNA credential and make her a more competitive candidate with the potential of earning higher wages. Through CARES Act funding, client enrolled in Medication Aid training through the ASTAR Institute. YD successfully completed training in December 2020. She took the board exam and earned the Medication Aid credential in March 2021. Because YD was enrolled in CARES and WIOA, she was able to access additional training opportunities. The WIOA Youth program supported a stackable credential and WIOA funding was utilized to place YD in a second healthcare related training. YD started Medical Billing and Coding training through the Fairfax County Adult and Community Education (ACE) Program in December 2021. YD successfully completed training in June 2022. She passed the State board exam for Medical Billing and Coding in August 2022 and earned the credential. Throughout the client's enrollment in WIOA, YD worked with her employment counselor on leadership development activities to include reviewing LinkedIn Learning modules to support professional development, reviewing post-secondary education opportunities, financial aid options, problem-solving techniques, effective communication techniques (verbal and written), and securing employment (job search engines, access to job fairs, etc.). YD is currently working as a Certified Nursing Aid at Paramount Senior Living, earning \$17/hour (\$35,360 annually).

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

Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes Invites Applications for its 2024 Awards. The [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](#) is accepting applications from 25 outstanding young leaders ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and the environment. Fifteen winners each will receive \$10,000 to support their service work or higher education. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 15.**

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 12.**

ED Invites Applications for its ETechM2 Program. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published a notice in the [March 1 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The notice invites applications for its Educational Technology, Media, and Materials for Individuals with Disabilities (ETechM2) Program. This program is designed to improve results for children with disabilities by (1) promoting the development, demonstration, and use of technology; (2) supporting educational activities designed to be of educational value in the classroom for children with disabilities; (3) providing support for captioning and video description that is appropriate for use in the classroom; and (4) providing accessible educational materials to children with disabilities in a timely manner. **Deadline: April 30.**

DOJ Invites Applications for its Opioid Affected Youth Initiative. The Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is accepting applications for its Fiscal Year 24 Opioid Affected Youth Initiative. The initiative seeks to support the efforts of communities to develop prevention and intervention responses that identify, respond to, treat, and support children, youth, and families impacted by opioid use and other substance use disorders. Grant number: [O-OJJDP-2024-172042](#). **Deadline: April 30.**

HHS Invites Applications for its Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program. The Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is accepting applications for its Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program. The program addresses the need to support training programs that increase the skills and knowledge of peer support specialists and other behavioral health-related paraprofessionals who are prepared to provide support services to families, especially children, whose parents or guardians are impacted by opioid use disorders (OUD) and other substance use disorders (SUD). A focus is placed on supporting children who have experienced trauma or are at risk for mental health disorders. Grant number: [HRSA-24-016](#). **Deadline: May 6.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

KITS Invites Applications for its National Short Screenplay Competition. Kids In The Spotlight (KITS) is accepting applications for its KITS National Short Screenplay Competition (KNSSC). The competition will provide a free 5-week Virtual Screenwriting Course for transitional-age youth impacted by foster care ages 18-24. The virtual course is a safe place for current or former foster youth to explore their creativity, make new friends, and learn marketable writing skills from entertainment professionals who are invested in their futures. [read more...](#) **Deadline: August 6.**

ED Invites Applications for its GEAR UP Program. The Office of Postsecondary Education within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published a notice in the [March 8 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). This notice invites applications for its Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Partnership Grants. The program encourages eligible entities to provide support, and maintain a commitment, to eligible students from low-income backgrounds, including students with disabilities, to assist the students in obtaining a secondary school diploma (or its recognized equivalent) and to prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education. **Deadline: May 7.**

Resources

Solving Challenges Facing Registered Apprenticeship Programs in Rural Areas. This [tool](#) published by the Employment and Training Administration's Office of Apprenticeship provides information that stakeholders can use to 1) identify their unique challenges and 2) develop potential solutions that leverage the strengths of their specific community.

Individual Placement and Support for Individuals Receiving TANF or SNAP Benefits. This [brief](#) released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services profiled the Building Evidence on Employment Strategies Project. The project conducted an evaluation of four Individual Placement and Support (IPS) programs that aim to help people receiving TANF or SNAP gain employment. A short overview of the four programs and the IPS program model was also highlighted.

Resources

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ACF Releases New Resources on Behavioral Health for Young Adults, Families, and Professionals.

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has recently announced an improved [behavioral health webpage](#), a [tip sheet for parents and caregivers](#) (PDF), and a series of short videos about mental health. These videos, which were developed in partnership with [Youth.gov](#) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, feature parents, caregivers, and young adults who share their expertise and personal experiences. We encourage you to watch and share these videos.

Pathfinder Guide and Checklist. This [guide](#) developed by Jobs for the Future and American Student Assistance enables individuals to move from thinking about job opportunities to planning for a thriving career by preparing them for success and empowering them to chart your own unique journey. The Pathfinder Guide and Checklist outlines criteria for evaluating and assessing a quality opportunity or pathway. They are also intended for learners pursuing a postsecondary education and training program, but it can also be used by counselors, teachers, parents, and other decision influencers to help their learners with their career journeys.

Preparing for CTE's Next Era: Celebrations from Advance CTE's 2023 Annual Report. This [report](#) released by Advance Career Technical Education (CTE) highlights that progress and preparation for CTE's Next Era for both our organization and our members.

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

The [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at Virginia Commonwealth University](#) will be launching a Native Outreach webinar series titled, "**Voicing Resiliency: State Vocational Rehabilitation Best Practices with Indigenous Communities.**" The aim of this series is to provide information and guidance on best practices for VR programs that serve indigenous communities. See first webinar below:

On April 3rd, the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at Virginia Commonwealth University hosted its first webinar of its series entitled: **Indigenous Disability History: Overview of Vocational Rehabilitation in Indian Country.** During the webinar speakers Jim Warne and Treva Roanhorse provided insight into the culture surrounding Indigenous Disability and discussed the history of Indigenous Disability services in Indian Country throughout the past and into the present. [Click here](#) to view the archive webinar.

Resources

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On April 9th the Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth) will host a webinar entitled: **State Policies to Improve Mental Health and Employment for Youth with Marginalized Racial Identities**. The webinar will provide an overview of CAPE-Youth's new [mental health policy brief](#). Speakers from the White House Domestic Policy Council and state governments will highlight ways that policymakers can:

Expand culturally responsive mental health care.

Increase access to mental health supports.

Embed mental health programs and supports into workforce systems.

To register for the webinar, [click here](#).

On April 11th, the National Youth Employment Coalition is hosting a workshop entitled: **Empowering Youth for the Future Via Effective Mentorship**. The workshop will provide an innovative approach that combines technical skills and emotional intelligence, focusing on adaptability and resilience—essential in today's ever-changing job market. In addition, attendees will learn 5 tips to engage youth effectively in mentorship programs. Participants will leave with a comprehensive toolkit, including critical thinking, problem-solving, effective communication, and resilience skills, all geared toward preparing young individuals for success in their careers. This workshop equips its audience to guide youth toward fulfilling careers while fostering meaningful mentorship connections. To register for the workshop, [click here](#).

On April 23, the Solar Energy Industries Association will host a webinar entitled: **Powering Success -- Tools for Embedding Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility into Registered Apprenticeship**. During the webinar participants will gain insights into effective strategies for recruiting, hiring, onboarding, retaining, and establishing clear career progression pathways for a diverse apprenticeship workforce, including apprentices from marginalized communities and groups that are under-represented in solar and registered apprenticeship programs. To register for the webinar, [click here](#).

Resources

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Past Webinars/Webcasts

On March 13th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Guidance Overview: Reducing Administrative Barriers to Improve Customer Experience**. During the webinar staff walked through key points of Training and Employment Guidance Letter 10-23 - Reducing Administrative Barriers to Improve Customer Experience in Grant Programs Administered by the Employment and Training Administration. The TEGL directs the public workforce development system to streamline intake and eligibility processes to ensure individuals have full and equitable access to career services and training. The TEGL also provides methods to consider when developing policies, procedures, and practices to ensure career services and training are widely available to those meeting program eligibility requirements. To view an archive of the webinar, [click here](#).

On March 12th, the Employment and Training Administration and Jobs for the Future hosted a webinar entitled: **Job Quality Academy Starter Guide - Part 2**. During the webinar DOL and JFF unveiled "The Job Quality Starter Guide," a resource tailored to aid organizations and coalitions dedicated to advancing job quality. The Guide provides frameworks, tools, and techniques akin to those utilized by participants in the Job Quality Academy. The webinar also featured Academy alumni in a discussion about their experiences, how they applied these tools in their local contexts, and the actions they are currently undertaking. The discussion also focused on worker voice and how the perspectives of workers and jobseekers are incorporated into these communities' planning conversations. To view an archive of the webinar, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events

April 2024. U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs' [Second Chance Month](#).

April 12- May 12. [Global Youth Service Month](#).

April 14. [Good Deeds Day](#).

April 26-28. Youth Service America's [Global Youth Service Day](#).

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

May 13-15. National Skills Coalition's [Skills Summit](#).

July 6-10. University of Connecticut School of Social Work [Innovations Institute](#).

September 9-12. Washington, DC. 2024 Global Youth Economic Opportunities (GYEO) [Summit](#).

September 12-14. Washington, DC. National Youth Employment Coalition' s [Youth Days](#).



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.