

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 10-23 – Reducing Administrative Barriers to Improve Customer Experience in Grant Programs Administered by the Employment and Training Administration. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 10-23. This guidance provides grant recipients direction in developing policies, procedures, and practices that reduce unnecessary administrative barriers to serving customers seeking employment and training services. To read the TEGL, click [here](#).

ETA issues TEGL 19-23 - Planning Estimate for Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Worker Program Allotments for PY 2024. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 19-23. This guidance transmits to states and outlying areas the impact of updated data on WIOA Title I Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Worker program allotments for PY 2024. 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)

ETA issues TEN 21-23 -- Protecting Identifying Information on Grant Notices of Award. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 21-23. This TEN informs grant recipients of the need to protect and prevent important identifying information in the Grant Notice of Award from unauthorized use, including, but not limited to, use of this information to gain unauthorized access to federal systems to conduct fraudulent activities. To read the TEG, [click here](#).

DOL Announces \$52m in Pathway Home Grants to Provide Pre-Release Job Training, Services for Incarcerated Individuals. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of \$52 million in grant funding for organizations that provide reentry services to incarcerated individuals before release from state correctional facilities or county or local jails. By eliminating gaps between release from prison or jail and enrollment in a workforce development program, the funding will help enhance reintegration efforts and reduce recidivism. Click here to view the [press release](#).

DOL Announces \$85m in Available Funding to Improve Job Opportunities for Youth in Communities Affected by Violence, Poverty. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced an \$85 million funding opportunity to support programs that provide skills training through work-based learning, employment services, educational support and mentorship to youth and young adults in communities affected by violence, crime and poverty. Click here to view the [press release](#).

DOL Announces \$20m in Available Funding to Deliver Information Technology Skills, Training, Job Services to Young People. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of \$20 million in funding to provide information technology training and related employment services to Job Corps students. Administered by the department's [Employment and Training Administration](#) – and authorized by the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014](#) – the Job Corps Information Technology Academy will provide students expanded career and technical training, career counseling, supportive services and work-based learning opportunities that lead to careers. Click here to view the [press release](#).

Headlines

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$200m Available in Grants to Expand Registered Apprenticeships. The U.S. Department of Labor announced the availability of nearly \$200 million in grants to continue to support public-private partnerships that expand, diversify, and strengthen Registered Apprenticeship. The funding opportunity includes \$95 million of competitive grants through the second round of the Apprenticeship Building America Grant Program and \$100 million in the second round of State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grants. The announcement is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's fourth Investing in America tour, during which Administration officials are traveling across the country and making new announcements highlighting the impact of President Biden's agenda on communities, families, and workers nationwide. Click here to view the [press release](#).

DOL Releases Updated Equity Action Plan, Part of Biden-Harris Administration Commitment to Advance Equity, Economic Justice. As part of the Biden-Harris administration's whole-of-government equity agenda, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) released its updated Equity Action Plan to support the administration's advancement of racial equity through executive orders and other federal mechanisms. The updated Equity Action Plan focus areas will build on the accomplishments of the first Equity Action Plan through continued targeted support for the most underserved communities. As the work continues, the department will continue to engage the public on its progress and plans. Click here to view the [press release](#).

BLS Seeks Comments for its National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) within the U.S. Department of Labor has published a notice in the [February 14 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). This notice is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979. **Comments due: April 15.**

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$28 Million in Funding Opportunities for Grants Expanding Treatment Services for Substance Use Disorder. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, is announcing notices of funding opportunities for two grant programs aimed at expanding substance use disorder treatment services among pregnant and postpartum women and through adult and family treatment drug courts. The grant opportunities total about \$28 million and are part of the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts 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](#).

Headlines

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$36.9 Million in Behavioral Health Funding Opportunities.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced \$36.9 million in notices of funding opportunities for grant programs supporting behavioral health services across the U.S. These grant programs support the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities to address the overdose and mental health crises, key pillars of the Biden-Harris Unity Agenda. Click here to view the [press release](#).

Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$5.1M in Support of LGBTQI+ Youth and Families. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced four awards totaling \$5.1 million for [Family Counseling and Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex+ \(LGBTQI+\) Youth and their Families](#). These grants are in addition to \$1.7M in grant funding [previously awarded](#) in 2023 to four other recipients. All eight awardees will be engaging LGBTQI+ youth and their families to prevent risk of health conditions, including behavioral health conditions (e.g., suicidality, depression, homelessness, drug use, HIV) and promote well-being for LGBTQI+ youth by establishing family counseling and support programs and training providers on family counseling and support interventions tailored for LGBTQI+ families. Click here to view the [press release](#).

Biden-Harris Administration Holds First-Ever Interagency Youth Policy Summit: Cultivating Possibilities. The Biden-Harris Administration brought together nearly 90 young people from across the nation at the U.S. Department of Education for the first-ever interagency Youth Policy Summit: Cultivating Possibilities. The summit, which was designed and planned in partnership with youth, gave policymakers from federal agencies a chance to hear directly from young people and learn from one another about how to improve policies and programs to ensure that all youth have the opportunity to thrive. Since taking office, the Biden-Harris Administration has consistently engaged with, partnered alongside, and [delivered for young people](#) across the nation – from supporting mental health and lowering the cost of living, to tackling the climate crisis and cancelling student debt. Click here to view the [press release](#).

ED Announces Latest Steps to Support Schools and Students with Better FAFSA. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced additional steps to help colleges prepare to process student financial aid forms as efficiently as possible. The Department's top priority is to ensure students can access the maximum financial aid possible to help them pursue their higher education goals and bring college in reach for more Americans. Since the new 2024–25 FAFSA form became available on December 30, nearly 4 million forms have been successfully submitted. The new steps announced will make it easier for schools to process records and spend more time helping students by considerably reducing verification requirements, suspending routine school compliance reviews, and providing flexibility on renewing participation in the federal student aid programs. Click here to view the [press release](#).

Headlines

(continued)

New RSA Commissioner Identifies Vision and Priorities in “Dear Colleague” Letter. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) published [Commissioner Danté Allen's Vision and Priorities Statement \(DCL-24-02\)](#) that outlines how RSA will continue to advance competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities under the Commissioner's leadership.

As part of President Biden's American Climate Corps, USDA Launches New Working Lands Climate Corps to Train Future Conservation and Climate Leaders on Climate-Smart Agriculture. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a new effort to train the next generation of conservation and climate leaders. As part of President Biden's historic [American Climate Corps](#) initiative, the Working Lands Climate Corps (WLCC) will provide technical training and career pathway opportunities for young people, helping them deliver economic benefits through climate-smart agriculture solutions for farmers and ranchers across the country, now and in the future. The WLCC, in its first cohort, will aim to create service opportunities for more than 100 young people. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is working in partnership with AmeriCorps, The Corps Network and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in this effort. Click here to view the [press release](#).

Featured Resource

Entrepreneurship Competency Model

The [Entrepreneurship Competency Model](#) by the U.S. Department of Labor's (U.S. DOL) [Competency Model Clearinghouse](#) offers a thorough framework crafted by seasoned entrepreneurial experts. It aims to assist job seekers, employers, and educators in comprehending the essential skills for success as entrepreneurs and workers and facilitates the planning of training and development activities aligned with these skills.

This competency model results from the collaborative efforts of champions from various organizations, including DOL's [Employment and Training Administration \(ETA\)](#), [EntreEd: The National Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education](#), [MBA Research](#), and experts in the field of entrepreneurship education and practice. The collaborators have showcased their dedication to helping future entrepreneurs implement their vision.

The [Entrepreneurship Competency Model](#) marks a notable stride in the entrepreneurship industry, underscoring the potency of collaboration and partnership in workforce development. We urge all stakeholders to embrace this innovative model and utilize it to cultivate a workforce that is both highly skilled and competitive.

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

Foundation for the Carolinas Invites Applications for its 2024 Longleaf Fund. The [Foundation For The Carolinas](#) invites applications for the 2024 Longleaf Fund, which aims to strengthen the character and achievement of at-risk children and youth while encouraging communities to reach higher and create opportunities for a brighter future. Through the fund, capital grants of between \$10,000 and \$150,000 will be awarded to organizations serving at-risk children and youth. Eligible applicants must be tax-exempt as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or be classified as a unit of government, congregation, or educational institution. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 7.**

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Invites Applications for its John Lewis Young Leaders Fellowship Program. The Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights is accepting applications for its John Lewis Young Leaders Fellowship Program. The program is a year-long fellowship that prepares college students for a future in community organizing and civic engagement. Fellows engage their campus and local communities in human rights work through a robust capstone project. Eligible applicants must be an undergraduate student with an expected graduation date of or after May 2025, enrolled in a 2 or 4 year accredited program, and enrolled in a university located in the United States. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 10.**

Obama Foundation invites applications for its Voyager Scholarship for Public Services Program. The [Obama Foundation](#) in partnership with Brian Chesky, Co-Founder and CEO of Airbnb is accepting applications for its Voyager Scholarship for Public Service Program. This two-year leadership development and scholarship program designed to help shape the next generation of public service leaders and equip them with the tools and resources they need to launch their careers in public service. The program includes financial aid up to \$50,000 (students will receive up to \$25,000 per year in "last dollar" financial aid for their junior and senior years of college); a stipend of up to \$10,000 and free Airbnb housing to pursue a summer work-travel experience between their junior and senior year of college; a 10-year travel stipend of a \$2,000 travel credit per year (totaling \$20,000); a Fall Summit; and access to a network of leaders. Eligible applicants must plan to enroll full-time in their junior year of study at an accredited four-year college or university in the United States in fall 2024, must demonstrate financial need (calculated using a similar formula to the FAFSA), have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent, have demonstrated a commitment to public service, plan to pursue a future career in public service upon graduation, and be United States (U.S.) citizens, U.S. permanent residents (holders of a Permanent Resident Card), or individuals granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA). [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 27.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

Imagine Learning Foundation invites applications for Imagine Signature Grant Program. The [Imagine Learning Foundation](#) (ILF) is accepting applications for its Imagine Signature Grant Program. The program aims to support the well-being of learners outside of the classroom, either at home or in their communities. This third year grant campaign will place a special emphasis on sponsoring initiatives aimed at addressing both chronic absenteeism and the student homelessness crisis that are affecting students nationwide. Grant awards will range between \$50,000 to \$100,000. Eligible applicants must be tax-exempt as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 29.**

Karma for Cara Foundation Invites Applications for its Youth Service Project Grants. The [Karma for Cara Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its micro-grant program, which will award grants of up to \$1,000 to students 18 years of age and under to complete service projects in their communities. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 1.**

James Beard Foundation Invites Applications for its 2024 Scholarship Program. The [James Beard Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its 2024 Scholarship Program. The program is designed to assist aspiring and established culinary professionals who plan to further their education at a licensed or accredited culinary school, hospitality institution, college, or university. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 5.**

ED Invites Applications for its Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs. The Office of Postsecondary Education within the U.S Department of Education (ED) has published a notice in the [February 16 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). This notice invites applications for its Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO) which are Federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRIO includes eight programs targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postbaccalaureate programs. **Deadline: April 16.**

Bob Barker Foundation Invites Applications from Organizations Working to Reduce Recidivism. The [Bob Barker Foundation](#) is accepting applications from organizations working to reduce recidivism using evidence-based or best practices methods. Eligible applicants must be tax-exempt as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or be a governmental, educational, or research institution with tax-exempt status. Awardees will receive grants of up to \$25,000. [read more...](#) **Deadline: Letters of inquiry accepted on a rolling basis, and upon review, selected applicants are invited to submit a full grant application.**

Resources

Fostering Financial Empowerment for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities. This [brief](#) published by the Office of Disability Employment Policy's Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth) provides policy considerations that help youth and young adults with disabilities (Y&YADs), and their families foster economic self-sufficiency through financial literacy and independence. These strategies can reduce financial pressures for Y&YADs as they transition to employment and adulthood.

How Families and Employment Professionals can Form Partnerships to Support Youths and Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). This [brief](#) released by ThinkWork highlights the perspectives and experiences of family members of four young adults with IDD who shared their employment and community engagement stories. It outlines the roles their families played to support them to find and maintain competitive, integrated employment and to engage meaningfully with their communities. It also draws from in-depth, semi structured interviews with young adults with IDD, their family members, and job coaches.

Children's Interagency Coordinating Council FY 2023 Report to Congress. This [report](#) released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services highlights FY 2023 activities to plan for and launch the Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CICC), including advocate engagement, gathering information from federal and nonfederal partners through key informant interviews, and developing research projects. It also discusses the CICC kickoff event held in early FY 2024.

ED Releases Voter Toolkit. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) released a "[Toolkit for the Promotion of Voter Participation for Students](#)" to provide resources for educational institutions to help them identify and implement actions to assist eligible students with voter registration and voting. Recognizing that our nation's schools, colleges, and universities have a critical role in promoting civic engagement, the toolkit will provide them with strategies to support their students. Click here to view the [press release](#).

Parents and Educators Voice Support for Nondegree Pathways After High School but Want Better Information on Quality Options. This [article](#) released by PR Newswire highlights a new survey commissioned by American Student Assistance (ASA) and Jobs for the Future (JFF) which finds that both parents and educators lack sufficient information about the range and quality of education to career pathways available to young people today. The survey and accompanying white paper, [Beyond Degrees](#), finds nearly 90% of parents are interested in learning more about nondegree pathways for their children, and two in five want schools to start advising students about their postsecondary options as early as middle school. Click here to obtain additional information and view the [article](#).

Resources

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Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On March 4th, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Policy Development and Research and the Leadership for the Employment and Economic Advancement of People with Disabilities (LEAD) Center will host a webinar entitled: **Participant Individual Record Layout (PIRL) Disability Elements: Focus on Data Quality**. During the webinar presenters will discuss strategies for improving the quality of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) disability-related reporting elements. Click here to [register](#) for the webinar.

On March 5th, the Employment and Training Administration will host a webinar entitled: **Developing Critical Skills for the Future Workforce: Entrepreneurial Skills Training**. The goal of this roundtable is to educate the workforce system regarding integrating entrepreneurship skills into youth programs and facilitate peer to peer learning. Click here to [register](#) for the webinar.

On March 6th, the U.S. Department of Labor will host a webinar entitled: **Celebrating the Very First Youth Apprenticeship Week (YAW) 2024**. During the webinar attendees will learn more about the inaugural Youth Apprenticeship Week (YAW), scheduled for May 5-11, 2024. YAW is an opportunity for stakeholders to bring awareness of these life-changing career opportunities. Additionally, ideas and tips will be shared, and a review of how individuals can also find ideas and resources on the YAW Website—including planning and promotion toolkits, and more. Click here to [register](#) for the webinar.

On March 12th, the National Youth Employment Coalition will host a monthly Q&A session with the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Division of Youth Services (DYS) entitled: **Ask Away with the U.S Department of Labor**. During the Q&A session the DYS team will be there to answer questions attendees might have on policy, performance metrics, eligibility, waivers, and more. Click here to [register](#) for the webinar.

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**. During the webinar presenters will discuss leveraging state policy to improve mental health access for youth with marginalized racial identities. Complementing CAPE-Youth's [recent policy brief](#) on the same topic, the webinar will feature policymakers, speakers from the White House Domestic Policy Council and subject matter experts who will highlight ways that policymakers can expand culturally responsive mental health care, increase access to mental health supports and embed mental health programs and supports into workforce systems. Click here to [register](#) for the webinar.

Resources

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Past Webinars/Webcasts

On February 13th, the Women's Bureau hosted a webinar entitled: **The Importance of Mentoring Women in the Trades**. During the webinar an expert panel discussed the need for structured mentorship for women in the trades. Click here to [watch the archive](#).

Upcoming Events

March 2. [Read Across America Day](#).

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

March 11-15. [Civic Learning Week](#).

March 10-16. [AmeriCorps Week](#).

March 18-24. National Institute on Drug Abuse's [National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week](#).

March 20-24. Mental Health America's [LGBTQ Health Awareness Week](#).

March 23-26. Washington, DC. [National Association of Workforce Boards Forum](#).

April 3. National Youth Leadership Council [Youth Leadership Summit](#).

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

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

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 Connections School of Social Work [Innovations Institute](#).



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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.