

# Youth Resource Connections

## NEWSLETTER

### Youth Resource Connections

*is a monthly newsletter that provides information, resources, and tools to workforce professionals who work every day to impact the lives of youth and young adults.*

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## Headlines

**DOL Announces \$6 Million in Grants to Expand Job Opportunities for Women in Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations.** The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of \$6 million in funding to help recruit, train and retain more women in quality pre-apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship programs, as well as in nontraditional occupations. The Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations grants will enable organizations in eight states and the District of Columbia to provide training programs in skilled building trades, advanced manufacturing and information technology. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

**DOL Welcomes New Apprenticeship Ambassadors, Recognizes Organizations for Promoting, Expanding, Diversifying Registered Apprenticeship.** At a White House ceremony, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) welcomed the latest cohort of [Apprenticeship Ambassadors](#) and recognized current ambassadors for meeting or exceeding their commitments to expand and diversify Registered Apprenticeships. With the addition of 138 new organizations, the department has selected 441 Apprenticeship Ambassadors [since the initiative's launch](#). The latest cohort includes organizations from emerging and high-growth industries, including advanced manufacturing, clean energy, education, financial services, healthcare and hospitality. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

### 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 Announces \$20M in Grants Available for Out-Of-School Time Organizations to Increase Access to Good Jobs for Underserved Youth.** The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of up to \$20 million in grants for national out-of-school time organizations to expand local work-based learning opportunities, job training and career pathways for underserved youth. The [Workforce Pathways for Youth](#) demonstration grants will help these organizations partner with state or locally operated affiliate organizations to serve youth, ages 14 to 21. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#). Grant number: [FOA-ETA-24-07](#). **Deadline: December 3.**

**Acting Department of Labor Secretary Su Unveils Artificial Intelligence Best Practices to Improve Job Quality; Safeguard Workers' Rights, Well-Being.** Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su hosted an unveiling of the U.S. Department of Labor's [AI Best Practices](#), a comprehensive roadmap designed to ensure artificial intelligence enhances job quality and safeguards workers' rights and well-being. The online event, which took place on October 16, 2024, brought together labor, business, non-profit and government leaders to focus on the critical importance of ethical use of AI as its impact continues to grow in workplaces throughout the nation. President Biden's [Executive Order on the Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence](#) emphasizes that the responsible development and use of AI require a commitment to supporting America's workers. The AI Best Practices are an important step towards promoting worker well-being when AI is used in the workplace. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

**Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$70 Million in New Awards for School-Based Mental Health Services.** The Biden-Harris Administration announces an additional investment of \$70 million to expand student access to school-based mental health services across the nation. These grants support the President's Unity Agenda for the nation and build on the historic levels of funding to address youth mental health. These efforts continue to bolster the U.S. Department of Education's (Department's) School-Based Mental Health Services (SBMH) and Mental Health Service Professionals Demonstration (MHSP) grant programs at a time of increased need. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

## Headlines

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**ED Seeks Comments for its National Evaluation of the Pathways to Partnerships Program.** The Department of Education's (ED) Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services has published a notice request in the [October 29 Federal Register](#). This notice requests clearance for new data collection activities to support the evaluation of the 84.421E Federal fiscal year 2023 Disability Innovation Fund (DIF), Pathways to Partnerships Innovative Model Demonstration Project. The purpose of the DIF, as provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. 117-103), is to support innovative activities aimed at increasing competitive integrated employment as defined in section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act) (29 U.S.C. 705(5)) for children, youth, and other individuals with disabilities. The program aims to create systematic and seamless approaches to offering transition services to children with disabilities, ages 10-13 and youth with disabilities ages 14 to 24 through collaborations among State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies, State education agencies, local education agencies, Federally funded Centers for Independent Living, and other organizations offering services to this population. **Comments due: December 30.**

**ED Launches \$1 Million CTE CHIPS Challenge.** The U.S. Department of Education (ED) launched the Career and Technical Education (CTE) CHIPS Challenge, a \$1 million prize competition, funded by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins V) that seeks to expand student recruitment, training, and placement strategies in good-paying semiconductor fabrication (fab) construction and advanced manufacturing careers. White House Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden announced the CHIPS Challenge at a career and technical education roundtable in Detroit, Michigan. Full details, including how to apply, are available at [CTEChipsChallenge.com](https://CTEChipsChallenge.com); **submissions are due on December 20.** To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

**National Skills Coalition Blog: Centering Student Voice in Policymaking: Insights from Integrating Student Voice in Policy Research & Advocacy.** The National Skills Coalition released a [blog](#) that discusses when it comes to conducting effective skills policy research, it's critical that the lived experiences of those closest to the issue remain at the center of the process. Unfortunately, for too long the voices of students and workers have been sidelined in the development of education and workforce policies. Recognizing this, National Skills Coalition has taken intentional steps to ensure that the voices of learners and workers are centered in its work, including through the launch of the [Student Advisory Council \(SAC\)](#) earlier this year.

## Headlines

*(continued)*

**USICH Announces Creation of National Youth Homelessness Partnership.** The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is announcing the creation of the National Youth Homelessness Partnership to elevate the voice of youth with lived and learned expertise of homelessness. The partnership brings together federal agencies, national homelessness organizations, and a newly formed advisory group of young people who have experienced homelessness. Participating federal agencies either fund or administer services, technical assistance, and/or programs that impact youth, their risk of homelessness, and their ability to achieve and maintain housing stability. The National Youth Advisory Group was formed this summer by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and will inform the national partnership's work to prevent and end youth homelessness. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

## Featured Program and Participant

### CareerForce WIOA Young Adult Program

**Crystal** was a 17-year-old high school student when she came to Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program. She had no work experience and was not sure what career pathway she wanted to pursue. Crystal was eager to look for employment and needed help taking the next steps. After identifying her interests and skills, Crystal worked at Compass, an after-school and summer child care program. Soon, she was working 20 hours a week. Crystal has decided she would like to pursue a career in Elementary Education.

**Jesus** worked at a YouthBuild worksite through Scott County's Summer Youth Program. He gained valuable experience, employment skills and credits toward his high school diploma. His goal has always been to become an auto mechanic. After graduation, Jesus started down that career path with a full-time position at Big O Tires as a Tire Technician. Jesus will be attending Hennepin Technical College this spring to complete the Automotive Technician program.

### 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](mailto:youth.services@dol.gov).

## Funding & Other Opportunities

**Changemakers Invites Applications for its Youth Challenge.** Changemakers is accepting applications for its Time for Change Youth Challenge 2024. The challenge is a chance for young people nationwide to share their bold ideas, connect with other innovative kids, and tackle problems that matter to them. Students in grades K-12 who attend First Book-eligible schools are invited to enter. The Get Started Prize (a \$50 gift card) is awarded to every eligible applicant who applies by 11/13. Final prizes awarded in K-5th, 6th-7th, and 8th-12th grade categories include 15 \$1,000 grants and 2 Grand Prize \$5,000 grants. [read more](#). **Deadline: November 13.**

**NPSS Invites Applications for its Community Collaboration Challenge.** The National Partnership for Student Success (NPSS) is accepting applications for its Community Collaboration Challenge. The Challenge provides \$5,000-\$10,000 awards to communities and is designed to support collaboration that expands and pilots NPSS aligned student supports: academic tutors, mentors, student success coaches, wraparound/integrated student support coordinators, and post-secondary transition coaches. [read more](#). **Deadline: November 15.**

**Sodexo Stop the Hunger Foundation Invites Applications for its Innovation Grant.** The [Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its new Youth Stop Hunger Innovation Grant. Twelve \$2,500 grants will be awarded to cohorts of youth in the United States between the ages of 5 and 25 years old who are looking to fight hunger in their community by addressing its root causes, while also engaging other youth in volunteerism. [read more](#). **Deadline: December 8.**

**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. The foundation 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.**

## 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, 2025.**

**Taco Bell Foundation Invites Applications for its Live Más Scholarship.** The [Taco Bell Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its [Live Más Scholarship](#) (LMS). 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. This year, more than \$3 million of the funds are specifically reserved for Taco Bell team members. [read more](#). **Deadline: January 8, 2025.**

**DOT Invites Applications for its Technology and Transportation Education Program.** The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Highway Administration is accepting applications for its Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 – 2026 Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Education Program. The program is designed to address historical disparities in STEM, particularly among females and minorities at the elementary and secondary school level. The program supports innovative curriculum development, immersive learning experiences, and community engagement initiatives. **Grant number: [693JJ325NF00004](#). Deadline: January 10, 2025.**

**HHS Invites Applications for its Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Professionals.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration is accepting applications for its Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program for Professionals. The program is designed to increase the supply of behavioral health professionals and improve the distribution of a well-trained behavioral health workforce. The program has a specific focus on understanding the needs of children, adolescents, and young adults at risk for mental health, trauma, and behavioral health disorders. The BHWET Program for Professionals prepares the workforce by emphasizing interprofessional team-based models of care, integrating behavioral health training in primary care settings and recruiting a diverse workforce interested in serving high need and high demand areas. The program also invests in increasing the number and training of clinical supervisors. **Grant number: [HRSA-25-068](#). Deadline: January 21, 2025.**

## Funding & Other Opportunities *(continued)*

**H2O for Life PPG Announces Mini-Grant.** H2O for Life, in partnership with PPG will award grants up to \$500 to schools for teachers and students to use as “Start-Up Funds” for their H2O for Life service-learning project that will meet a fundraising goal of at least the amount of the grant. [read more](#). **Deadline: Rolling.**

## Resources

**ED Introduces Updated Data Webpage.** The Department of Education (ED) recently rolled out remodeled webpages. As part of the enhancements, user now have access to a “Data” [webpage](#). An “Open Data Platform” is one of the menu items along with access to “foundations for evidence-based policymaking,” data and statistics fast facts,” and “research sponsored by ED.”

**Actualizing the Promise of Youth Apprenticeship: Lessons Learned from NGA’s Policy Academy to Advance Youth Apprenticeship.** This [publication](#) released by the National Governor’s Association (NGA) and New America highlights key themes from the Policy Academy, recounts Governor led policy change on youth apprenticeship, and covers what the future of youth apprenticeship policy may hold at the state and federal level.

**Workforce Development State Strategies: A 50-State Scan of Best Practices from Recent Action.** This [report](#) released by the Center for American Progress provides a summary of best practices across a 50-state scan of workforce development-related state legislation from the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions. These efforts are broad and span policies aimed at expanding opportunities across states’ diverse workforces.

### Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, the Center of Excellence on LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity will host a workshop entitled: **Trauma-Informed & LGBTQ+ Affirming Checklist: A Tool for Practice with LGBTQ+ Children, Youth and Families.** This workshop will introduce a new tool, the Trauma-Informed & Affirming Checklist for Practice with LGBTQ+ Children, Youth & Families, developed with diverse youth, family and provider input and designed to support practitioners and organizations who wish to enhance their practices and environments to increase safety, support and well-being for the LGBTQ+ youth and families they serve. To register for the workshop, click [here](#).

## Resources

*(continued)*

On November 7<sup>th</sup> the National Youth Employment Coalition will host a workshop entitled: **Healing-Centered Re-Entry: Supporting the Transition of Youth**. Kia Wright, Founder and Executive Director of VOICES Corporation, will lead this workshop focused on addressing the unique challenges faced by youth and young adults re-entering society after incarceration, a group often overlooked and underserved. The session will explore the social determinants of health that impact their well-being and reintegration, offering innovative strategies for youth workforce partners to support their transition back into the community. Attendees will gain insights into the barriers faced by this population and learn healing-centered engagement techniques to promote holistic well-being, fostering a more supportive and inclusive environment for their successful re-entry. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

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On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 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. To register for the session, click [here](#).

## Resources

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On November 13<sup>th</sup>, the LEAD Center will host a webinar entitled: **Paving Pathways to Careers and Advancement: Leveraging Registered Apprenticeships to Meet the Demand for Direct Support Professionals**. During the webinar attendees will gain insights into how registered apprenticeships attract jobseekers to the DSP profession, improve their job quality, and expand career opportunities for direct support professional (DSP). Workforce professionals will share best practices on utilizing registered apprenticeships and key findings from the LEAD Center's recent brief, "[Attracting Direct Support Professionals: Advancing Career Pathways with Job Quality in Mind](#)," will be shared, including supporting DSP-related unions and union organizing, encouraging advancement and wage progression into higher-paying, related professions, supporting DSPs' pursuit of credentials and college degrees to reach career goals, and encouraging people with disabilities and others who want to work to become DSPs. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, The Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth) will host a webinar entitled: **Collaboration to Support Youth Employment Outcomes**. The webinar will include a presentation of CAPE-Youth's new research report which includes findings from a national study on collaboration and discussions on improving collaboration to better support youth and young adults with disabilities (Y&YAD). To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

### **Past Webinars/Webcasts**

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Elevate Your Outreach!** This webinar provided proven strategies and promising practices to increase customer outreach and expand engagement with the business community. To view the webinar, click [here](#).

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT) hosted a Podcast entitled: **"Future of Work" Podcast: Artificial Intelligence and Inclusive Hiring**. During the podcast presenters discussed how employers who use artificial intelligence (AI) hiring tools or plan to, this podcast is for you. Natasha Bangsopaul, a White House Presidential Innovation Fellow at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, offered insight into PEAT's new, voluntary AI & Inclusive Hiring Framework. She shared how the Framework was developed and how it can help employers evaluate AI-powered hiring technology using a disability-inclusive lens. To listen to an archive of the podcast, click [here](#).

## Resources

*(continued)*

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, New America hosted a webinar entitled: **Youth in Teacher Apprenticeship Pathways: How to “TAP” into Youth in the Education Sector**. During the webinar presenters delved into components of registered apprenticeship and participants learned how these components can be adapted for youth participants: paid work experiences, on-the-job learning under the supervision of a skilled employee mentor, and classroom-based supplemental instruction. Attendees also heard from practitioners in the field how youth can enter the pathway, what roles they play, how positions are paid, and how the experience is part of an education and credential pathway leading to employment. To view an archive of the webcast, click [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

**November.** [National Homelessness Awareness Month](#).

**November 17-23.** [National Apprenticeship Week](#).

**November 18-20. Phoenix, AZ.** National Association of Workforce Development Professionals' [25th Annual Youth Symposium](#).

**March 26-28, 2025. Saint Paul, MN.** National Youth Leadership Council's [National Service-Learning Conference](#). This conference will bring together youth, educators, policymakers and more who are dedicated to improving education, strengthening communities, and building youth leadership with service-learning.



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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](mailto: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.