

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.

Table of Contents

Headlines.....	1-4
Featured Program.....	5
Funding & Other Opportunities.....	6-7
Resources.....	8-11
Upcoming Events	11

Headlines

The Employment and Training Administration Announces the Release of Two New Webcasts:

DEIA In Action: Strategies to Support LGBTQIA+ Youth Webcast. The Employment and Training Administration released a two-part webcast which introduces workforce entities to the importance of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) when serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual+ (LGBTQIA+). Innovative DEIA strategies from state and local workforce professionals and non-profit entities are shared. To listen to the webcast, click [here](#).

Serving Youth with Psychiatric Disabilities Webcast. This webcast is an update and redesign of valuable technical assistance provided by the Office of Disability and Employment Policy (ODEP) on behalf of the YouthBuild program in 2010. The 2024 edition is presented by the U.S. Department of Labor Division of Youth Services which consists of YouthBuild, Reentry Employment Opportunities, and WIOA Youth formula programs. As we face both a youth mental health crisis and a culture of increasing visibility and openness on mental health conditions, this information is in great demand from workforce development practitioners. To view the webcast 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)

Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$71M in Grants to Improve Job Quality, Prepare Workers, Expand Access to Good Jobs in Critical Sectors. The Biden-Harris administration announced the award of approximately \$71 million in grants to improve job quality, expand access to good jobs in critical sectors and prepare workers for good-paying jobs being created by the administration's Investing in America agenda. Funding from the U.S. Department of Labor's [Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program](#), [Critical Sectors Job Quality Grants Program](#) and [Workforce Pathways for Youth program](#) will support 27 organizations serving 14 states and the District of Columbia. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Treasury Issue Final Rules Strengthening Access to Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder Benefits. As part of the Biden-Harris administration's effort to ensure more than 150 million people with private health coverage have greater access to mental health and substance use disorder care, the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and the Treasury took significant action by issuing final rules to clarify and strengthen protections to expand equitable access to these benefits as compared to medical and surgical benefits and reduce barriers to accessing these services. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

Demand-driven training: Reimagining sector partnerships to build career pathways. This [blog](#) released by the U.S. Department of Labor encourages we rethink a workforce strategy that can effectively meet labor market demands – this strategy is sector strategies and partnerships. For the past decade, the Employment and Training Administration has supported sector strategies that unite industry leaders and workers through partnerships with educators, employers, labor representatives and community organizations. These partnerships drive regional growth by supporting local industries and enhancing career opportunities.

Raising the Bar Across America: Education Department Releases State Fact Sheets Detailing Biden-Harris Administration Investments in America's Students, Schools, and Colleges. The Department of Education has recently published 52 fact sheets, detailing the specific actions and investments the Biden-Harris Administration has taken to strengthen schools, colleges, and universities and invest in students across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and the impact of those investments delivering results for students, families, and communities. The fact sheets illustrate, in concrete terms, how the Biden-Harris Administration's Raise the Bar: Lead the World initiative is at work in our communities, bolstering educational experiences for students with historic levels of federal funding, championing public education, and delivering results for families. To obtain additional information, view the press release, click [press release](#).

Headlines

(continued)

ED Awards More Than \$251 Million to Improve Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) awarded \$251 million to 27 grantees across the country who are working to ensure individuals with disabilities have access to in-demand, good-paying jobs of the 21st century. These five-year grants, under the Disability Innovation Fund program, will continue to promote competitive, integrated employment so that youth and adults with disabilities are paid real wages for real jobs, while creating pathways to some of today's most in-demand fields. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

Biden-Harris Administration Awards More Than \$44 Million to Improve Postsecondary Education Access and Completion for Rural Students. The U.S. Department of Education announced more than \$44.5 million for 22 grants under the Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development program to improve rates of postsecondary enrollment, persistence, and completion among rural students through the development of high-quality career pathways aligned to high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the region. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

ED Awards More Than \$251 Million to Improve Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) awarded \$251 million to 27 grantees across the country who are working to ensure individuals with disabilities have access to in-demand, good-paying jobs of the 21st century. These five-year grants, under the [Disability Innovation Fund \(DIF\) program](#), will continue to promote competitive, integrated employment so that youth and adults with disabilities are paid real wages for real jobs, while creating pathways to some of today's most in-demand fields. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$28 Million in Grants to Recruit, Prepare, and Develop a Diverse Educator Workforce. The U.S. Department of Education announced more than \$28 million in new awards in the Teacher Quality Partnership program to recruit, prepare, develop, and retain a strong, effective, and diverse educator workforce for classrooms across the country. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$179 Million to Support Academic Acceleration Efforts Focused on Improving Literacy and High-Quality Assessment Systems. The U.S. Department of Education announced \$179 million in grants focused on supporting academic acceleration for every child, building on the Biden-Harris Administration's goal to improve academic achievement nationwide. These grants include \$149 million in new [Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant \(CLSD\) awards](#)—the largest number of awards ever for this program—and nearly \$30 million in [Competitive Grants for State Assessments \(CGSA\) awards](#). These grant awards were highlighted as part of the Department's Back to School Bus Tour at an event headlined by U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and White House Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

Headlines

(continued)

Building Better Pathways for Youth: A Blog Series Exploring Examples of Federal Flexibility. New America released this [blog](#) series which examines three instances where legislation has extended special flexibilities to federal departments to promote greater resource alignment and deeper cooperation, and to ultimately provide for more efficient, effective, and equitable service delivery. This series highlights the origins and mechanics of these cases and gleans lessons from implementation. Hopefully, the findings can inform future policy experiments designed to address funding barriers to greater alignment between the nation's youth-serving systems.

NSF Investing Nearly \$8 Million in EducateAI Awards to Develop Next Generation of Well-trained AI Workforce. Artificial Intelligence is transforming research, education, manufacturing and everyday life. To prepare the next generation of talent for a diverse, well-trained AI workforce, the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) directorates for Computer and Information Science and Engineering and STEM Education launched the NSF [EducateAI initiative](#). This program aims to make state-of-the-art, inclusive AI educational experiences available nationwide. To obtain additional information, view the [press release](#).

Citizens Commits \$10 Million to Workforce Development. Citizens announced a commitment to provide \$10 million over the next two years to support workforce development programs. Funding will support nonprofits working to enhance and expand access to educational and career opportunities, address the rapidly changing demands of the modern economy, and support long-term economic growth. The bank recently [announced](#) the results of a teen workforce development survey, published in partnership with Junior Achievement, that demonstrates the need for expanded upskilling programs. According to the JA Teen Workforce Survey conducted by Wakefield Research, teens ages 13-18 are optimistic about their futures and how the advancement in technology will impact them but are looking for support to acquire the needed skills. To learn more Citizens' Sustainability and Impact efforts, click [here](#).

Featured Program and Participant

WIOA Youth Program Highlight and Success Story 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.

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

Stark Community Foundation Invites Applications for Programs for Women and Children.

The [Stark Community Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its Women's Fund. The fund aims to benefit future generations; increase vital funding for programs that advance women's economic, educational, physical, emotional, social, artistic, and personal growth; and educate and inspire women to become leaders in philanthropy. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to support projects or programs impacting women and children in Stark County, Ohio. Projects must fall within one of the three defined impact areas of economic stability and advancement, mental and emotional health support, and neighborhood-based programming. Eligible applicants must be a nonprofit organization serving Stark County, Ohio residents. [read more.](#)

Deadline: October 11.

YSA Invites Applications for its Afterschool Service-Learning Experience Program. Youth Service America (YSA) in partnership with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation is accepting applications for its Afterschool Service-Learning Experience Program. The program is designed to provide an opportunity for afterschool professionals to enhance their skills in engaging youth in meaningful service-learning projects. [read more.](#) **Deadline: October 18.**

YSA Invites Applications for its Lead Agency Grants. Youth Service America (YSA) will award \$2,500 or \$5,000 Lead Agency Grants to organizations leading a coalition of project planning partners to increase youth participation on MLK Day of Service and Global Youth Service Day/Youth Service Month. [read more.](#) **Deadline: October 27.**

CNAY Invites Applications for its 2025 Brave Heart Fellowship. The Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) is accepting applications from self-identified Native youth (ages 18-24) from the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. The Brave Heart Fellowship was created to uplift youth voices while addressing the representation gap and inequities facing Indigenous Peoples in the fight for climate. Eligible applicants must also currently reside in Alaska, (Northern) California, Idaho, Oregon, or Washington. [read more.](#) **Deadline: October 21.**

Toshiba America Announces Funding Availability for grade 6-12 Science Projects. The [Toshiba America Foundation](#) is accepting applications from grade 6-12 teachers for innovative science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects. Grants greater than \$5,000 will be awarded to teachers to support efforts to bring an innovative project to life within their classroom. Applications must be for project-based learning with measurable outcomes. The foundation will not consider requests for computers, laptops, or tablets. [read more.](#) **Deadline: November 1.**

Funding & Other Opportunities *(continued)*

Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation Announces its Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Scholarships. The Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation is seeking youth ages 5 to 25 to apply for its 2024-2025 Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Scholarships. The scholarship program rewards students who help end hunger in their communities. Students from kindergarten through graduate school are eligible to apply for a \$10,000 scholarship and receive a \$5,000 grant for the hunger-related charity of their choice. [read more](#). **Deadline: November 5, 2024.**

Glenn W. Bailey Foundation Invites Applications for its New STEM Initiatives. The Glenn W. Bailey (GWB) Foundation is accepting applications for seed and continuation funding for organizations seeking programmatic funding for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education at all levels. Through these programs, GWB seeks to promote and encourage students to become engaged in STEM at an early age. These programs are designed to follow learners through college and beyond. Programs are capped at either \$25,000 or \$50,000. Eligible applicants should be professors, teachers, principals, before and after care teachers, etc., and directly affiliated with an organization recognized as tax-exempt for charitable purposes by the IRS. [read more](#). **Deadline: November 6.**

AmeriCorps Announces FY 2025 State and National Competitive Grants. [AmeriCorps](#) is accepting applications for its Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 AmeriCorps State and National Competitive Grants. These grants are designed to support organizations that engage AmeriCorps members in meaningful service projects aimed at strengthening communities. Eligible organizations can apply for funding to involve members in evidence-based interventions that improve lives, promote civic engagement, and address some of the nation's most pressing challenges. Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, local governments, school districts, nonprofit organizations, state service commissions, U.S. territories, and Indian Tribes. Public health departments are also encouraged to apply. AmeriCorps welcomes applications from new applicants, including small community-based and faith-based organizations. [read more](#). **Deadline: January 23, 2025.**

Resources

Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:20/22): Persistence and Attainment of 2019–20 First-Time Postsecondary Students After 3 Years. This [report](#) released by the National Center for Education Statistics describes the outcomes of first-time beginning students (FTBs) who entered postsecondary education for the first time during the 2019–2020 academic year. Outcomes include students' postsecondary enrollment patterns, persistence and attainment, social and academic experiences and activities, and employment history.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary & Trends Report: 2013–2023. This [report](#) released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides data on health behaviors and experiences of high school students in the United States. The data highlights students' behaviors and experiences in 2023, changes from 2021 to 2023, and 10-year trends.

2024 Sector Strategies Framework. This updated [resource](#) released by the Employment and Training Administration was developed to guide national, state, and local practitioners in their efforts to launch and implement effective sector strategies. The Framework is intended to advance knowledge and support the development, scaling, and sustainability of sector strategies. It provides workforce system practitioners with a clear picture of the concepts and elements essential to the successful implementation of sector partnerships and sector strategies.

Sector Strategies Framework Implementation Guide and Self-Assessment and Action Planning Tool. This [guide](#) released by the Employment and Training Administration provides practitioners with strategies and steps for implementing the core components and key elements of the 2024 Sector Strategies Framework. It incorporates various approaches used in successful sector partnership implementation across the country.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2013–2023 Summary & Trends. This [report](#), released by the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention summarizes data trends on U.S. adolescent health and well-being over the last decade and focuses on adolescents' sexual behavior, substance use, experiences of violence, mental health, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Developing Student Leaders Through Service-Learning. This [eBook](#) co-written by the Character.org and the National Youth Leadership Council allows the reader to discover practical strategies on how to design and implement service-learning across all K-12 grade levels. This is a perfect resource for teachers, counselors, and school leaders looking to tap into the voices and concerns of your students.

Resources

(continued)

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On October 9th, the Center of Excellence on LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity will host a webinar entitled: **Experiences of Transgender & Nonbinary Youth & their Families**. This webinar will present findings from the Trans Teen and Family Narratives Project, an NIH-funded study to understand how the family environment affects transgender and nonbinary youth's mental health and wellbeing. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

On October 10th, the Employment and Training Administration will host a webinar entitled: **Amplifying Youth Voices: Examples of Youth-Adult Partnership Initiatives**. This webinar serves as a continuation to the recent [Amplifying Youth Voices: Navigating Youth Engagement from Advisors to Leaders](#) webinar. It will also highlight the new Youth Systems Building Academy Compendium, an interactive document reflecting the efforts and accomplishments of the 19 Academy communities. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

On October 10th the National Youth Employment Coalition will host a workshop entitled: **Connections and Communities: Reframing How We Talk About Opportunity Youth**. This workshop, led by **Nico Connolly** from the FrameWorks Institute, focuses on shifting negative narratives about young people, especially Opportunity Youth. It will highlight the importance of using research-backed strategies to replace deficit-based labels like "at risk" with more positive framing. Participants will also learn effective communication methods to enhance public understanding and support youth empowerment. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

On October 15th, 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](#).

On October 31st, the National Youth Employment Coalition will host a workshop entitled: **Promising Leaders Apprenticing in the Care Economy (PLACE)**. The workshop will highlight Family Health International (FHI) 360's expansion of three apprenticeships in the care economy: Youth Development Practitioner, Peer Support Specialist, and Substance-use Disorder and Mental Health Counselor Apprenticeships. Supported by the U.S. Department of Labor, the PLACE Hub allows employers to enroll new or current workers. These apprenticeships focus on individuals with lived experience using trauma-informed practices and positive youth development principles, emphasizing a whole-child approach. Participants will also learn how they or their partner organizations can join these programs at little-to-no cost. To register for the workshop, click [here](#).

Resources

(continued)

On November 6th, 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](#).

Past Webinars/Webcasts

On September 3rd, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webcast entitled: **Sector Strategies Framework Introduction Webcast**. This webcast is part of the Sector Strategies Event Series and introduces the updated Sector Strategies Framework, a tool empowering national, state, and local practitioners to launch and implement effective sector strategies. This session provides an overview of the updated framework, introduces definitions and fundamental concepts, highlights key elements driving successful sector partnerships and sector strategies, and previews tools and resources to support sector strategies implementation. To view the webcast, click [here](#).

On September 12th, 17th, and 19th the Employment and Training Administration hosted a three-part webinar series on Sector Strategies. The webinars are designed to enhance one's understanding and capacity to implement effective sector strategies.

September 12th - [Session 1: Exploring the Updated Framework](#). Attendees learned about comprehensive sector strategies as a model for addressing workforce needs and advancing economic mobility. They also discovered the vision for expanding sector strategies and understand key definitions and roles, including sector partnerships, strategies, and training programs. Before listening to Session 1, be sure to [watch the Sector Strategies Framework Launch webcast](#) to gain foundational insights.

September 17th - [Session 2: Launching Partnerships and Designing Solutions](#). Attendees learned to build capacity to implement sector partnerships and strategies through self-assessment, reflection, and peer learning. Explore the process from initiation to launch, validate data with employers, and connect key elements of the updated Framework with practical applications. Before viewing Session 2, be sure to [watch the Sector Strategies: Framework Introduction Webcast](#), the recording of [Session 1](#), and review the first two sections of the Sector Strategies Implementation Guide which will become available September 4, 2024.

Resources

(continued)

September 19th - [Session 3: Implementing Solutions, Measuring Success, and Sustaining and Scaling the Work](#). Presenters focused on the implementation and continuous improvement of sector strategies. They also discussed the creation of a coordinated implementation plan, established feedback loops, and learned from a panel of local workforce development board intermediaries who shared strategies for overcoming challenges in regional sector partnerships. Before Session 3, be sure to [watch the Sector Strategies: Framework Introduction Webcast](#), the recording of [Session 1](#), attend [Sessions 2](#), and review the first two sections of the Sector Strategies Implementation Guide.

On September 18th, the Urban Institute hosted a webinar entitled: **Summarizing Approaches for Designing Inclusive Apprenticeship Programs**. During the webinar presenters shared key findings from the Partnership for Inclusive Apprenticeship Project, focusing on how a range of partners—an “ecosystem”—can help employers and other apprenticeship sponsors develop inclusive apprenticeship practices at program design, recruitment and initial engagement, and completion. To view an archive of the webinar click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

October 2024. [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#).

October 14-18. [National School Lunch Week \(NSLW\)](#).

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.



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.