

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

ODEP Publishes Sixty-Day PRA Notice for Proposed New Data Collection. DOL Seeks Comments for its REYAAS Project. The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), within the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has published the [August 12 Federal Register](#). This notice is soliciting comments for ODEP's Research Support Services for Employment of Young Adults on the Autism Spectrum [REYAAS] Project. To better understand the employment experiences and outcomes of young adults on the autism spectrum, a study will be conducted. The study will provide insightful data on the employment experiences of young adults on the autism spectrum, which policymakers and the autism community can use to inform program and policy changes that support the well-being of autistic people. Young Adults on the Autism Spectrum [REYAAS] Project. **Comments due: October 11.**

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)

ED Seeks Comments on its Proposed Revision to the NCSSD College Disability Resource Database. The Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published the [August 8 Federal Register](#). This notice is soliciting comments for the National Center for College Students with Disabilities (NCCSD) College Disability Resource Database. The database is designed to address a gap in information about services and accessibility for college students with disabilities, who make up 19.5% of the undergraduate population. Existing general information about colleges is available in the Department of Education's online College Navigator and College Affordability and Transparency Center, but the only information about students with disabilities in these databases is the percentage of students registered with campus disability services offices. **Comments due: September 9.**

ED Awards More Than \$40 Million to Improve College Completion Rates for Underserved Students. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced more than \$40 million in grant awards to seven grantees to improve completion rates for underserved students. The grants are being provided under the Postsecondary Student Success Grant (PSSG) program, which aims to equitably improve postsecondary student outcomes, including retention, transfer, credit accumulation, and completion, by leveraging data and implementing, scaling, and rigorously evaluating evidence-based approaches. For additional information, view the [press release](#).

Secretary Miguel Cardona Announces 2024 Back to School Bus Tour. On Tuesday, September 3, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona will launch the 2024 Back to School Bus Tour from September 3-6. The week-long, multi-state road trip will showcase the many ways schools, families, and communities are doubling down on accelerating student achievement and raising the bar in public education with investments and other support from the Biden-Harris Administration. The Back to School Bus Tour will feature stops in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. For additional information, view the [press release](#).

ED Posts Blog: Explore Careers in Clean Energy: Enter the Power Your Future Challenge. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) released this [blog](#) which highlights the launch the [Power Your Future Challenge](#) — the second challenge in its annual [CTE Momentum](#) series to prepare high school students for rewarding careers and increase access to career and technical education. The Department invites teams to submit action plans that will advance the use of clean energy in their schools and communities.

Headlines

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Biden-Harris Administration Awards More Than \$80 Million to Improve College Readiness, Access, and Success for Low-Income Students. The U.S. Department of Education (Department) announced more than \$80 million in grant awards to 26 grantees to improve access to postsecondary education for students from low-income backgrounds. The grants are being provided under the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) program, which aims to significantly increase the number of students from low-income backgrounds who are prepared to attend and succeed in postsecondary education. For additional information, view the [press release](#).

ED Announces Schedule and New Process to Launch 2025-26 FAFSA Form. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced that the 2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA® form) will be launched through a new process. Starting on October 1, the Department will release the 2025-26 FAFSA form for testing with a limited set of students and institutions. The Department will make the application available to all students on or before December 1. This process is informed by conversations and feedback from thousands of students, institutions, and other stakeholders. For additional information, view the [press release](#).

NSF Investing \$14.5M in Inaugural Innovation in Two-Year College in STEM Education Awards. The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) is investing \$14.5 million in the inaugural set of awards through its Innovation in Two-Year College in STEM Education (ITYC) program. The program aims to support potentially transformative projects that will advance innovative, evidence-based practices at two-year colleges nationwide in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. For additional information, view the [press release](#).

NSF Awards \$38M to Strengthen Research Infrastructure, Build Partnerships and Improve STEM Workforce Development. The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded researchers in Maine, Mississippi, New Mexico, Puerto Rico and Rhode Island roughly \$38 million through the [Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research](#) (EPSCoR), which promotes the development of research competitiveness among 28 targeted states and territories, called jurisdictions. The awards, facilitated by the NSF [EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems Research Infrastructure Improvement](#) (E-CORE RII) program and NSF [EPSCoR Research Incubators for STEM Excellence Research Infrastructure Improvement](#) (E-RISE RII) program, aim to enhance research facilities, form new networks, support workforce development and accelerate economic growth in parts of the U.S. that have historically received less funding for scientific research. For additional information, view the [press release](#).

Headlines

(continued)

Virginia Department of Labor and Industry Launches New System for Virginians to Request Youth Employment Certificates. The [Department of Labor and Industry](#) (DOLI) announced the launch of a new modern electronic system streamlining the issuance of [Youth Employment Certificates](#). The new system modernizes the three-step process to allow youth workers, their parents, and the employers to request a certificate in a matter of minutes, without delay or the need for a paper application. For additional information, view the [press release](#).

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

ED Announces Two Funding Opportunities. The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) within the U.S. Department of Education has published the [June 17 Federal Register](#). This notice announces the availability of funding for two new grant awards 1) From Seedlings to Scale Grant Program and 2) Research Networks Focused on Critical Problems of Education Policy and Practice. The research grant programs are designed to provide interested individuals and the general public with reliable and valid information about education practices that support learning and improve academic achievement and access to education opportunities for all learners. The interested individuals include parents, educators, learners, researchers, and policymakers. In carrying out its grant programs, IES provides support for programs of research in areas of demonstrated national need. Eligible applicants under both competitions are organizations that have the demonstrated ability and capacity to conduct rigorous research and development which include but are not limited to, institutions of higher education and non-profit, for-profit, public, or private entities. **Deadline: August 15.**

Funding & Other Opportunities *(continued)*

ED Accepting Applications for Selection as a Pilot for Disconnected Youth. The Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published the [August 12 Federal Register](#). This notice invites applications for selection as a performance partnership pilot for fiscal year (FY) 2024 under the Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3) authority. This notice also offers opportunities for prospective applicants to obtain optional technical assistance from the Agencies prior to applying. **Deadlines: Requests for Technical Assistance (optional): September 11; Transmittal of Applications: October 11; and Intergovernmental Review: December 10.**

NYLC Invites Applications for its Youth as Solutions Project Ignition. The National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) is accepting applications for its Project Ignition. Teams in the Project Ignition cohort engage K-12 youth and educators (in school and afterschool programs) to increase teen driver safety in their school or community. Teams of young people in grades 6-12 with mentor are eligible to apply. Awardees will receive grants from \$250-\$1,000. [read more.](#) **Deadline: September 13.**

NYLC Invites Applications for its Youth as Solutions Grants. The National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) is accepting applications for its Youth as Solutions grants. The grants are designed to empower Leadership Teams using NYLC's guided service-learning process to address one of four impact areas, including improving community health by addressing issues of teen driver safety, youth mental health, or the impacts of COVID-19 on Latino communities. Eligible applicants must include at least two young people in grades 6-12 and an adult mentor from a public school, school district, government entity, or nonprofit. Grant awards will range from \$250 - \$1,000. [read more.](#) **Deadline: September 13.**

YouthLead Invites Applications for its #United4Inclusion Contest! YouthLead in collaboration with Youth Excel, Accountability Lab, Atlas Corps, Grassroot Soccer, and YEO 2030 is accepting applications for the #United4Inclusion Contest! The contest is calling on all young changemakers (18-35 years) to unite to dismantle barriers, foster diversity, and reshape power dynamics within societies. To participate in this contest, applicants must submit a compelling photo, audio clip, or written piece that embodies the essence of inclusion in one of the following categories: Inclusive Workforce Development, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), Inclusive Activism, Inclusive Representation, or Inclusive Sports. [read more.](#) **Deadline: September 15.**

Funding & Other Opportunities *(continued)*

NEA Foundation Invites Applications for its Student Success Grant. The NEA Foundation is inviting applications for their Student Success Grant Program. Grants between \$1,500 and \$5,000 will be awarded in support of educator-led initiatives that engage students in engage students in critical thinking and problem-solving; mastery of essential academic content; strengthening communication and collaboration skills; and/or project-based learning and learning experiences connected to real-world issues and challenges. Eligible applicants must be teachers, education support professionals, or specialized instructional support personnel, and must be current members of the National Education Association. [read more](#). **Deadline: September 15.**

CELO Invites Applications for its College Service Grants. The Center for Expanding Leadership & Opportunity (CELO) in partnership with Allstate Foundation is accepting application for its College Service Grants. The grants of \$10,000 will support youth-led, youth-driven community service at community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and other vital higher education institutions across the United States. These grants are intended to support (re)defining youth empowerment for a new generation and help usher in a return to service for young people in the midst of a global pandemic and quickly evolving technologies. [read more](#). **Deadline: September 27.**

NSF Invites K-12 Students to Design Their Own Video Games and Compete for Game Maker Awards. The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) announces the NSF Game Maker Awards "Life in 2100" competition for K-12 students. To commemorate the agency's milestone 75th anniversary, this competition invites students to create video games that imagine life 75 years from now - in the year 2100. The journey to "Life in 2100" begins now! Students have until 5:00 p.m. EST on **January 31, 2025**. Details online at the [NSF Game Maker Awards](#) website. For additional information, view the [press release](#). **Deadline: October 11.**

YoungArts Invites Applications for its 2025 YoungArts Award Competition. [YoungArts](#) is accepting applications for its 2025 YoungArts Award Competition. Accomplished artists between the ages of 15 and 18 (or in grades 10 through 12) are encouraged to apply for cash prizes between \$250 and \$10,000. U.S. citizens, permanent residents/green card recipient, or legally able to receive taxable income in the United States are eligible to apply. [read more](#). **Deadline: October 17.**

Resources

Employment and Unemployment Among Youth Summary. This [newsrelease](#), developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics provides an analysis of youth unemployment and focuses on the seasonal changes in youth employment and unemployment that occur each spring and summer, the data are not seasonally adjusted.

Supporting Youth Economic Mobility through Employment-Focused Strategies. This [report](#) released by WorkRise reviews the evidence on employment-focused strategies to understand how to promote a broad vision of youth economic mobility and inform efforts to improve outcomes for young people following the pandemic.

AmeriCorps: Pathway to 21st Century Workforce Skills and Careers. This [factsheet](#) released by AmeriCorps highlights how AmeriCorps is strengthening pathways to employment and specific AmeriCorps programs that serve as a workforce pathway.

Helping Workers with Disabilities Get Ahead Through Good Jobs: A Toolkit of Practical Strategies. This [toolkit](#) released by the U.S. Department of Labor includes resources to help employers recruit, hire, retain, and advance workers with disabilities in construction, manufacturing, and clean energy jobs.

H2J Toolkit with Enterprise. This [toolkit](#) released by the Housing as a Pathway to Justice (H2J) in collaboration with Enterprise Community Partners was developed to help affordable housing providers better serve justice-involved individuals. This resource also seeks to educate the affordable housing industry on fundamental barriers, identify opportunities, improve equity for justice-involved individuals, and highlight innovative approaches to address existing gaps.

Digest of Education Statistics. This [resource](#) released by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) helps individuals find data they can use in their classroom, for a research project, or for their organization. NCES has released nearly 300 updated data tables for the *Digest* this year, including information on trends and topics such as educational attainment and labor market outcomes, public elementary and secondary school enrollment and staff, English learners, students with disabilities, public elementary and secondary school characteristics, college admission tests, postsecondary enrollment and staff, postsecondary finances, and federal funds for education and related activities.

Resources

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Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On September 5th, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, as part of its Information Literacy Initiative will host the **InformationLiteracy.gov Training Webinar**. The webinar will provide an overview of the trainings and resources available on [InformationLiteracy.gov](https://www.informationliteracy.gov) and how these tools can support information literacy needs in communities throughout the country. Click here to register for the [September 5th webinar](#).

On September 17th, 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 September 18th, Youth.Gov will host a webinar entitled: **Meaningfully Engaging Young People: Principles, Strategies, and Success Stories**. This webinar will inspire participants with real-world success stories and equip them with principles and strategies for engaging youth and young adults authentically and meaningfully. Participants will also be introduced to strategies that aim to help assess their organization's readiness for meaningful and authentic youth and young adult engagement. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

On September 19th, the Employment and Training Administration will host a webinar entitled: **CareerOneStop: Expand Training Options for Your Customers**. During the webinar attendees will learn about CareerOneStop's five essential tools for finding training opportunities for customers. This webinar will also feature the expanded Local Training Finder that now allows one to search all Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) eligible training programs in every state; these include short-term, publicly accessible job training programs for livable wage, in-demand jobs. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

Past Webinars/Webcasts

On August 28th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Amplifying Youth Voices: Navigating Youth Engagement from Advisors to Leader**. During the webinar the presenters explored different frameworks of youth engagement in the decision-making processes of workforce development. The session was designed for anyone interested in understanding and enhancing youth participation in workforce development. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

Resources

(continued)

On August 27th, the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) and the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Child Labor Compliance: Keeping Young Workers Safe**. The webinar provided a comprehensive understanding of child labor regulations. Attendees also learned about permissible work hours for minors, prohibited jobs, and common compliance issues. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

September 2024. [National Recovery Month 2024](#).

September 2024. [National Suicide Prevention Month](#).

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

September 9-14. Chicago, IL. International Manufacturing Technology Show's 20204 [Smartforce Student Summit](#).

September 12-13. Washington, DC. NYEC's Annual [Youth Days](#). The National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) will be hosting its annual [Youth Days](#) from September 12-13, where practitioners, advocates, and young people will come together in Washington, DC to advocate for opportunity youth at the federal level! This year's event features a dynamic blend of virtual preparation and in-person engagement. Whether you are new to policy and advocacy or a seasoned advocate, you will not want to miss this event! More details, including virtual preparation session descriptions and dates and a detailed agenda for the in-person event, can be found [here](#)!

September 17-19. Indianapolis, IN. [CareerWise](#) and [PAYA](#) sponsors [National Youth Apprenticeship Summit](#).

September 26. Social Capital Builders' [Social Capital Building for Youth Career Success Workshop](#).

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.

The Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) does not take responsibility for non-endorsed DOL/ETA resources included in the newsletter.