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..... 1-2
Funding & Other Opportunities.....3
Resources 4-5
Upcoming Events 6

Headlines

DOL Awards $81.5M in Grants to Support Industry-Driven Job Training Programs in Rural Communities. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of $81.5 million in funding to address the critical workforce needs of employers in high-growth and emerging industries across the Appalachian, Delta, and Northern Border regions. Administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration, the seventh round of Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities program funding supports 13 projects across 11 states to stimulate employment and wage growth, as well as economic mobility, self-sufficiency, and increased labor force participation. To view the press release, click here.

ETA Post Blog: Resources for Career and Technical Education Skill Competitions. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) released a blog announcing the availability of sample resources that can help one learn about and connect with the national organizations that host these competitions. Most skill competitions are sponsored or hosted at the regional level by trade organization chapters, union locals, or regional employers.

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)*

HHS Seeks Comments for its National Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Surveys. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published a notice in the October 8 FEDERAL REGISTER. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. **Comments due: December 7**.

ACTE Posts Blog: New Report Examines the CTE Research Landscape. The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) released a blog announcing a new report from Arnold Ventures. The report analyzes the research on Career and Technical Education (CTE) and workforce training programs. Overall, the researchers found that CTE produces generally positive outcomes, though the strength of evidence varies by program type and setting. The most effective programs tend to be occupationally specific, have strong employer connections, offer clear pathways to further education and training, and provide sufficient support to help students complete their program.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation Posts Blog: Corps to Careers: Building the Bridge Between Service and Today's Careers. The Annie E. Casey Foundation released a blog announcing this new initiative which is designed to provide career onramps for young people who are building skills and gaining work experience through service and conservation corps participation. Service corps are structured programs that engage young people in paid, service-learning opportunities that blend technical training, skill building, work experience and robust wrap around supports.

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

DOJ Announces Funding its Opportunity Expanding Youth Access to Community-Based Treatment Grant. The Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention is accepting applications for its Opportunity Expanding Youth Access to Community-Based Treatment grant. The grant funds community-based treatment programs for youth with substance use disorders (SUD) and co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (MHSUD). The grant is also intended to help selected sites build or expand cross-system approaches that connect the juvenile justice system with community treatment resources, specifically for youth who are already justice-involved or at risk of becoming so. Grant number: O-OJJDP-2026-172737. **Deadline: November 16.**

STEM Next Invites Applications for its National AI Innovation Challenge. STEM Next in partnership with Panasonic Foundation is accepting applications for its National AI Innovation Challenge. The Challenge invites after school programs to compete in a national competition that challenges high school youth in out-of-school time programs to develop innovative solutions to real-world challenges using AI. The challenge also gives youth the chance to learn how to use AI responsibly as a research and development partner as they create innovative projects addressing issues that matter to them — all while competing for a cash prize of up to $5,000 for their afterschool program. read more. **Deadline: November 19.**

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: December 1.**

ARC Accepting Applications for Summer Study Programs in Entrepreneurship and STEM for Region's Middle and High School Students. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) opened applications for two summer study opportunities: the Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy (AEA) and the Appalachian STEM Academy at Oak Ridge. Both programs, planned for summer 2027 and subject to available funding, are free intensive learning experiences specifically for the Appalachian Region's high school and/or middle school students and teachers. To view the press release, click here. **Deadline: December 4, 2026.**

Resources

Launching Futures Toolkit: Aerospace Industry Career Learning Resources for Afterschool Educators. This toolkit released by STEM Next was created specifically for afterschool and summer programs. This free resource makes it easy for educators to bring aerospace careers to life. Educators will also find hands-on activities that mirror real-world challenges faced by aerospace professionals, facilitation guides and training, as well as career profiles that highlight the diverse pathways available within the industry.

Eyes on Health Toolkit. This toolkit created by STEM Next gives educators ready-to-use resources that opens young people's eyes to the wide range of careers in health and life sciences. Grounded in the four strategies of STEM Next's Career-Connected Learning Framework, the toolkit helps after school and informal educators turn curiosity about the human body, medicine, and science into real career exploration.

Scaling Career-Connected Dual Enrollment: How College and K-12 Partners Can Strengthen Pathways and Expand Opportunity. This report released by the Community College Research Center details the need for college and career acceleration. Drawing on in-depth interviews with 135 dual enrollment and career and technical education (CTE) practitioners at colleges and high schools at 12 sites across the country, the report goes on to describe three core structural strategies to scale career-connected dual enrollment that are built around traditional high school CTE pathways, high school career academies, and college-based CTE programs. The report also highlights promising practices undertaken by sites to guide and support students, which are mapped to the Dual Enrollment Equity Pathways (DEEP) framework. The authors conclude with lessons offered by postsecondary and K-12 leaders and practitioners on how to sustain, fund, and expand high-opportunity career pathways.

Invest in What's Next: Your Career and Education Pathways. This interactive module released by the Federal Reserve Education uses a decision-making guide to explore career and education options, future income and lifestyle, and creates a post-graduation plan. Check out the Lesson/Activity for more information.

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On November 12th the Employment and Training Administration will host a webinar entitled: **Building More Responsive Workforce Systems: Lessons in Innovation and Flexibility.** This webinar will examine how Governor's Reserve funds, WIOA waiver authority, and other workforce system flexibilities can be used to support innovative strategies, improve service delivery, expand access, and accelerate implementation of promising practices. To register for the webinar, click here.

Resources *(continued)*

On November 17th, Thrive From the Start will host a webinar entitled: **Solving PN3 Homelessness: A Policy Primer.** This webinar provides an essential overview of federal, state, and local policies that shape how PN3 families experiencing homelessness access housing, shelter, and early childhood services. Through a combination of policy analysis and real-world application, attendees will gain a clearer understanding of eligibility criteria, funding streams, service coordination strategies, and advocacy opportunities that families need to thrive from the start. To register for the academy, click here.

Past Webinars/Webcasts

On October 29th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Accountability in Action.** During the webinar participants explored how accountability is built throughout the grant lifecycle and across program, fiscal, reporting, monitoring, and oversight functions. The webinar also connected behind-the-scenes practices—such as fiscal stewardship, internal controls, monitoring, data quality reviews, documentation, corrective action, and subrecipient oversight—to the public-facing results stakeholders encounter, including performance outcomes, participant and employer results, dashboards, and other transparency efforts. To view a recording of the webinar, click here.

On September 24th, Youth Collaboratory hosted a webinar entitled: **From Insight to Action: Best Practices Learned from Supporting Vulnerable Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care Demonstration Project.** During the webinar presenters shared real-world examples of how teams at different project sites closed service gaps, responded to young people's real needs, and helped them transition successfully into adulthood. Participants were expected to gain practical ideas they can apply to strengthen programs serving young people with foster care experience. To view an archive of the webinar, click here.

Upcoming Events

November. National Entrepreneurship Month.

November 16-18. San Antonio, TX. National Association of Workforce Development Professionals' 27th Annual Youth Symposium.

November 17-19. Denver, CO. CareerWise and New America's 2026 National Youth Apprenticeship Summit.

December 15-17. Washington, DC. 988 Crisis System Grantee & Partners National Conference.

March 4-5, 2027. Washington, D.C. National Skills Coalition's 2027 Skills Summit.



Visit the Youth Connections Community of Practice's Youth Resource Connections Newsletter page to view or obtain a copy of the Youth Resource Connections Newsletter.

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 via 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.