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 TEN 05-26 – Framework for Effective Pre-Apprenticeships. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 05-26. The purpose of this TEN is to: (1) present the core components of effective pre-apprenticeships through a clear, actionable framework; (2) reaffirm the definition of pre-apprenticeship and its essential connection to Registered Apprenticeship programs; and (3) clarify how pre-apprenticeships can be delivered across federally funded workforce and education programs. To read the TEN, click here

Compact For America's Youth Launches with New Commitments from Labor, Industry, Education, And Philanthropy. Leaders from industry, labor, education, and philanthropy today launched the Compact for America's Youth, a challenge to public and private sector leaders to open real paths from school into careers for young people. The American Federation of Teachers, CareerWise, and Jobs for the Future issued the call to action at a forum in Washington, D.C., where organizations announced their first commitments. The Compact responds to three forces converging on young people entering the workforce: affordability, anxiety, and artificial intelligence. Together they strain the launchpad decade between ages 16 and 26, when young people accumulate the education, experience, and networks that shape their earnings and sense of possibility for years after. To obtain additional information 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)*

Building Strong Readers: How the Trump Administration is Supercharging Evidence-Based Literacy to Combat Reading Crisis. America is facing a literacy emergency that is reshaping the trajectory of an entire generation. National reading scores – long a bellwether for student success – have dropped to historic lows. In response, the Department of Education has made literacy a central priority across its grantmaking, research agenda, and technical assistance efforts. By strengthening state capacity in teacher preparation for evidence-based literacy and prioritizing materials aligned with phonics instruction, the Trump Administration is empowering states to overhaul their literacy ecosystems. To obtain additional information on grant opportunities, click here.

Dollar General Literacy Foundation Awards More Than $4.1 Million in Youth Literacy Grants. The Dollar General Literacy Foundation announced more than $4.1 million in youth literacy grants to benefit more than 850 schools, libraries and non-profit organizations throughout the country. The grants are expected to positively impact approximately 545,000 students. Funding will help organizations strengthen literacy programs and expand access to educational tools, resources, books, technology, equipment and materials. A complete list of this year's grant recipients is available online at www.dgliteracy.org. To view the press release, click here.

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

YoungArts Invites Applications for its 2025 YoungArts Award Competition. YoungArts is accepting applications for its 2027 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. Applicants must be either a United States citizen, a permanent resident or be legally able to receive taxable income in the U.S. (i.e. have a US social security number, ITIN, etc.) at the time of applying are eligible to apply. read more. **Deadline: October 6.**

YSA Invites Applications for its MLK Day of Service Lead Agency Grants. Youth Service America (YSA) in partnership with AmeriCorps is accepting applications for its MLK Day of Service Lead Agency Grants. Awardees will receive grants of $1,000 - $10,000 to promote MLK Day of Service in their community and engage multiple sites and organize a single large or multiple smaller MLK Day service projects/events. Grantees will be expected to engage a minimum of 100 youth volunteers for each $1,000 of funding on/around MLK Day in youth-designed and youth-led service projects that meet an immediate need in their local community. read more. **Deadline: October 25.**

YSA Invites Applications for its Youth At Every Decision-Making Table Grants. Youth Service America (YSA) in partnership with AmeriCorps is accepting applications for its Youth At Every Decision-Making Table Grants. Awardees will receive grants of $2,000 to support development of new Youth Councils or expansion of existing ones. Grantees will organize a citywide or statewide Youth Leadership Summit on/around MLK Day – and ongoing opportunities for youth voice, leadership, and decision-making through The Civic Season (Juneteenth-July 4th) – that engage a minimum of 200 youth and adults to make a commitment to service. read more. **Deadline: Oct. 25.**

ALDI Invites Applications for its Community Gift Card Program. ALDI is accepting applications for its Community Gift Card Program. This program offers gifts valued between $100 and $1,000 to qualified nonprofits and schools committed to supporting after-school and out-of-school youth programs. Through this program, ALDI collaborates with local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, including schools, to benefit all children in the community. Organizations whose mission focuses on supporting children through education, arts, athletics, or addressing food insecurity, are encouraged to apply. read more. **Deadline: October 31, 2026.**

Kindness Grows Here Invites Applications for its Kid Kindness Grants. Kindness Grows Here is accepting applications from kids and teens ages 5–18 who have an idea for spreading kindness. Applicants may apply as individuals or as part of a group, such as friends, a classroom, school club, scout troop, sports team, or other youth group. Grant amounts are $250, $500, and $800. read more. **Deadline: November 1.**

Funding & Other Opportunities *(continued)*

DOJ Invites Applications for its Second Chance Act Youth Reentry Program. The U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention is accepting applications for its Fiscal Year 2026 Second Chance Act Youth Reentry Program. This opportunity will support states, units of local government, federally recognized Native American Tribal governments, and community-based organizations to provide (1) comprehensive reentry services for moderate- to high-risk youth before, during, and after release from confinement, and (2) support transitional services to assist youth to successfully reenter the community. This program supports collaborations between state agencies, local government, Tribes, and community- and faith-based organizations to address the challenges that reentry and recidivism reduction pose for moderate to high-risk juvenile offenders returning to their communities from juvenile residential or correctional facilities. read more. **Deadline: November 2.**

DOJ Invites Applications for its Multistate Mentoring Programs. The U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is accepting applications for its Multistate Mentoring Programs. This opportunity supports the implementation and delivery of mentoring services to youth populations that are at risk or high risk for delinquency, victimization, and going into the juvenile justice system. Mentoring services can be one-on one, group, peer, or a combination of these types. read more. **Deadline: November 5.**

Stark Community Foundation Announces Grant Opportunities for Students. Stark Community Foundation is accepting applications for its General Scholarship cycle for the 2027-2028 school year. Applications will be automatically matched to scholarships for which they qualify. It will also suggest other applicants are eligible to apply for that require additional information (essay, series of questions, etc.). read more. **Deadline: Open December 15, 2026, through April 1, 2027.**

Resources

YouthBuild Registered Apprenticeship Partnership Planning Checklist. The Employment and Training Administration developed this checklist designed for pre-apprenticeship program staff who are exploring, developing, or strengthening relationships with Registered Apprenticeship (RA) partners. Whether a program is beginning to identify apprenticeship opportunities in their community or preparing for a conversation with an established RA sponsor, programs can use this tool to plan and strategize.

Resources *(continued)*

Registered Apprenticeship 101: Tools and Steps to Build and Sustain RA Programs. The Employment and Training Administration's Office of Apprenticeship released this new course through the Registered Apprenticeship Academy. This foundational course introduces the value and structure of Registered Apprenticeship (RA) and the National Apprenticeship System as a workforce development strategy and its benefits for employers, workers, and partners. It provides key concepts, tools, processes, and practical considerations involved in developing, supporting, and promoting Registered Apprenticeship.

State Models for Effective Workforce Delivery and System Modernization. This policy brief released by Jobs for the Future highlights policies and practices in three states (Michigan, New Jersey, and Ohio) that align and strengthen federal workforce programs to build more effective workforce systems.

Advancing Youth-Adult Partnership: A Tool Kit for Shared Leadership Across Generations. This toolkit from the Annie E. Casey Foundation helps organizations assess their readiness and build authentic youth-adult partnerships grounded in shared decision-making, leadership and authority.

Classification of Registered Youth Apprenticeship Programs. This report released by the Urban Institute provides definitions of multiple models of youth apprenticeship based on key delivery partners, including high school-aligned programs, college-aligned programs, Career and Technical Education (CTE) center-aligned programs, and other youth-focused programs (which include employer aligned and youth serving organization-aligned).

Promoting Retention and Completion in Registered Apprenticeship Programs that Serve Young People. This brief released by the Urban Institute summarizes findings from a study of youth apprentice retention that gathered the perspectives of program sponsors and youth apprentices. The study aimed to (1) identify program-level practices that support youth apprentice retention and completion; (2) document the experiences of the youth apprentices, including challenges they experienced completing apprenticeship programs or the services and supports that helped them persist; (3) describe structural or resource limitations that may affect youth apprentices' ability to complete their programs; and (4) generate evidence that can inform apprenticeship programs that serve young people.

Resources *(continued)*

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On October 8th, the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) will host its **NAWDP Virtual Academy: Foundations of Workforce Development**. This academy provides a comprehensive introduction to the workforce development system and the essential role workforce professionals play in serving job seekers, businesses, and communities. Participants will gain a stronger understanding of workforce programs, service strategies, and industry practices while developing skills they can immediately apply in their day-to-day work. To register for the academy, click here.

On October 13th, 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 22nd, the National Youth Employment Coalition will host a webinar entitled: **Unlocking the Potential of WIOA Title I to Help America's Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities Access Jobs**. This webinar will explore how states and local communities are using WIOA Title I to create stronger pathways to employment and economic self-sufficiency for youth and young adults with disabilities. To register for the session, click here.

Past Webinars/Webcasts

On September 29th, Crisis Systems Response Training and Technical Assistance Center hosted a webinar entitled: **Youth & Family Recovery for the Future**. This webinar explored emerging definitions of youth recovery as well as strategies that elevate youth voice, strengthen family engagement and family recovery, expand youth and family peer support. To view an archive of the webinar, click here.

Resources *(continued)*

On September 28th, Safal Partners hosted a webinar entitled: **Steady Ground: Fiscal Governance as Your Strategic Anchor in a Shifting Workforce Landscape**. During the webinar presenters will discuss how State and local workforce leaders are navigating a rapidly shifting landscape: WIOA reauthorization debates, AI-driven labor market demands, and changing federal guidance. Strong fiscal governance ensures workforce leaders stay nimble and prepared for what's next. To view an archive of the webinar, click here.

On September 23rd, the Crisis Systems Response Training and Technical Assistance Center hosted a webinar entitled: **Meeting Youth Where They Are: Building Developmentally Appropriate Pathways Across the Crisis Continuum.** This webinar explored key considerations for supporting children, adolescents, their families, and caregivers across the behavioral health crisis care continuum. Grounded in Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Guidelines for a Behavioral Health Coordinated System of Crisis Care, this session explored how crisis systems can be adapted to better meet the needs of youth, while engaging caregivers and communities as partners in recovery. To view an archive of the webinar, click here.

Upcoming Events

October 10. U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

October 13-15. Orlando, FL. National Federation of Families (NFF) for their 37th Annual Conference.

October 13-15. Pittsburgh, PA. Coalition for Juvenile Justice 2026 Youth Justice in Action Conference.

October 14-15. Baltimore, MD. Point Source Youth 2026 National Symposium on Solutions to End Youth Homelessness.

October 20-22. Palm Springs, CA. National Council for Workforce Education 2026 Annual Conference.

October 24. Youth Service America's Make A Difference Day 2026.

Upcoming Events *(continued)*

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.

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.