

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 TEGL 04-26 – Using Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Governor’s Reserve Funding to Advance Workforce Development Priorities. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 04-26. This guidance clarifies how states may use Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) statewide funding (commonly referred to as “Governor’s Reserve” funding) and encourage states to expend available funding to advance critical workforce development priorities. To read the TEGL, [click here](#).

ETA issues TEN 04-26 - Promoting High-Quality Industry-Recognized Credentials. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Notice 04-26. This notice is intended to assist the public workforce and education systems—including State Workforce Agencies (SWAs), Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs), Career and Technical Education (CTE) directors, employers, and post-secondary education and training providers—in understanding the importance of high-quality industry-recognized credentials. To read the TEN, 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)

ETA issues TEN 03-26 – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Core Program Performance Accountability Assessment for Program Year (PY) 2025. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Notice 03-26. This notice provides information on which WIOA core indicators the Departments of Labor and Education will assess for each of the WIOA core programs in PY 2025. To read the TEN, click [here](#).

DOL Awarded \$81M to Support Training, Employment for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) awarded approximately \$81 million in grant funding to assist people reentering their communities after being incarcerated by helping them gain experience and secure employment in skilled trades and high-demand industries. The Reentry Employment in Skilled Trades, Advanced Manufacturing, Registered Apprenticeships, and Training (RESTART) initiative supports the advancement of workforce readiness skills and the attainment of employment for ex-offenders across three populations: youth (ages 15-17 years old), young adults (ages 18-24 years old), and adults (ages 25 years old and above). The grants prioritize shipbuilding, IT, advanced manufacturing, transportation, Registered Apprenticeship, and other industries important to the domestic industrial workforce. To obtain additional information and view the awardees, click [here](#).

DOL Awarded 2025 DOL YouthBuild Grant Awards. In July 2026, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) awarded \$100 million in YouthBuild program grants to 66 organizations in 32 states to support the development of pre-apprenticeships in high-demand industries including construction, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and healthcare. To obtain additional information about the 2025 YouthBuild grants, click [here](#).

DOL Awards \$162M to Expand Registered Apprenticeship Through Performance-Based Incentives in Key Industry Sectors. The U.S. Department of Labor announced the award of nearly \$162 million through five cooperative agreements to expand Registered Apprenticeship in the occupations critical for the administration's reindustrialization agenda. The department's Employment and Training Administration will administer the five Pay-for-Performance Incentive Payments Program cooperative agreements with organizations that will lead nationwide efforts to train thousands of Americans for jobs in the shipbuilding, defense industrial base, and emerging technology sectors. This performance-based model directly links federal funding to measurable outcomes, providing incentive payments to Registered Apprenticeship sponsors as their apprentices reach verified retention and progression milestones. Click [here](#) to view the [press release](#).

Headlines

(continued)

U.S. Department of Education Approves the Nation's First Workforce Pell Grant Program in Iowa.

The U.S. Department of Education (the Department) approved the nation's first Workforce Pell Grant program, marking a major milestone in expanding faster, more affordable pathways to careers in high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industry sectors or occupations. Starting today, eligible students at Iowa Central Community College can now use federal Pell Grant dollars to enroll in the Emergency Medical Technician program, a 14-week program that prepares students for key public safety jobs. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon, joined by Acting Secretary of Labor Keith Sonderling and Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, announced the program's approval for federal Pell Grant support during a visit to Iowa Central's Fort Dodge campus. To obtain additional information click [here](#).

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Awards More Than \$1.5 Million to Prepare Students for the Future of Work.

As AI reshapes industries and redefines the skills employers need, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation announced five organizations have been selected for a new national initiative designed to help more students connect their education to real career opportunities and help employers build a stronger future workforce. To obtain additional information [click here](#).

YouthBuild Global Receives \$6.2M AmeriCorps Grant Renewing National Service Partnership.

YouthBuild Global announced the award of a \$6.2 million grant from AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, for the 2026–2029 program term, enabling 33 local YouthBuild programs and more than 1,000 young people across 20 states to serve their communities — building affordable housing, supporting disaster recovery and more — while they reclaim their education and build pathways to family-sustaining careers. To obtain additional information [click here](#).

NSF Announces \$1.5B for Foundational Research to Drive Scientific Breakthroughs for American Technological Leadership.

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) released 12 new notices of funding opportunity (NOFOs) providing over \$1.5 billion for foundational research, including basic and use-inspired inquiry across the sciences and engineering. These funding opportunities support the foremost goal in the administration's memorandum "Ushering in a New Golden Age of American Innovation: Fiscal Year 2028 Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities" which calls for investing in the foundational research that remains the bedrock of American science and technology leadership. They also deliver on a central premise of the report Science: A New Golden Age — that America must respond to the forces reshaping the scientific enterprise and create conditions in which exceptional science can occur more often and progress more rapidly. Click here to view the [press release](#).

Headlines

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Lowe's Foundation Launches Nation's Largest Skilled Trades Coalition with NVIDIA, AT&T, Bank of America, Carrier, General Motors, DEWALT and Duke Energy to Help Train and Develop 1 Million People for America's Workforce. The [Lowe's Foundation](#) launched the Building Futures Skilled Trades Coalition, the largest cross-sector skilled trades coalition in U.S. history, to help train and develop one million people for skilled trades careers by 2035. The national alliance is backed by over 75 American educators, businesses, workforce organizations, industry vendors and stakeholders across the skilled trades ecosystem, including corporate leaders NVIDIA, AT&T, Bank of America, Carrier, General Motors, DEWALT and Duke Energy. To view the press release, click [here](#).

Featured Program and Participant

Spotlight on Success: Emilio, WIOA Out of School Youth Program

Emilio learned about the WIOA Youth Program through a local worksite that has an established contract with Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas. Both the employer and Emilio reached out to initiate services, and an appointment was scheduled to review his eligibility. Emilio met with case worker Jennifer Jordan at the Angelina County Workforce Center where he participated in the WIOA Orientation and completed the eligibility application. He was subsequently approved for services and enrolled in the WIOA Youth Program.

Emilio began employment with that specific local worksite in October 2025 and maintained consistent employment to successfully complete his 520 work experience hours in March 2026.

Through the customer's determination and the support of the WIOA Youth Program, Emilio was successfully hired on at the local worksite as a permanent employee in March 2026. He expressed gratitude for the assistance received throughout the program and shared that he felt genuinely supported in achieving his goals. Emilio stated that he appreciated the guidance and encouragement provided and will remember the opportunity he was given to succeed.

Congratulations, Emilio!

Story written by Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas staff

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

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.**

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. United States citizens, permanent residents or are legally able to receive taxable income in the United States are eligible to apply. [read more](#). **Deadline: October 6.**

O'Connor Institute Ambassadors Civics & Debate Club Invites Applications for its Community Service Awards. The O'Connor Institute Ambassadors Civics & Debate Club is accepting applications from High school students to recognize those who are giving back. Twenty-five students will be selected to receive a \$500 award by logging summer service hours and sharing their story as an [O'Connor Institute Ambassador](#). Eligible applicants must be an O'Connor Institute Ambassador or ready to join the free, extracurricular online club to become one. [read more](#). **Deadline: October 16.**

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 2026-2027 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: October 20.**

The CCAM-TAC Invites Proposals for its Community Rides Grant Program. The Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Technical Assistance Center (CCAM-TAC) will award up to \$500,000 to strengthen local transportation coordination & partnerships, foster cross-sector service coordination, and build capacity to improve transportation access for populations with the greatest need. Up to five selected agencies will be awarded \$100,000. Eligible Lead Applicants must be a: public transit provider; tribal transit provider; local government entity; or nonprofit human service provider that receives or is eligible to receive Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding (e.g., Section 5307, Section 5311, Section 5310, or Tribal Transit program funds). [read more](#). **Full Proposals Due: October 19, 2026.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

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Department of Education Launches “Careers in Your Community” Challenge. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) launched the [“Careers in Your Community” Challenge](#), the fourth competition in the [CTE Momentum](#) series. The challenge invites teams of high school students to develop and submit proposals that improve career exploration at their schools. Submissions will be judged based upon their impact, feasibility, community connection, student engagement and the career pathway knowledge students demonstrate. Eligible teams must be led by a CTE teacher, coordinator or director. Up to 10 teams may win and receive an equal share of the \$50,000 prize pool. [read more](#). **Deadline: Proposals due November 19th.**

Resources

State of Young People Report 2026. This [report](#) released by America's Promise Alliance explored three topics: social impact careers, the postsecondary pathways young people weigh after high school, and thriving. Together they address one question: Do young people aspire to make society better, and if so, how do they imagine doing that through their careers and post-secondary educational experiences?

Afterschool STEM Takes Off: Programs Offer More STEM Than Ever, But Too Many Young People Still Miss Out. Afterschool Alliance released this [study](#) by America After 3PM finds a huge leap in afterschool programs providing STEM education, but students in rural communities and low-income families lag behind.

The Future of Youth Development Building Systems. This [report](#) released by the Wallace Foundation provides an updated look at out-of-school-time (OST) programming in the U.S. This report also examines the effectiveness of OST programs, identifies access and quality improvements, and outlines a future research agenda for the youth development field.

Resources

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What is the US National Volunteer Strategy? This [strategy](#) released by Points of Light provides a shared roadmap for nonprofits, businesses, schools, faith communities, governments, and individuals to make volunteering more meaningful and more accessible for everyone. This strategy honors the millions of people already giving their time and talent to help communities thrive. It also challenges what's possible when the volunteer ecosystem has the infrastructure, investment, coordination and modern approaches it needs. Join us in building a stronger future for volunteering, and a stronger future for communities across the country.

Advancing Youth-Adult Partnership: A Toolkit for Shared Leadership Across Generations. This [tool kit](#) from the Annie E. Casey Foundation provides a practical framework for creating and advancing genuine youth-adult partnership for community change work.

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On September 8th, 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 19th the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Technical Assistance Center (CCAM-TAC) will host a webinar entitled: **2027 Community Rides Pilot Grant Program**. During the webinar presenters will discuss the primary objective of the pilot initiative which is to strengthen local transportation coordination & partnerships, foster cross-sector service coordination, and build capacity to improve transportation access for populations with the greatest need. To register for the session, click [here](#).

Past Webinars/Webcasts

On August 4th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Scaling Registered Apprenticeship: The Road to One Million**. This webinar convened federal, state, and workforce leaders for Scaling Registered Apprenticeship: The Road to One Million, a conversation on what it will take to expand high-quality Registered Apprenticeship nationwide. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

Resources

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On July 29th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Industry Benefits: AI Integration in Healthcare**. During the webinar presenters discussed how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly evolving the overall economy, with healthcare being an early adopter of innovative strategies. From hospital wings to clinics to back-office operations, AI tools are changing how care is documented, how diagnoses are reached, and how clinicians spend their time. These shifts are redefining roles and raising a pressing question: How do we prepare workers to thrive in an AI-enabled healthcare sector. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

On July 1st, the U.S. Department of Labor hosted a webinar entitled: The **AI Advantage: Transforming Education from Classroom to Career**. This webinar explored how forward-thinking institutions are leveraging AI certifications to equip the next generation of learners - from K-12 classrooms to college campuses - with the skills and credentials they need to thrive in an AI-driven world. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

On June 30th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Workforce Pell Implementation: What the Workforce System Needs to Know**. During the webinar the presenter shared how Workforce Pell opens up potential for students to access federal financial aid for programs that have not traditionally been eligible. They also noted that it is more than that. Its design requires cross-system implementation efforts that link higher education opportunities to workforce policy, labor market demand, student supports, and outcome accountability. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

On April 30th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **How States Can Align Registered Apprenticeship, Workforce, and Education Systems for Greater Impact**. This webinar explored how stronger alignment between Registered Apprenticeship, workforce development, and education systems drives better outcomes for workers, employers, and communities. Featuring state apprenticeship leaders and local practitioners, the session highlighted how policies, partnerships, and practices work together to support apprenticeship expansion. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

September 8. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Annual [988 Day](#).

September 16-17. [2026 National Association of State Workforce Agencies \(NASWA\) Summit](#).

September 21-23. National Youth Employment Coalition's [2026 D.C. Summit: Bridging Practice to Policy](#).

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



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.