

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

DOL Awards Nearly \$1.5 Million to Increase Apprenticeship Participation, Expand Job Opportunities for American Women.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has awarded nearly \$1.5 million in grant funding to organizations in Illinois, Virginia, and Wisconsin to help recruit, train, and retain more women in quality pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs. The grants will help women pursue careers in manufacturing, infrastructure, cybersecurity, health care, and other industries. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20190828>.

ETA Announces Availability of Disability Technical Assistance Videos.

The Employment and Training Administration has posted a series of technical assistance videos on disability employment issues to support the work of American Job Centers nationwide. The videos cover topics including service integration and alignment of services, physical and programmatic access, effective communication on disability awareness and etiquette, and financial capability strategies. To view the videos, visit: https://disability.workforcegps.org/resources/2018/02/27/17/32/Disability_Technical_Assistance_Videos.

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

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ETA Announces the Availability of Disability-Related Tax Incentives Information. The Employment and Training Administration has posted information on WorkforceGPS on its disability-related tax incentives for employers and individuals with disabilities. For employers, details are provided on the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, the Architectural and Transportation Barrier Removal Deduction, and State Employer Tax Incentives. In addition, this site explains the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE). ABLE accounts allow eligible individuals with disabilities to establish tax-advantaged savings accounts to pay for qualified disability expenses. To obtain additional information, visit: https://disability.workforcegps.org/resources/2018/02/05/18/38/Disability_Focus_Employer_Tax_Incentives.

DOL Announces Funding to Support Employee Policy Development for Youth with Disabilities. The U.S. Department of Labor has announced the award of \$4 million for a four-year cooperative agreement to operate a policy development center focused on youth with disabilities. The center will build on the work of the Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth. During the performance period, the awardee – the Council of State Governments – will develop and manage the center. The center will conduct research, engage with the workforce system and its partners, identify effective policies and practices that support youth with disabilities, and provide resources and training to help support the transition of youth with disabilities to employment. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20190828>.

DOL Launches Online Help Desk to Provide Compliance Assistance to Federal Contractors and Stakeholders. The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL's) Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) launched the [Contractor Assistance Portal](#), an online help desk to provide enhanced compliance assistance to federal contractors and stakeholders. The virtual online helpdesk is part of a broad push by the U.S. Department of Labor to provide innovative compliance assistance to job creators. For more information, call OFCCP's toll-free helpline at 800-397-6251 or visit <http://www.dol.gov/ofccp/>. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ofccp/ofccp20190809-0>.

Headlines

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DOL Awards \$2 Million to Cornell University to Help Increase Employment among Individuals with Disabilities.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has announced the awarding of \$2 million to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, for the first year of a 4-year cooperative agreement to operate an employer-focused disability policy development and technical assistance center. This center will build upon the prior work of ODEP's Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion (EARN). To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20190809>.

HHS Awards Nearly \$400 Million to Combat the Opioid Crisis. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded nearly \$400 million to combat the nation's opioid crisis. The investments will enable HRSA-funded community health centers, rural organizations and academic institutions to establish and expand access to integrated substance use disorder and mental health services. The awards support [HHS's Five-Point Opioid Strategy, introduced under President Trump in 2017](#). To view the press release, visit: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/08/08/hhs-awards-nearly-400-million-to-combat-opioid-crisis.html>.

HUD Awards \$75 Million to Help End Youth Homelessness. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is awarding \$75 million to end youth homelessness in 23 local communities across the country, including eight rural areas. HUD's [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program \(YHDP\)](#) will help these communities to build local systems and will support a wide range of housing programs including rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and host homes. This year's funding level is significantly higher than the \$43 million awarded last year. HUD developed YHDP with youth in mind, relying upon the recommendations provided directly from young people who had experienced homelessness. To ensure that the program meets the needs of young people, HUD incorporated many of the same young people who provided recommendations on the program's design in the application review process. To view the press release, visit: https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_19_131.

Headlines

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HHS Announces New Website to Empower Parents to Make Personalized Child Care Choices.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced the public launch of a new website to assist parents and caregivers in finding childcare. ChildCare.gov includes links to state childcare search engines and financial assistance available within states to help families find childcare, as well as child development and early learning resources. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/media/press/new-website-empowers-parents-to-make-personalized-child-care-choices>.

ED Posts Blog: Technical Assistance to Improve Postsecondary Transition Services. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) released this blog, which discusses Secretary Betsy DeVos' belief in the innate potential of every student and knows that access to high-quality services are an essential part of local, State, and Federal efforts to improve outcomes for all students and youth with disabilities. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) is seeking input from the public, particularly State Education Agencies, Local Educational Agencies, State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies, parents and Career and Technical Education educators, and other relevant stakeholders on how best to provide technical assistance (TA) to States in order to improve postsecondary transition services to all students and youth with disabilities. Additionally, OSERS seeks input on how best to strengthen and expand coordination and collaboration with OSERS Parent Training and Information Centers and other relevant TA centers. To view the blog and provide comments, visit: <https://sites.ed.gov/osers/2019/09/technical-assistance-to-improve-postsecondary-transition-services/>. **Comments due before October 2.**

New U.S. Census Bureau Data Shows Employment Mobility for College Graduates. The U.S. Census Bureau released new data showing how college graduates are employed, their mobility and which industries they enter after receiving their degrees. This set of tabulations is from a pilot public-use data product on labor market outcomes for college graduates called Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes. The Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes pilot research program is being conducted in cooperation with higher education institutional systems to examine earnings and employment outcomes of post-secondary graduates. The [Employment Flows tabulations](#) examine employment flows for graduates by institution, degree level, degree field and graduation cohort to Census Division and industry sector. Statistics will be updated for future graduation cohorts as they become available. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2019/employment-mobility.html>.

Headlines

(continued)

Governor's Workforce Cabinet Awards Nearly \$1M in Career Coaching Grants. The Indiana Governor's Workforce Cabinet announced the award of almost \$1 million in grant money to 14 grantees. The Local Career Coaching Grant is an opportunity for K-12 representatives, post-secondary representatives, employers, and community-based organizations to collaborate on a comprehensive, career-focused solution for their community. The goal is for partners to work together to create a sustainable system for the delivery of local, state, and national career information, as well as the educational attainment levels required for those careers. The system should provide students and adults with opportunities to participate in experiential learning and training in order to make well-informed decisions about their futures. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.in.gov/gwc/2363.htm>.

Power for America, Utility Workers Launch First-of-Its-Kind Renewable Energy Specialist Apprenticeship Program. The Power for America Training Trust Fund (P4A) and Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), and AFL-CIO announced a unique, new union apprenticeship program that provides world-class skills training and a path to employment for in-demand jobs in the renewable energy sector. The Department of Labor (DOL)-certified, program provides individuals with specialized skills to remain at the forefront of the offshore and onshore wind, solar generation and battery storage fields. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://uwua.net/news/power-america-utility-workers-launch-first-kind-renewable-energy-specialist-apprenticeship-program/>

Success Story

Michigan Talent Investment Agency/Workforce Development Agency

After battling with a disability for her entire life, Tina wanted a life change after hundreds of surgeries. Tina was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, a condition that affects the development of bones and other tissues of the face, and in Tina's case, also made it hard for her to eat and breathe. After graduation from high school and struggling with numerous uphill battles, Tina decided it was time for a change and went to Michigan Works! in search of training so she could transition off Social Security and become employed as a truck driver.

Tina stayed dedicated and focused on one goal, which was obtaining her Commercial Driver's License (CDL-A). After completing her 160 hours training through the local community college, Tina was in search of employment immediately and wasted no time searching. After a short time, she had employment as a CDL truck driver. To date, Tina has over six months' worth of time with her current employer and has had two pay increases since she started. She is now making \$16.62 per hour and travelling the road with her dog.

Tina stated, "I like showing people [that] no matter what others say I can't do, there's always something I can do."

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

NASA Announces Phase two of the Space Robotics Challenge. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is accepting applications for its Space Robotics Challenge. The challenge is designed to develop software that allows a team of virtual robots (i.e., virtual robotic team) to operate fully autonomously for a specified length of time in a virtual lunar environment. Awardees will receive \$1,000,000 prize. [read more...](#) **Deadline: December 20.**

Tower Foundation Accepting Applications for Programs Serving Children with Disabilities. The [Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its Programs and Services program. The program is designed to support projects that support children, adolescents, or young adults (up to age 26) affected by intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, mental illness, and/or substance use disorders. Eligible applicants must be located in and currently providing services to one or more of the above populations in Erie and Niagara counties in western New York and Barnstable, Dukes, Essex, and Nantucket counties in eastern Massachusetts. Applicants must also be tax exempt as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or a not-for-profit public benefit corporation, public or diocesan school district, or a private or charter school. [read more...](#) **Deadline: September 11.**

NewSchools Announces \$8 Million in Funding for Pre-K-12 Education Innovators, Entrepreneurs. NewSchools Venture Fund announced open funding opportunities for two of their investment areas: [Innovative Public Schools](#) and [Diverse Leaders](#). These investments are designed for teams of educators and entrepreneurs who are either dreaming of opening a new innovative public school, or are interested in growing, advancing and supporting Black and Latino leadership in education. [read more...](#) **Deadlines: Diverse Leaders - September 13; Innovative Public Schools - November 11.**

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Announces \$5 Million Funding Opportunity for Expanding Effective School Practices. The [Chan Zuckerberg Initiative](#) (CZI) is accepting applications from teams of schools, support organizations, and researchers who want to apply the science of learning and human development to improve existing school-based practices that develop self-direction and curiosity. Ten school-based teams will be awarded one-to two-year grants to help them implement, improve, and measure practices in their schools using the science of human adolescent learning and development. [read more...](#) **Deadline: September 13.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

Gerber Foundation Invites Applications for West Michigan Youth Programs. The [Gerber Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its West Michigan Youth Programs. The programs are designed to serve youth in the region between birth and age 18 who reside in the four-county area that includes the west Michigan counties of Lake, Muskegon, Newaygo, and Oceana. Priority will be given to programs/projects focused on health, nutrition, and dental issues; early childhood services and literacy; parenting education; education (including science, technology, engineering, arts/agriculture, and math); and life experiences (camp scholarships, Ag science education, 4-H, and FFA). Grants may range from between \$100 to \$20,000. Eligible applicants must be tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or a governmental entity. Collaborative programs and those that have support from the broader community are encouraged to apply. [read more...](#) **Deadline: September 15.**

Research!America Announces Call for Proposals for Science Student Civic Engagement Projects. [Research!America](#) is accepting proposals from graduate student- and postdoc-led science policy groups for its civic engagement initiative. The program is designed to encourage dialogue between young scientists and local leaders about the roles science and research play in issues important to their communities. Up to fifteen groups will receive grants ranging between \$1,000 and \$3,000. Eligible student groups must have a fiscal sponsor. [read more...](#) **Deadline: September 20.**

William T. Grant Foundation Accepting Applications for Youth Service Capacity-Building Program for NYC Nonprofits. The [William T. Grant Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its newly launched Youth Service Capacity-Building Grants program. Through the program, general operating support grants of \$60,000 will be awarded in support of activities aimed at strengthening the organizational infrastructure of nonprofit organizations that provide direct services to young people between the ages of 5 and 25. Eligible applicants must be youth-serving community-based nonprofit organizations based in any of the five boroughs of New York City (NYC) whose staff have direct programmatic contact with youth at the point of service. Organizations must also have an operating budget of between \$250,000 and \$1 million. [read more...](#) **Deadline: September 30.**

Mary Duke Biddle Foundation Invites Applications From North Carolina K-12 Education Programs. The [Mary Duke Biddle Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its K-12 Education Program. Through the program, grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded in support of new in-school and out-of-school programs for underserved K-12 students that provide innovative, creative, and effective approaches to teaching and learning, with a focus on programs that address the opportunity gap these students can experience. Eligible organizations must be tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or have a fiscal sponsor with such status; be located in Chatham, Durham, Orange, or Wake counties, North Carolina; have an annual operating budget under \$5 million; and have a project budget of not more than \$100,000. Projects should be new or have been operating for fewer than five years. [read more...](#) **Deadline: October 1.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

Toshiba America Invites Applications for Grade 6-12 Science Projects. The [Toshiba America Foundation](#) is accepting grant applications from grade 6-12 teachers for innovative science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects. Through the program, grants of at least \$5,000 will be awarded in support of teacher-led projects with the potential to provide students with opportunities to "do science" in ways that increase their engagement with the subject matter and improve their learning. The foundation strongly encourages projects planned and led by individual teachers or teams of teachers for their own classrooms. [read more...](#)
November 1.

Terra Foundation Accepting Applications for Chicago K-12 Education Grants. The [Terra Foundation for American Art](#) is accepting applications for its Chicago K-12 Education Grants program. The program is designed to support activities that bring the art of the United States (circa 1500–2000) into Chicago's classrooms, with the aim of helping teachers enrich curricula and enhance learning. Eligible applicants must be tax-exempt as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code or be a governmental unit or agency. The project must be directed primarily to teachers in Chicago Public Schools or other Chicago-based schools. [read more...](#) **Deadline: November 15.**

Resources

Employment and Unemployment Among Youth—Summer 2019. This [news release](#) by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) looks at the latest summer youth labor force data from April to July 2019. The number of employed youth 16 to 24 years old increased by 2.4 million to 21.2 million. In July 2019, 56.2 percent of young people were employed, up from 55.0 percent in July 2018. (The month of July typically is the summertime peak in youth employment.) The unemployment rate for youth was 9.1 percent in July, the lowest rate since July 1966, and little changed from the prior year. (Because this analysis focuses on the seasonal changes in youth employment and unemployment that occur each spring and summer, the data are not seasonally adjusted.)

Resources

(continued)

Pathways for Advancing Careers and Education (PACE). This [study](#) released by Abt was designed to produce rigorous evidence for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers about the effectiveness of nine career pathways approaches that sought to increase credentials, employment, and self-sufficiency among low-income, low-skilled Americans. Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, PACE included nine program-specific evaluation reports. The study was led by Abt Associates, in partnership with MEF Associates, The Urban Institute and the University of Michigan.

Reimagining Employer Engagement. This [toolkit](#) released by Aspen Institute provides workforce professionals with information and tools to expand their work and demonstrate the value their services bring to employers. Resources in the toolkit can help workforce service providers build their capacity to work more collaboratively with employers toward jobs that attract and retain talent, increase employee motivation and productivity, and enhance the quality of work life for frontline workers and their managers.

Trends in Undergraduate Nonfederal Grant and Scholarship Aid by Demographic and Enrollment Characteristics: Selected Years, 2003–04 to 2015–16. The tables in this [resource](#) present data from four administrations of the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (2003–04, 2007–08, 2011–12, and 2015–16) on nonfederal grant aid and scholarship aid awarded to undergraduate students. Nonfederal grant and scholarship aid is financial aid awarded by states, institutions, employers, and private organizations. Grants and scholarships, unlike loans, do not need to be repaid and are traditionally awarded on the basis of financial need, merit (e.g., academic or athletic), or a combination of need and merit. Estimates in these tables include the percentage of undergraduates who received nonfederal aid and the average amounts they received, by aid type (need- or merit-based), source (state, institution, or employer), and selected student and institutional characteristics.

Characteristics of Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools in the United States: Results from the 2017–18 National Teacher and Principal Survey First Look. This [report](#) provides descriptive statistics and basic information from the 2017–18 National Teacher and Principal Survey Public School and Private School Data files. The report also describes the presence of library media centers, access to before- and after-school programs, school start time, time use, and availability of various learning opportunities, among other characteristics.

Resources

(continued)

International Higher Education Rankings: Why No Country's Higher Education System Can Be the Best. This [report](#) compares the United States to 34 other developed countries, all members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and illustrates how these nations navigate the trade-offs between the various qualities policymakers and the public would like to see in their higher education system. While the public purse bears a relatively low share of the costs in the American university system, the United States ranks ahead of most of the developed world on other goals, such as college degree attainment and resources available for higher education. Conversely, "free college" nations such as Finland more often than not rank behind other countries on these other metrics.

College Attendance and Completion Higher Among Millennials than Youngest Baby Boomers. This [resource](#) released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics looks at how college attendance among people who graduated high school or earned a GED before age 21 rose dramatically for two generations of Americans born 20 years apart. About 44 percent of high school completers born between 1960 and 1964 attended a 2-year or 4-year college. That compares with 73 percent of high school completers born between 1980 and 1984. College attendance increased for both men and women and across scores on achievement tests and levels of family income. There were larger gains in college attendance among people not in the top quartile for test scores and not in the top quartile for family income.

5 Facts About Student Loans. This [article](#) released by the Pew Research Center discusses how Americans owed about \$1.5 trillion in student loans at the end of March 2019, more than two times what they owed a decade earlier. The increase has come as historically high shares of young adults in the United States go to college and the cost of higher education increases. It also discusses five facts about student loans in America, based on a Pew Research Center analysis of recently released data from the Federal Reserve Board's 2018 [Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking](#).

Trends in Ratio of Pell Grant to Total Price of Attendance and Federal Loan Receipt. This [report](#) released by the National Center for Education Statistics examines trends in the total price of attendance covered by Pell Grants and the percentage of Pell Grant recipients who receive federal student loans in academic years 2003–04, 2007–08, 2011–12, and 2015–16. This report also draws on data from the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study.

Resources

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Upcoming Webinars

On September 13th the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the City of Los Angeles, the Latin American Youth Center, and NCHE will host a webinar entitled: **Supporting Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness through Education and Workforce Partnerships**. During the webinar attendees will learn about: the connection between education, employment, and housing affordability outcomes, including as addressed in Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness; federal education and employment programs that serve youth experiencing homelessness (McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth, Perkins Career and Technical Education, Adult Education, WIOA Youth Formula, YouthBuild, and Job Corps); policy and practice levers to encourage more targeted local efforts to ensure education and employment program access and success for young people experiencing homelessness; and two local programs (Los Angeles and Washington, DC) that serve youth experiencing homelessness through intentional education and employment partnerships. To register for the webinar visit: <https://uncg.webex.com/uncg/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec6b5e606e31e759078a38659090e968a>.

Past Webinars

On August 28th, the Aspen Institute hosted a webinar entitled: **Postsecondary Success for Justice-Involved Individuals**. This webinar explores the impact of access to postsecondary education on justice-involved individuals and their families. To view an archive of the webinar visit: <https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/category/webinars/>.

Upcoming Events

September 2019. [Suicide Prevention Month.](#)

September 12. Washington, DC. U.S. Department of Justice's [Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Meeting.](#)

September 12-13. Biloxi, MS. U.S. Department of Education and the American Association and Community Colleges' [Rural Community College Convening.](#)

October 1-4. Washington, D.C. [Annual Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit.](#)

November 11-13. Washington, D.C. National Youth Employment Coalition's [2019 Annual Forum.](#)

December 3-5. Las Vegas, NV. Global Youth Justice Movement, [1st Global Youth Justice Conference.](#)



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.