

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 \$85 Million in YouthBuild Grants. The U.S. Department of Labor announced \$85 million in grants will be awarded to YouthBuild programs in 32 states. The grants announced today range from approximately \$700,000 to \$1.1 million each and will fund 81 YouthBuild programs. YouthBuild is an education and training program with a strong pre-apprenticeship component that helps at-risk youth complete high school or state equivalency degree programs, earn industry-recognized credentials for in-demand occupations, and undergo training to build housing for low-income or homeless individuals and families in their communities. This set of awards mark a significant expansion of the Construction Plus model of YouthBuild, which allows grantees to offer training in locally in-demand industries beyond the required construction training, such as healthcare, information technology, hospitality and retail services, and logistics. This year's grant awards include 65 programs that applied to offer Construction Plus training. To obtain additional information and a list of awardees, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20190130>.

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)

Statement by U.S. Secretary of Labor Acosta on Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative. U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta issued the following statement regarding the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) initiative: "The Trump administration continues to empower women economically with the launch of the Women's Global Development and Prosperity initiative. This initiative aims to benefit 50 million women from 2017 to 2025 through economic empowerment efforts and motivates private sector actors – both abroad and at home – to emphasize the critical role women play in creating prosperity. Economic empowerment of women has a significant effect on global growth as women invest in stable societies and promote a world free of child labor and forced labor. "The U.S. Department of Labor supports the W-GDP initiative through its efforts to promote the development of in-demand skills among women in the workforce, the identification of entrepreneurship opportunities, and the creation of an empowering environment for working women to flourish in the global economy. "The Department of Labor works every day to ensure a fair global playing field for workers in the U.S. and around the world by enforcing trade commitments and strengthening labor standards. "As part of this work, the Department of Labor seeks to ensure that the workplace rights of women are enforced – through policy engagement in both bilateral and multilateral contexts, and through negotiations and enforcement of labor protections under U.S. trade agreements that promote women's empowerment as workers and as entrepreneurs." To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20190207>.

DOL Publishes Technical Corrections to the Equal Employment Opportunity Regulations Implementing the National Apprenticeship of 1937. The U.S. Department of Labor published a notice in the [February 12 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) that contains technical corrections to the equal employment opportunity regulations that implement the National Apprenticeship Act of 1937. The Department of Labor issued a final rule published in the [December 19, 2016 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) to modernize the equal employment opportunity regulations that implement the National Apprenticeship Act of 1937. The existing regulations, set forth at 29 CFR part 30 (part 30), prohibit discrimination in registered apprenticeship on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, and sex, and require that sponsors of registered apprenticeship programs take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in such programs.

HHS Announces its Annual Update of the Poverty Guidelines. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services published a notice in the [February 1 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The poverty guidelines are used as an eligibility criterion by Medicaid and a number of other Federal programs. The poverty guidelines issued here are a simplified version of the poverty thresholds that the Census Bureau uses to prepare its estimates of the number of individuals and families in poverty.

Headlines

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Detroit Youth Summer Job Program Heats Up with \$150,000 Donation. Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, business and community leaders, employers, philanthropic organizations, and Detroit youth convened at DTE Energy headquarters to officially launch the application period for [Grow Detroit's Young Talent \(GDYT\) 2019](#), the city's summer youth employment program. Now in its 5th year, GDYT is the lead coordinator, fundraiser and marketer for the city's efforts to provide summer employment opportunities for youth ages 14-24. Youth looking for summer employment and organizations interested in participating should go to www.GDYT.org through March 15 to complete the application. Employers interested in becoming a sponsor or providing summer work experiences for Detroit youth may register at the GDYT [website](#) also. For additional information, visit: <https://michronicleonline.com/2019/02/01/detroit-youth-summer-job-program-heats-up-with-150000-donation/>.

Tallo Enters 2019 with New Partners and Nearly 400,000 Students on One of the Nation's Largest Career Connection Platforms. Tallo, one of the nation's largest online platforms for connecting talent with career guidance and opportunities, has a new name and expanded career readiness resources for students and professionals looking to seize control of their futures. Tallo has partnered with more than 300 companies and colleges, including Boeing, Blackbaud, and Cummins, to improve workforce diversity, proactively engage the country's talent pipeline, foster growing apprenticeship programs, and engage with local communities. Partnerships like these are part of a comprehensive career readiness effort to provide hands-on learning experiences for students, match top talent with schools and employers, and provide students with the professional skills they need to succeed in the 21st century workforce. Participation in Tallo is free for schools and talent, and open to all students age 13 and older. To sign up for Tallo, or receive more information, visit: <https://www.tallo.com/>. To view the press release, visit: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190204005460/en/Tallo-Enters-2019-New-Partners-400000-Students/?feedref=JjAwJuNHystnCoBq_hl-bsjWIVyeNLYq_m2tvaHJJJaD1w08bW43U_zsPK9s38B4rCOi9QzgjCezTS3Nw_X6kJUrpSBm-Hav1w-UkdSIG3miu0ZZ-LtXjCwD3Ec3ldN_zZCGORvG0LE20YOvo49uqw==.

JPMorgan Chase Expanding Economic Opportunity for Black Americans. JPMorgan Chase announced Advancing Black Pathways (ABP) to build on the firm's existing efforts helping black Americans achieve economic success. As part of this, the firm is expanding its Entrepreneurs of Color Fund model to Greater Washington, D.C., providing capital and business training to underserved minority entrepreneurs in the region. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.jpmorganchase.com/corporate/news/stories/how-39mm-loan-fund-is-helping-underserved-entrepreneurs-grow.htm>.

Headlines

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Governor Bill Lee Announces the Future Workforce Initiative. Tennessee Governor Bill Lee announced the Future Workforce Initiative to increase science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) training in K-12 schools as part of his first-year legislative agenda for education. This investment in STEM-focused early college and career experiences supports the Tennessee Department of Education's "[Tennessee Pathways](#)" [Certification process](#), as well as the [STEM School Designation](#) partnership with groups like Tennessee STEM Innovation Network and Code.org. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.tn.gov/governor/news/2019/2/13/gov-bill-lee-announces-the-future-workforce-initiative.html>.

Strada Education Network Invests in Development of State Policies for Adult Learners, Disconnected Youth. [Strada Education Network](#), a national nonprofit dedicated to strengthening education-to-employment pathways, announced grant awards totaling \$3.5 million to the [National Governors Association](#) (NGA) and [Education Commission of the States](#). The funding will support the development and piloting of state policies designed to unlock economic opportunity for adult learners and disconnected youth. Despite continued economic growth in the U.S., an estimated 32 million adults are jobless or lacking the skills, credentials and networks they need to earn a living wage. With good reason, data now suggests that [half](#) of all Americans believe they need additional education to advance in their careers. Still, just 11 percent of Americans from working-class families earn a bachelor's degree by the age of 24, and the earnings gap between those with, and without, postsecondary credentials is [growing](#). Additional information about the policy initiatives, including the request for proposal and states selected to participate in the two programs, will be shared in the coming months. For more information about Strada's consumer insights research with Gallup, visit www.stradaeducation.org/consumer-insights. To obtain additional information, visit: <http://www.stradaeducation.org/news/strada-education-network-invests-in-development-of-state-policies-for-adult-learners-disconnected-youth/>.

Success Story

Ponce American Job Center

Young Adriana, resident of the Palmarejo neighborhood, a community in the municipality of Villalba Puerto Rico, visited the Ponce American Job Center (AJC) with the desire to obtain her high school diploma. After being interviewed by the case manager, Mrs. Hilda Semidey, Adriana was able to identify several barriers she faced. It was very moving to learn that Adriana had to leave school after her father died in order to help her mother financially. She started working with her uncle at a local supermarket in the neighborhood where she lived. In addition, this young woman was a vocational rehabilitation participant, and during that time, she was participating in the Resource Room.

Adriana's goals were clear and she wanted her high school diploma because she was interested in starting a pastry course. With the collaboration of the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, the AJC started the evaluation and acceptance process of certifying Adriana to ensure she was able to take both, the GED and the pastry course. Her residence was more than 20 minutes away from where the course was offered, and without any transportation, she attended regularly and arrived to the classroom on time. Furthermore, she was one of the most outstanding students. Today Adriana keeps studying very hard and maintains a very good GPA in what she always dreamed, the pastry course at the Serrant Academy in Ponce.

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

USDA Announces Two Grant Opportunities under Distance Learning and Telemedicine. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grants program. One grant is the program that has been operated annually ("Traditional DLT") and the other program is for projects related to prevention, treatment, or recovery for opioid use disorder in rural areas ("Opioid DLT"). The DLT program is designed to provide financial assistance to enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine services in rural areas. The DLT grant funds will support the use of telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents. These grants are intended to increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources that are otherwise unavailable or limited in scope. Grant number: [RUS-19-01-DLT](#). **Deadlines: Applications under the Traditional DLT program must be submitted by May 15, and those under the Opioid DLT program must be submitted by April 15.**

DOJ Announces Grant Opportunities under its Mentoring Youth Initiative. The Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention within the U.S. Department of Justice is accepting applications for its fiscal year (FY) 2019 Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative. The initiative furthers the Department's mission by supporting mentoring programs to reduce juvenile delinquency, drug abuse (especially opioid abuse), victimization, and problem and high-risk behaviors such as truancy. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 22.**

DOJ Seeks Proposals to Conduct Rigorous Research and Evaluation on Promising Reentry Initiatives. The U.S. Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has published a [solicitation](#) which seeks to build knowledge on best practices in offender reentry initiatives. The primary goal of this solicitation is to support the rigorous examination of innovative reentry initiatives, including those in rural communities. Specifically, NIJ requests proposals for rigorous research to examine reentry initiatives that incorporate promising practices, strategies, or programs. NIJ is interested in supporting evaluations of innovative reentry initiatives that focus on juveniles, young adults (aged 18-24), and adults with a moderate-to-high risk of reoffending. [read more...](#) **Deadline: May 13.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

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UL and the North American Association for Environmental Education Launch Fifth Annual UL Innovative Education Award. [Underwriters Laboratories \(UL\)](#), in partnership with the [North American Association for Environmental Education \(NAAEE\)](#), recently announced the call for entries period for the fifth [UL Innovative Education Award \(ULIEA\)](#). The award recognizes non-profit organizations across the U.S. and Canada that have made a difference in their communities through their work to advance environmental education through STEM principles (E-STEM). Applicants for the ULIEA should offer programs that promote learning through STEM priorities, engage all people in civic and social responsibility and identify and find solutions to environmental challenges. Award winners will each receive a monetary award of \$25,000, \$50,000 or \$100,000 and join an impressive network of likeminded ULIEA alumni from the previous four years. In addition, the winners will work with UL employees, including science, engineering, technology and communication experts to build on organizational capacities. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 19.**

America's Promise Invites Applications for its Youth Challenge Mini Grants. America's Promise in partnership with Mott Foundation and Peace First is accepting applications for its Power of Youth Challenge Mini Grants. The grants are designed to assist a young person who is fired up and ready to make a difference in their community by tackling issues like creating safe spaces, helping homeless teams, or improving education. Awardees will receive a \$250 grant for a service project and a chance to win a \$5,000 acceleration grant to take their idea to the next level. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 31.**

YSA Invites Applications for its Power of Youth Challenge Grant. Youth Service America is accepting applications from youth ages 13-18, to bring positive change to their community by leading a local service project. Awardees will receive a mini grant of up to \$250 and online mentors support to develop their project. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 31.**

OVC Invites Applications for its [Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking FY 2018 Competitive Grant Solicitation](#). The Office of Victims of Crimes is accepting applications for its Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking FY 2018 Competitive Grant program. The program is designed to enhance the quality and quantity of services available to assist minor (under the age of 18) victims of human trafficking. Organizations funded under this program will provide (directly and through partnerships) a comprehensive array of services that minor victims of human trafficking often require to address their needs for safety, security, and healing. Funded applicants will be expected to serve minor victims of both labor trafficking and sex trafficking. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 4.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

Lemelson-MIT Invites Applications for its InvenTeams Grants. Lemelson-MIT is accepting applications for its InvenTeams Grants. The grant will provide up to \$10,000 to high school students, educators, and mentors to invent technological solutions to real-world problems of their own choosing. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics educators at high schools and non-profit educational organizations are eligible to apply. [read more...](#)
Deadline: April 8.

McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation Announces Funding Opportunity for Educators. The McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation is accepting applications for its Teacher's Development Grant. The grant is designed to provide opportunities for teachers to integrate fresh strategies that encourage critical inquiry and to observe their effects on students. Eligible applicants must be a licensed K-12 teacher employed in a public or private school in the United States. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 15.**

The Gloria Barron Prize For Young Heroes Invites Applications for Its 2019 Awards. The Barron Prize for Young Heroes is accepting applications from inspiring, public-spirited young leaders ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive impact on people, their communities, and the environment. The prize will honor 25 young leaders and fifteen top winners will receive \$10,000 to support their service work or higher education. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 15.**

Learning Disabilities Foundation of America Invites Applications for Projects that Meet Unmet Needs. The [Learning Disabilities Foundation of America](#) is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations for learning disability-related projects focused on scientific, literary, or educational outcomes, or for the identification, ongoing evaluation, education of, and delivery of services to children and adults with learning disabilities. Eligible applicants must be a nonprofit organization that is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. [read more...](#) **Deadline: April 15.**

Elaine Chapin Fund Accepting Applications for Scholarship Program. The [Elaine Chapin Fund](#) is accepting applications for the Elaine Chapin Scholarship Fund program. The program supports the postsecondary education of students affected by multiple sclerosis, either directly or as a family member. Through the program, the fund will award a minimum of eight \$1,000 scholarships for the fall 2019 semester to deserving students. Eligible applicants must be a citizen of the United States who plans to enroll or is enrolled in an undergraduate course of study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university, vocational, or technical school in the United States. Applicants also must be carrying a minimum of twelve credit hours per semester in course work leading to a degree, license, or certificate. [read more...](#)
Deadline: April 30.

Resources

Our Ground Our Voices. This [brief](#) released by the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) focuses on the systems of power that underlie structural barriers and block young women of color from achieving economic justice. Systems of power are defined as the beliefs, practices, and cultural norms that serve as the foundation on which individuals and institutions build their lives. These systems are rooted in social constructions of race and gender and are embedded in history (colonization, slavery, migration, immigration, and genocide) as well as present-day policies and practices. Systems of power are oppressive and define relationships between marginalized communities and the dominant culture; they also shape social norms and experiences within marginalized communities.

Investing in Evidence-Based Social and Emotional Learning. This [report](#) from the Wallace Foundation provides guidance to educators on how to assess local social and emotional learning needs and how to identify evidence-based interventions to address those needs. The report also advises on how to implement, monitor, and evaluate these interventions.

Juvenile Probation Transformation. This [report](#) released by the Urban Institute examines ways to re-envision probation—as a focused intervention that promotes positive behavior change and long-term success for youth who pose public safety risks. The authors review how two jurisdictions—Lucas County, Ohio, and Pierce County, Washington—undertook probation transformation with technical assistance from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The results suggest that diversion, case management, family and community engagement, and racial and ethnic equity and inclusion are critical for transforming juvenile probation successfully.

Creating Entrepreneurship Pathways for Opportunity Youth: Early Experiences from the Youth Entrepreneurship Fund Grantees. This [report](#) released by the Aspen Institute examines the potential for using Youth Entrepreneurship Fund (YEF) programs to engage and create pathways for opportunity youth by exploring results from Opportunity Youth Forum communities that received YEF grants and have entrepreneurship initiatives now in progress. The YEF seeks to promote racial and economic equity by ensuring that youth experiencing barriers to participation in the economy – including youth of color, Native American, and rural youth, as well as youth who are low-income and reside in public housing – are provided with a full range of opportunities to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and skills that can help them thrive in today's economy, as well as access to tools and resources needed by aspiring entrepreneurs.

Resources

(continued)

An RFI Guide: How Requests for Information Can Improve Government Human Services

Contracting. This [guide](#) released by Results for America shows how policymakers from Colorado to Rhode Island to South Carolina to New York City are creating stronger, results-focused partnerships that produce meaningful and sustainable outcomes for communities in need. The guide offers resources to help governments, nonprofits, and residents identify key challenges, co-create strategies to solve them, and measure progress toward shared goals.

Dual Enrollment: Participation and Characteristics. This [report](#) is based on data from the High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSLs:09), a nationally representative, longitudinal study of more than 23,000 ninth-graders in 2009. Follow-up surveys were administered to the cohort in 2012 and 2013. The study also obtained data from students' high school transcripts, generally covering the fall 2009 term through the summer 2013 term. Students in HSLs:09 were asked questions about courses they took for college credit during their high school tenures.

Unseen But Heard: State Solutions for Non-Visible Disabilities in the Workplace. This podcast produced by the Women in Government (WIG) in collaboration with the Office of Disability Employment Policy's State Exchange on Employment & Disability (SEED), is the last installment in a three-part podcast series focused on the employment of people with disabilities. During the podcast, speakers discussed promising state policies, legislation, and programs that can help people with invisible disabilities enter or remain in the workforce. To learn about SEED, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/State-Policy.htm>. To view an archive of the podcast, visit: <https://soundcloud.com/user-548999638-454857255/unseen-but-heard-state-solutions-for-non-visible-disabilities-in-the-workplace>.

Upcoming Events

March 15. Washington, DC. American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) and the Institute for Educational Leadership's (IEL) fifth and final [2019 Samuel Halperin Lecture & Youth Public Service Award](#) event.

March 17-20. Las Vegas, NV. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' [2019 National Conference on Juvenile Justice](#).

March 18-19. Washington, DC. National Network for Youth's [National Summit on Youth Homelessness](#).

March 18-20. Saratoga Springs, NY. New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals [2019 Youth Academy](#).

March 22. Washington, DC. American Youth Policy Forum 's [Competency-Based Education: Promising Policies and Practices for the Future of K-12 Education](#).

April 7. Youth Service America's [Good Deeds Day](#).



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.