

# 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

**Department of Labor Announces New Compliance Assistance Tools.** The U.S. Department of Labor has recently announced the launch of additional plain-language, user-friendly compliance assistance materials to help employers, workers, and other stakeholders understand their responsibilities and their rights under federal labor law. The Department's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) added a number of publicly available [presentations](#) to its website, covering topics such as the Fair Labor Standards Act, federal child labor requirements, and employers' responsibilities to provide rest breaks and proper facilities for nursing mothers. WHD provides these presentations as part of its ongoing efforts to modernize compliance assistance materials for employers and workers, and to provide easily accessible, plain-language information that will guide them to compliance. These tools offer a more streamlined design, and link to numerous additional resources and related information, including plain-language videos. These tools, in conjunction with [worker.gov](#), [employer.gov](#), and other recently released [online tools](#), will ensure greater understanding of federal labor laws and regulations. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20190627>.

### 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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**Department of Labor Awards \$89.5 Million for Reentry Projects.** In its latest effort to ensure that individuals returning to the labor force from the justice system have the opportunity to gain meaningful employment, the U.S. Department of Labor announced approximately \$85.9 million in Reentry Project grants awarded to 45 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations. The Reentry Projects will serve either young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who have been involved in the juvenile or adult criminal justice system – including those who did not complete high school – or adults ages 25 and older who were previously involved in the adult criminal justice system. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20190717>.

**Former U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta Visited St. Louis Community College to Discuss the Award of Apprenticeship Grants.** The former U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta discussed the award of \$12 million in advanced manufacturing apprenticeship grant funding to Missouri Community College Consortium during a visit to St. Louis Community College Center for Workforce Innovation, in Ferguson, Missouri. Former Secretary Acosta participated in a roundtable with the Chancellor of St. Louis Community College, Dr. Jeff Pittman, leaders from Missouri Community College Consortium, and representatives from local businesses and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20190703-0>.

**HUD Launches Initiative to Prevent and End Homelessness Among Young People Aging Out of Foster Care.** The U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson announced a new initiative to target housing assistance to young people aging out of foster care and who are at extreme risk of experiencing homelessness. HUD's new Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative will offer housing vouchers to local public housing authorities to prevent or end homelessness among young adults under the age of 25 who are, or have recently left, the foster care system without a home to go to. To obtain additional information, visit: [https://www.hud.gov/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/HUD\\_No\\_19\\_111](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_19_111).

**DOC Invests \$23 Million to Fuel High-Growth Entrepreneurship Across America.** U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that 44 organizations — including nonprofits, institutions of higher education, and entrepreneurship-focused organizations — from 28 states and two territories will receive grants totaling \$23 million to create and expand high-growth entrepreneurship and increase access to capital for communities across America. The grants are made annually under the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) [Regional Innovation Strategies \(RIS\) program](#) competition. The 2019 awardees will leverage an additional \$26 million in matching funds from a variety of private and public sector sources. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://eda.gov/news/press-releases/2019/07/23/ris.htm>.

## Headlines

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**Virginia Governor Establishes STEM Education Commission.** Governor Ralph Northam signed [Executive Order Thirty-Six](#), establishing the Virginia Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Education Commission. The Commission will develop a State STEM plan to create a unified statewide vision and dynamic set of shared goals to strategically inform how we prepare Virginia's students for the STEM jobs of the future. The Governor and First Lady made the announcement together in the Forge Makerspace at the Science Museum of Virginia, and then participated in a STEM-related project alongside kids from the Museum's Lunar Lab Summer Camp. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2019/july/headline-841681-en.html>.

**American Institutes for Research Awarded Grant to Improve Use of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Struggling Students.** Many school systems around the country use Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to assess the academic and behavioral needs of struggling students and provide appropriate services. But implementing MTSS can be challenging and there is limited research on how to measure and improve implementation. The American Institutes for Research (AIR) has been awarded a federal grant to develop and test the Integrated MTSS Fidelity Rubric (IMFR), a system that will provide useful data on MTSS implementation and will support improvements. The five-year, \$3.98 million grant was awarded by the [National Center for Special Education Research](#) at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the independent research, evaluation and statistics arm of the U.S. Department of Education. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.air.org/news/press-release/american-institutes-research-awarded-grant-improve-use-multi-tiered-systems>.

**Kentucky Launches Online Tool to Help Explore Career Pathways.** The Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS) within the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet has launched a free, online [Career Explorer Tool](#) to allow students and job seekers to explore careers matching their knowledge, skills and abilities. The Tool also includes informational career videos, an individual Knowledge Skills and Abilities analysis, a breakdown of entry-level, median and experienced wages, a list of Kentucky schools that offer majors or certifications for a career, and a list of similar careers. To access the Career Explorer Tool, visit: [kystats.ky.gov/CareerExplorer](http://kystats.ky.gov/CareerExplorer). To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.surfky.com/index.php/webster/179-news/kentucky/141998-state-launches-online-tool-to-help-explore-career-pathways>.

## Headlines

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**Planning Underway to Launch Lynchburg-Area (VA) Career Training Academy.** High school students who want to study a trade or career field before they graduate could soon have a new option in our region. Central Virginia Community College (CVCC) is developing a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academy. High school juniors and seniors will be able to earn degrees, certifications, and skill-based credentials in a chosen career field, while completing their high school education. The program will be similar to the "early college" initiative that's currently offered by CVCC, where students earn an associate's degree while completing their high school graduation requirements. Planning for the CTE effort is being supported by a \$267,181 grant from the Virginia Community College System and the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.wdbj7.com/content/news/Planning-underway-to-launch-Lynchburg-area-career-training-academy-512899931.html>.

## Success Story

### Wyoming Workforce Center

On May 11, 2018 Tara came into the local Workforce Center seeking assistance with obtaining employment. Tara explained she and her spouse had just moved from Montana and she was currently unemployed. She stated that they have two young children, and are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits.

Tara explained she had dropped out of high school, as she struggled with her academics. Later, she returned to an Adult Education setting and earned her HiSet, high school equivalency diploma. Through TABE testing, staff learned that Tara was basic skills deficient. Tara and the Workforce Specialist talked about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) as Tara was interested in the medical field and inquired about how to become a Certified Nurse's Assistant (C.N.A.). During the course of the conversations with the Workforce Specialist, Tara was found eligible for WIOA as an Out-of-School Youth. With the assistance of WIOA, Tara enrolled in C.N.A. classes at a local Community College. Once Tara completed her C.N.A. classes, the WIOA program assisted Tara with the C.N.A. training, and testing and licensing fees.

Tara was hired as a Nutrition Support Aid at the local hospital while she was completing the C.N.A. training and given a contingent C.N.A. job offer upon obtaining her C.N.A. license. Tara took the licensing exam and passed. She is now working full-time as a C.N.A. at the local hospital.

#### 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](mailto:youth.services@dol.gov).

## Funding & Other Opportunities

**DOL Announces the Launch of its Excellence in Disability Inclusion Awards.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) and Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) is accepting applications for its Excellence in Disability Inclusion (EDI) Awards program. The program is designed to recognize federal contractors that demonstrate excellence in including people with disabilities in their workforces. The EDI Awards will comprise two levels of recognition. Up to four (two large and two small) federal contractors will receive a "Gold Award" and three-year moratorium on OFCCP compliance evaluations. These awardees will also participate in a post-award "Year of Engagement" program to help educate other federal contractors on best practices for disability inclusion. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/ediaward>. **Deadline: August 31.**

**ED Announces Funding Opportunity for their Innovative Rehabilitation Training Program.** The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) invites applications for its Innovative Rehabilitation Training Program. The program is designed to develop: (a) new types of training programs for rehabilitation personnel and to demonstrate the effectiveness of these new types of training programs for rehabilitation personnel in providing rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities; (b) new and improved methods of training rehabilitation personnel so that there may be a more effective delivery of rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities by designated State rehabilitation agencies and designated State rehabilitation units or other public or non-profit rehabilitation service agencies or organizations; and (c) new innovative training programs for VR professionals and paraprofessionals to have a 21st-century understanding of the evolving labor force and the needs of individuals with disabilities so they can more effectively provide VR services to individuals with disabilities. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-07-05/pdf/2019-14272.pdf>. **Deadline: August 14.**

**DOI Announces Funding Opportunity to Support Youth Conservation Activities on Public Lands.** The Department of Interior's (DOI's) Bureau of Land Management has announced a funding opportunity to support youth conservation activities on public lands, identifying \$300,000 for investment. The Eastern State Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices have collaborated with Qualified Youth or Conservation Corps, as authorized by the Public Lands Corps Act, to accomplish conservation projects for numerous years. Projects completed under this program have provided participants an avenue of employment in addition to opportunities to gain experience and knowledge in public lands and natural resources management and promote a continued interest in public lands stewardship and the BLM. The BLM Youth Program assists the BLM with diversifying the workforce while exposing participants to the complex cultural and natural resource issues faced by managers of the National System for Public Lands. To obtain additional information see Grant Number: [L19AS00075](https://www.air.org/news/press-release/american-institutes-research-awarded-grant-improve-use-multi-tiered-systems). To view the press release, visit: <https://www.air.org/news/press-release/american-institutes-research-awarded-grant-improve-use-multi-tiered-systems>. **Deadline: September 9.**



## Funding & Other Opportunities

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**University of Maryland School of Social Work Invites Proposals for 2020 Training Institutes.** The University of Maryland School of Social Work is accepting proposals from individuals with expertise in integrating systems and improving outcomes for children, youth, young adults, and their families. Presenters and attendees will include experts and leaders in the field of children's services, including state, county, tribal, and territorial children's systems; direct service providers; state purchasers and experts from Medicaid, managed care, mental health, substance use, child welfare, juvenile justice, education, public health, and physical health; parents, youth, and young adults; policymakers; clinicians; and children's researchers and evaluators. The 2020 Training Institutes is an opportunity for leaders in the field of children's services to share the latest policy, practice, research, information and resources, and learn practical strategies from one another. To obtain additional information, visit:

<https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/media/ssw/institute/training-institutes-2020/2020-Training-Institutes-Call-for-Proposals.pdf>. **Deadline: September 16.**

**HUD Makes Record \$2.3 Billion Available to Support Thousands of Local Homeless Programs.** In a continuing effort to prevent and end homelessness, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced it is making a record \$2.3 billion available to support thousands of local homeless assistance programs nationwide. HUD's Continuum of Care homeless assistance grants support a wide variety of local programs from street outreach and assessment programs to transitional and permanent housing for individuals, including, veterans, youth, families, and persons experiencing long-term or chronic homelessness. To obtain additional information, visit:

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps/fy19\\_coc](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps/fy19_coc).

**Deadline: September 30.**

**The Gratitude Network Fellowship Invites Applications for its Leadership Program.**

The Gratitude Network Fellowship is accepting applications for its leadership program designed to help social entrepreneurs serving children/youth scale their organizations to the next level and expand their impact. To obtain additional information, visit: <http://gratitude-network.org/the-gratitude-awards/>.

**Deadline: August 30.**

**Bellwether Education Partners Invites Letters of Interest for Mitigating the Effects of Fragmentation on Vulnerable Youth.** The Bellwether Education Partners is accepting letters of interest from leaders to engage in an 18-month planning process to improve the ways in which local, regional, and state agencies communicate and collaborate across their historical silos to better meet the needs of youth and families who experience significant disruptions to their educational and life pathways. Regional or local collaborative team are eligible to submit letters of interest which should be submitted by email to Hailly Korman at:

[hailly.korman@bellwethereducation.org](mailto:hailly.korman@bellwethereducation.org). To obtain additional information, visit:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PmHGf06ogP2nvFq6XybdFHgzGVa2nQsB/view>. **Letters of**

**interest due: September 30.**

## Funding & Other Opportunities

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**Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation Invites Applications for its Philanthropic Arts Program.** The [Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its Philanthropic Arts (“P/Arts”) Program. The program’s primary goals are to enhance or transform outdated school curricula; motivate and engage children, students, and alternative learners; deepen professional development for teachers, professors, and/or childcare workers; create linkages between school and home; encourage evidence-based art-based instruction; and help close the achievement gap. Eligible applicants must be located in Florida, New York, New England, or the District of Columbia. Awardees will be awarded grants of up to \$25,000. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://ctbfoundation.org/parts-program>. **Deadline: Monthly rolling basis.**

**Burton D. Morgan Foundation Seeks Proposals from Collegiate Changemakers.** The [Burton D. Morgan Foundation](#) is accepting proposals for its Changemaker Grant initiative. The initiative is designed to connect campus entrepreneurship programs to the region’s entrepreneurial ecosystem. Faculty and/or staff from any Northeast Ohio college or university with registered 501(c)3 status are eligible to apply. Five awardees will receive grants of up to \$10,000 each. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.bdmorganfdn.org/apply>. **Deadline: September 1.**

**Kars For Kids Invites Applications for its Small Grant Program.** Kars for Kids is accepting applications for its Small Grant Program to support education, mentoring, and youth development programs around the country that help children develop into productive members of their community. US-based, IRS-recognized nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. Grant awards will range from \$500 to \$2,000. To obtain additional information, visit: <http://www.kars4kidsgrants.org/>. **Deadline: Ongoing.**



## Resources

**Depth Over Breadth: The Value of Vocational Education in U.S. High Schools.** This [report](#) released by Education Next addressed the question of whether students who take career and technical education courses are disadvantaged because they did not invest time in more standard academic courses.

**Counties and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.** This [report](#) released by the National Association of Counties (NACo) highlights the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the 2014 legislation authorizing federal funding to states and counties for workforce and economic development programs. It also details WIOA's role in the nation's workforce development system and how counties help administer and deliver program resources to local jobseekers and businesses.

**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 a data point which is based on data from four iterations of the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS), a large, nationally representative sample survey of students that focuses on how they finance their postsecondary education. This Data Point also includes data on the percentage of total price of attendance covered by Pell Grants and the percentage of Pell Grant recipients who received federal student loans for academic years 2003–04, 2007–08, 2011–12, and 2015–16.

**The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Investments in Youth Work Experiences.** This [brief](#) examines how Congress and the Department of Labor improved efforts to provide youth work experiences under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Policymakers based their decisions both on research highlighting the benefits of these experiences for youth employment and earnings outcomes as well as prior experiences under the Workforce Investment Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The case study offers reflections on how agencies can use evidence for improvement and yield concrete benefits for key populations even across fluctuating budget cycles.

**2019 KIDS COUNT Data Book.** This 30<sup>th</sup> edition [book](#) release by the Casey Foundation looks at how the child population has changed demographically and geographically since 1990, as well as trends in child well-being over a recent period that saw continued improvement in economic well-being.

**Persistence to Graduation.** This [publication](#) prepared by the American Youth Policy Forum consists of a full report and four individual practice briefs in the areas of: [Alternative Education](#), [Community Partnerships](#), [Culture and Climate](#), and [Student Transitions](#) and Reengagement. The briefs highlight successful schools and programs throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky that promote high school graduation.

## Resources

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**K-12 Education: Certain Groups of Students Attend Alternative Schools in Greater Proportions Than They Do Other Schools.** This [report](#) released by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is about student population in alternative schools. It also examines what is known about enrollment, discipline, and support staff in alternative schools, among other objectives. GAO analyzed data on alternative schools for school years 2013-14 and 2015-16 from Education's Civil Rights Data Collection (most recent years available); visited selected school districts and alternative schools in Florida, Illinois, and Texas, selected for a mix of types (regular alternative, charter, and juvenile justice) and focuses (disciplinary or academic) of alternative schools; and interviewed federal officials.

**MDRC: Practitioner Perspectives on Equity in Career and Technical Education.** This [policy brief](#) summarizes the most common equity challenges that were raised in the discussion, along with ideas that emerged for how to address them. While the bulk of the brief comes directly from this conversation, several examples also come from MDRC's other research activities. The brief begins with a short overview of how the group defined equity and the main causes of inequity. It continues with discussions of inequity in access and outcomes, covering the challenges identified in both areas and some proposed solutions. It concludes with a discussion of how research can help practitioners address equity, and how policymakers can support equitable delivery and outcomes.

**Governor's Action Guide to Achieving Good Jobs for All Americans.** This guide released by the Center for Best Practices (NGA Solutions) outlines opportunities that governors have to create responsive, nimble training and workforce systems to better prepare Americans for the jobs of the future. These opportunities fall into three focus areas: (1) the workforce of the future – aligning education and work; (2) second acts – helping midcareer workers achieve success; and (3) rural resurgence – empowering the rural workforce. To view the guide, visit: <https://www.nga.org/center/publications/good-jobs-for-all-americans-governors-guide/>.

### Past Webinars

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP) hosted a webinar entitled: **Training and Retaining Staff**. The webinar focused on how investing in staff development is critical to the success of provider transformation, expanding competitive integrated employment programs, and staff retention. By expecting a nationally recognized credential such as an Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) Certificate or Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) through the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), providers develop a more skilled community of practice and funders gain partners with demonstrated skills and knowledge. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://econsys.adobeconnect.com/a968322745/pp2av745tidp/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>.

## Resources

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On July 15<sup>th</sup>, the National Governor's Association hosted a video event entitled: **Improving Outcomes for Disconnected**. During this event, presenters discussed how one in eight youths in America between the ages of 16 and 24 is considered to be "disconnected," meaning they are neither in school nor employed, and they lack the education level and job skills to become self-sufficient adults leading full and productive lives. Governors heard directly from prominent public figures about the personal impact of the challenges youth face and presented with state level-solutions they could implement. To view an archive of the event, visit: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vq8\\_hfdO4jQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vq8_hfdO4jQ).

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, the College and Career Readiness and Success Center added a webinar to YouTube entitled: **Strengthening the Education to Workforce Pipeline for Students with Disabilities**. This webinar shares the updated resource [Developing a College- and Career-Ready Workforce: An Analysis of ESSA, Perkins V, IDEA, and WIOA](#), which can help state and local agencies identify opportunities to align and leverage policies, programs, and funding across the four laws to support the education-to-workforce pipeline. The addition of IDEA to the education-to-workforce pipeline brief ensures that strategies to develop skills and transition plans for students with disabilities are an integral part of a state's college and career-ready goals. Participants heard from Delaware and national experts on how aligning the education-to-workforce pipeline can help increase cost efficiency, promote coherence, and produce better outcomes for all students and workers, including those with disabilities. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3O-beGmCiOc>.

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, the Aspen Institute hosted a webcast entitled: **Creating Entrepreneurship Pathways for Opportunity Youth**. The event featured two panels, one with leaders from the programs and a second with young adult entrepreneurs from these communities. The conversations explored emerging learnings from the Youth Entrepreneurship Fund implementation, including strategies for adapting entrepreneurship curriculum to the unique strengths and needs of opportunity youth; how projects were designed with an equity lens; and strategies for engaging youth voice in the design and implementation of the collaboratives. To view an archive of the webcast, visit: <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/events/creating-entrepreneurship-pathways-opportunity-youth/>.

## Upcoming Events

**August 12.** Youth Service America's [International Youth Day](#).

**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](#).



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### 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](mailto: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.