

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.

Table of Contents

Headlines	1-5
Success Story	6
Funding & Other Opportunities	7-8
Resources.....	8-11
Upcoming Events.....	11

Headlines

DOL Kicks Off National Disability Employment Awareness Month with Presidential Proclamation.

President Donald J. Trump has issued a [proclamation](#) recognizing October 2019 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), initiating a series of coast-to-coast events and activities to honor the contributions workers with disabilities make to America's workplaces and economy. The theme for 2019 is "The Right Talent, Right Now." Sponsored at the national level by the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL's) Office of Disability Employment Policy, NDEAM allows grassroots organizations to recognize workers with disabilities each October across the nation. In 2019, NDEAM will honor the thirtieth anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, a celebration that will run through 2020. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20191001>.

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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DOL Announces Awards of Grants to Help Women Affected by the Opioid Crisis Re-Enter Workforce. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has announced the awards of nearly \$2.5 million in grant funding to organizations in five states to help women affected by the opioid crisis to re-enter the workforce. The 2019 Re-Employment, Support, and Training for the Opioid Related Epidemic (RESTORE) grants are intended to foster cooperative relationships among a wide range of entities, including workforce intermediaries, public health and substance abuse treatment professionals, and other human services and support services providers to offer skills development and employment services to benefit women workers. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20190930>.

DOL Announces Funding Opportunities to Serve Job Corps-Eligible Youth. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) released a Funding Opportunity Announcement for its Job Corps Scholars Program demonstration project. Through the program, the Department intends to competitively award up to 20 grants to accredited, two-year, public community colleges; accredited, public two- and four-year historically black colleges and universities; and accredited tribally controlled colleges and universities to serve Job Corps-eligible youth and young adults 16 to 24 years of age. Grantee institutions must enroll Job Corps-eligible students; provide them educational and career technical skills instruction; and deliver intensive personal, academic and employment counseling. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20191023>.

DOL Posts Blog: The Time Is Now for Women to Embrace Apprenticeships and Nontraditional Occupations. The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL's) Women's Bureau released a blog that discusses when we talk about women in the workplace, we often overlook the women who build our homes, our schools, and our roads. These women are construction workers, ironworkers, plumbers, and electricians. They have taken on occupations that require extraordinary grit and perseverance. They keep our economy running and growing while caring for their families. More than 2,000 tradeswomen from across the country gathered in Minneapolis for the annual TradesWomen Build Nations conference – the largest conference of its kind in North America. While the vast majority of these tradeswomen find themselves in nontraditional occupations – that is, occupations where women comprise less than 25% of those employed – these are occupations where women find opportunities for greater empowerment, advancement, and career and financial stability. As they break barriers in their fields these women also play a critical role in the development of the next generation by serving as role models for all women not just the next generation of women workers. To view the full blog, visit: <https://blog.dol.gov/2019/10/04/the-time-is-now-for-women-to-embrace-apprenticeships-and-nontraditional-occupations>.

Headlines

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DOL Seeks Comments on State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant Research Study. The Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration has published a request in the [October 8 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) soliciting comments concerning a proposed information collection request titled State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant Research Study information collection. Through State Apprenticeship Expansion grants and National Industry Intermediary and Equity Partner contracts, DOL is seeking to expand apprenticeship programs to new industries and occupations, increase the number of apprentices, and encourage the inclusion of apprentices from diverse backgrounds. **Comments due: November 7.**

HHS Invites Comments on its Formative Evaluation of Family Unification Program. The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation; Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published a request in the [October 2 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). HHS is requesting public comment on data collection activities as part of the Formative Evaluation of Family Unification Program Vouchers for youth transitioning out of foster care. The purpose of the request is to conduct information collection activities, including an online survey, interviews, and focus group discussions. **Comments due: December 2.**

New Research Grant Awarded for Advancing Family Support for People with Disabilities. The [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research](#) at the Administration for Community Living has awarded an [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center](#) project grant in the amount of \$874,999 every year for five years to the University of Pittsburgh Center for Caregiving Research, Education, and Policy to support research towards advancing family caregiving support for people with disabilities. The mission of the project is to facilitate the rapid translation and dissemination of state-of-the-art research and training into direct services and support programs designed to improve care, health, and quality of life of people with disabilities and their families. To obtain additional information and view the press release, visit: <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/new-research-grant-awarded-advancing-family-support-people>.

USDA Invests \$152 Million to Improve Broadband Service in 14 States. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald "DJ" LaVoy announced that [USDA is investing \\$152 million in 20 projects](#) to provide or improve rural broadband service in 14 states. The projects USDA is investing in will help improve the quality of life in rural communities in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/10/07/usda-invests-152-million-improve-broadband-service-14-states>.

Headlines

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ALA Receives Grant to Develop Library Entrepreneurship Centers. The American Library Association (ALA) has received a \$2 million grant from Google.org to develop library entrepreneurship centers and enable libraries across the country to double down on their support for people looking to start a new business. Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced the funding for ALA as part of a [\\$10 million pledge](#) to help entrepreneurs from low-income and underrepresented groups start new businesses via access to training and capital. The \$2 million grant builds on Google's ongoing support of ALA and libraries, including the [Libraries Lead with Digital Skills](#) collaboration funded by Grow with Google, which gave ALA \$1 million to help libraries provide digital skills training to their patrons. That initiative, announced [earlier this year](#), has already supported 130 libraries across 18 states and will continue to all 50 states in 2020. To view the press release, visit: <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2019/10/ala-receives-2-million-googleorg-grant-develop-library-entrepreneurship>.

Mississippi Community College Receives \$2 Million Grant for Aviation and Aerospace Workforce Academy. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced that Pearl River Community College would be awarded a \$2 million grant for use in the construction of a new Aviation and Aerospace Workforce Academy at the Stennis International Airport. The grant will be matched with more than \$3.9 million in state and local investments and is expected to help create 469 jobs, retain 550 jobs, and generate \$5 million in private investments. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://msbusiness.com/2019/10/pearl-river-receives-2-million-grant-for-aviation-and-aerospace-workforce-academy/>.

American Youth Policy Forum Posts Blog: A Cycle of Injustice: How Mass Incarceration Impacts Our Youth. The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) released this blog, which discusses how the momentum for criminal justice reform prevails, youth and families are still a missing part of the conversation. [A Shared Sentence](#) policy report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, speaks to this in a powerful way by stating that “policy debates about incarceration rarely focus on the burden borne by children and families. Theirs are stories of things lost: connections, jobs, income, homes — and hope. And communities, in turn, suffer from losing so many parents, whose absence leaves the economic and social fabric of their neighborhoods in tatters.” [Over 5 million children in the United States](#) have a parent who is currently or formerly incarcerated and data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System reveals that approximately [8% of youth enter foster care because of a parent incarcerated, and up to 20% of youth](#) in care have a parent incarcerated. Youth with incarcerated parents experience a significant amount of trauma and loss. To view the full blog, visit: <https://www.aypf.org/blog/a-cycle-of-injustice/>.

Headlines

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Federal Reserve Bank Posts Blog: Is Free College the Solution to Student Debt Woes? Studying the Heterogeneous Impacts of Merit Aid Programs. The Federal Reserve Bank released a blog that reports preliminary findings from ongoing work, which is [one](#) of the first research initiatives to understand such effects. The [rising cost](#) of a college education has become an important topic of discussion among both policymakers and practitioners. At least eleven states have recently introduced programs to make public two-year education tuition free, including New York, which is rolling out its [Excelsior Scholarship](#) to provide tuition-free four-year college education to low-income students across the SUNY and CUNY systems. Prior to these new initiatives, [New York](#), had already instituted merit scholarship programs that subsidize the cost of college conditional on academic performance and in-state attendance. Given the rising cost of college and the increased prevalence of tuition-subsidy programs, it is important to understand the effects of such programs on students, and whether these effects vary by income and race. To read the full blog, visit: <https://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2019/10/is-free-college-the-solution-to-student-debt-woes.html>.

Success Story

Riverside County Workforce Development Board

Elyssa enrolled in the Indio WIN Youth Opportunity Center (YOC) in September 2018. Elyssa was a 22 year old parenting youth who had dropped out of High School and had no income aside from her TANF services. She also lived in a high poverty area of the Coachella Valley and had no transportation. Elyssa heard about the program at the WIN Center through one of our presentations in the community. She came into the center to find out about our services and decided to enroll in the program. Elyssa shared with her Career Coach at enrollment that she had no prior work experience. Her long term goal was to become a Kindergarten teacher but she knew she had a long path ahead of her and lot of work to do before she could reach that goal. Elyssa worked with the staff at the center to reenroll into school and obtain her high school diploma. She started working on her career plan through the work readiness program and participated in workshops such as resume development, work ethics, time management and financial literacy. Elyssa also obtained her Hotel Hospitality Gold Certification, which taught her valuable customer service skills. Elyssa applied for jobs to help support her family and found a job that she really wanted at Michael's. Elyssa worked on her interview skills with the staff at the center, and when it was time for her interview she was prepared and was offered the job.

Elyssa is currently working at Michael's as a part-time manager and she recently earned her high school diploma through the adult program at College of the Desert. Elyssa still comes to the center to get support from her Career Coach and all the staff at the center. Elyssa was also recently one of six youth who participated in the Riverside County ProActive Youth trip to Washington DC, where the youth were able to speak with elected officials about the challenges youth are currently facing in the community. She was able to share her input and ideas to help the youth opportunity centers better serve the youth. Elyssa plans to enroll into college to continue her goal of becoming a Kindergarten teacher.

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

SAMHSA Announces Funding Opportunity for Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment is accepting applications for fiscal year 2020 Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals. This program is designed to support the development and/or expansion of local implementation of a community infrastructure that integrates substance use disorder treatment, housing services and other critical services for individuals (including youth) and families experiencing homelessness. Domestic public and private non-profit entities are eligible to apply. [read more...](#) **Deadline: December 16.**

Many Hands Invites Applications From Nonprofits Serving Women, Children, and Families in Washington, D.C. Many Hands currently makes four grants a year, one in each of our four focus areas: education, health, housing, and job readiness. Of the four annual grantees, one receives a Many Hands \$100,000 Impact Grant; the other three will receive Many Hands Partner Grants, the value of which is determined by the total amount raised that year. In 2019, each Partner Grant was \$58,500. [read more...](#) **Deadline: November 15.**

Foundation for California Community Colleges Invites Applications for Nursing Education Programs. The [Foundation for California Community Colleges](#) is accepting applications for its Nursing Education Investment Grants program. Through the program, grants will be awarded in support of activities that facilitate, coordinate, or complement efforts to educate and train nurses at community colleges in California. Proposed projects must address at least one of the foundation's priorities, which reflect existing needs in the nursing field: academic progression for registered nurses working to obtain a bachelor of science in nursing (or higher) degree; the creation of educational and career pathways through new, enhanced, replicated, or expanded programs; academic, clinical, and/or other work-based learning opportunities which ensure that nurses are well-prepared to assume evolving and expanded roles in changing practice environments; increasing the supply of nurses in specific regions of California with documented shortages of nurses; and the implementation of strategies that lead to well-prepared and diverse nursing faculty and program directors. Eligible applicants must be a public governmental entity or be tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Organizations or projects with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor are also eligible for funding. [read more...](#) **Deadline: Letters of Intent due: November 15.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

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American Mathematical Society Invites Applications for Youth Summer Programs. The [American Mathematical Society](#) is accepting applications for its Epsilon Fund Grants for Young Scholars Program. Through the program, grants of up to \$15,000 will be awarded in support of existing summer programs for mathematically talented high school students. Eligible programs must have been in existence for at least one year, preferably more. [read more...](#) **Deadline: December 15.**

Northam Takes Part in Grant Contest for Female STEM Students. Virginia Governor Ralph Northam and first lady Pam Northam are serving as honorary co-chairs of an annual essay contest that awards scholarships to female high school students studying science, technology, math and engineering. Northam announced he's teaming with the Virginia Council on Women for the 9th annual contest. The contest is open to female high school seniors who submit essays explaining why they want to pursue a STEM career. Scholarships are based both on need and merit and award amounts may vary. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 2020.**

Resources

Individual Training Accounts and Nonstandard Work Arrangements. This [paper](#) commissioned by the Organisation for Economic and Co-operative Development describes the use of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and under its predecessor the Workforce Investment Act. Particular interest is in the use of ITAs by WIOA participants from nonstandard work arrangements. The study provides detailed information about the use of ITAs by participants of the two adult programs under WIOA, Disadvantaged Adult Programs and Dislocated Worker Programs, and in two states, Michigan and Washington. Information for the WIOA programs is gathered and analyzed from the public-use version of the WIOA Participant Individual Record Layout. One of the unique features of the ITAs is the use of an informed choice model, in which participants, once determined eligible for training, have final say as to the training program they choose, but they must consult with WIOA counselors and standard information available through WIOA about the programs before making that choice.

Resources

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Employer Engagement in Summer Youth Employment Programs. This [report](#) released by the Urban Institute examines how employer engagement in summer youth employment programs helps facilitate youths' connections to the workforce. This is important given concerns about low levels of employment among youth and potential effects of unemployment on young people's long-term outcomes.

The Mentor's Guide to Youth Purpose: The Art of Helping a Young Person Find Meaning, a Sense of Self, and Ways of Giving Back to Their World. This [guide](#) released by Mentor illustrates how caring adults can support interpersonal relationships with young people while nurturing their exploration of purpose. The guide also examines how purpose shows up in a host of contexts and communities—ways in which people around the world come to understand and value purpose as a path to individual and social growth.

A Toolkit to Engage Employers and Opportunity Youth on the Future of Work. This [toolkit](#) released by the Aspen Institute provides a starting point for community leaders to learn about changes happening now that can provide insights about future changes in the nature and structure of work and related implications for youth and young adults in their communities.

Equity Counts: Using Data to Increase Equity and Improve Metric Outcomes for Opportunity Youth. This [report](#) released by the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions looks at the first-year impact of the Equity Counts (EC) data use initiative. EC launched in the fall of 2018, supported by a \$1 million dollar investment from Ballmer Group, and in partnership with Equal Measure (the OYF technical assistance and evaluation partner) and 17 of the Aspen Institute's Forum for Community Solutions (FCS) [Opportunity Youth Forum](#) (OYF) [network communities](#). The ultimate goal of this initiative is to utilize collected data as a way to increase quality of services and accelerate improved and more equitable outcomes for opportunity youth.

Profile of Very Low- and Low-Income Undergraduates in 2015–16. This [report](#) released by the National Center for Education Statistics focuses on two groups of low-income undergraduate students enrolled in U.S. postsecondary institutions in 2015–16: *very low- and low-income students* which are defined as those whose family incomes fell below 50 percent and between 50 and 100 percent, respectively, of the federal poverty level for their family size. This report compares these students' demographic and enrollment characteristics, financial aid, and price of attendance with those of their peers whose family incomes were above the federal poverty level.

Resources

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Engaging Youth in Information Systems Design Toolkit. This technical assistance [document](#) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau provides guidance to Title IV-E agencies about engaging and involving youth in foster care and young adults formerly in foster care in the design and development of child welfare information systems, websites, or applications.

Introducing the SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum. This new video introduced Social Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance Outreach, Access, and Recovery ([SOAR](#)), a national program sponsored by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs for eligible individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. To view the video, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4ErLeHdMk0&feature=youtu.be>.

Upcoming Webinars

On November 5, the Urban Institute will host a webinar entitled: **Investing in Community College Students' Advancement along a Career Pathway**. This webinar is the final installment of a college event series, focused on investing in community college students' advancement along a career pathway. Career pathways are designed to help community college students take increasingly more advanced steps in their education and career to find employment that offers family-sustaining wages. However, more knowledge is needed to determine what strategies work to support advancement beyond an initial step on a career pathway. During the webinar the panel will explore how community colleges are supporting advancement in education and the workforce through career pathways programs. To register for the webinar, visit: <https://www.urban.org/events/investing-community-college-students-advancement-along-career-pathway>.

Past Webinars

On October 10th the Employment and Training administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Partnering with Conservation Corps for Out-of-School Youth and Young Adult Outcomes**. The webinar provided examples of how Workforce Development Boards and Conservation Corps are partnering in employment, training, education and placement programming for opportunity youth and young adults. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2019/07/29/20/06/Partnering-with-Conservation-Corps-for-Out-of-School-Youth-and-Young-Adult-Outcomes>.

Resources

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On October 10th the Urban Institute hosted a webinar entitled: **Helping Community Colleges Develop Short-Term Credentials of Value**. This webinar is the second installment of the Urban Institute's Community College event series which focuses on short-term credentials. During the webinar panelist explored the value of short-term certificates offered by community colleges and how colleges can ensure certificates are recognized and valued by employers. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.urban.org/events/helping-community-colleges-develop-short-term-credentials-value>.

Upcoming Events

November 11. [National Apprenticeship Week](#).

November 14-16. Phoenix, AZ. [National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health 30th Annual Conference](#).

December 3-4. Anaheim, CA. Association for Career & Technical Education's [CareerTech Vision 2019 conference](#).

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

January 2020. MLK Day of Service 2020

January 22-215, 2020. Ameila Island, FL. American Association of Community Colleges' [Workforce Development Institute](#).



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.