

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 Seeks Comments on Job Accommodation Network (JAN) Questionnaire. The Department of Labor's (DOL's) Office of Disability Employment Policy has published a notice in the [August 19 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). DOL is soliciting comments regarding the JAN an ODEP-sponsored information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The JAN is a leading source of guidance on job accommodations and disability employment issues. It also provides free one-on-one practical guidance and technical assistance on job accommodation solutions, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related legislation, and self-employment and entrepreneurship options for people with disabilities. **Comments due: October 18.**

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)

HHS Seeks Comments on Integrating Financial Capability and Employment Services Project.

The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published a notice in the [August 27 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The HHS is proposing a data collection activity as part of the Integrating Financial Capability and Employment Services Project. The objective of this project is to better understand financial capability interventions offered in the context of delivering employment and training services for low-income adults. This descriptive study intends to use this information to build more evidence about the extent, forms, and practices of incorporating financial capability interventions into organizations delivering employment and training services for low-income adult populations, and to help establish a basis for future research and evaluation in this area. This project will focus on organizations delivering employment and training services that also offer financial capability services to low-income adults. **Comments due: within 60 days of publication of notice.**

DOL Posts Blog: Celebrating 57 Years of Job Corps. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) published this blog to celebrate the anniversary of [Job Corps](#), the nation's largest free residential job training program for young adults ages 16 through 24. For 57 years, this DOL program has been helping students develop the skills they need to pursue meaningful careers and connecting them with employers seeking skilled workers in high-growth industries. Thanks to Job Corps, nearly 3 million students have received training to launch their careers — and we recently heard from a few of our grads about what their experience at Job Corps meant to them. To view the full blog, visit: <https://blog.dol.gov/2021/08/20/celebrating-57-years-of-job-corps>

DOL Posts Blog: ODEP at 20: Driving Change through Youth Policy. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) posted this blog as the latest in a series celebrating its 20th anniversary. The blog reflects on ODEP's work in promoting youth with disabilities' successful transition to postsecondary education or employment. ODEP's "Guideposts for Success" policy framework, "Skills to Pay the Bills" curriculum, and Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth are highlighted. To view the full blog, visit: [https://blog.dol.gov/2021/08/26/odep-at-20-driving-change-through-youth-policy?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP Newsletter 8-20-21](https://blog.dol.gov/2021/08/26/odep-at-20-driving-change-through-youth-policy?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP%20Newsletter%208-20-21).

Girl Scouts of the USA and FBI Sign MOU in Support of STEM Programs for Girls. The recruitment and retention of individuals with exceptional STEM talent is a top priority for the FBI. Furthermore, the FBI seeks to promote awareness of its mission and initiatives among young people. In furtherance of these goals, the FBI and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and are collaborating to increase young women's interest, confidence, and competency in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/girl-scouts-of-the-usa-and-fbi-sign-mou-in-support-of-stem-programs-for-girls>.

Featured Resources

MAINE WIOA YOUTH PROGRAM

Josh was referred to Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP) by adult education partner Maine School Administration District (MSAD) #1. He is a 19-year-old male who had never been employed. He had been working on his HiSET for some time. He suffered from low self-esteem, had no plans for the future, and lived in a house with his ex-girlfriend's mother and several other adults. However, adult education staff felt he had potential and needed intensive support to improve. He enrolled in the Young Workers Academy and began a work experience at a local grocery store. His goal was to transition into regular employment there at the end of his work experience. After several weeks, the owner let us know that he would be willing to continue the work experience but would not hire him. He felt Josh was not catching on, did not know how to connect with customers, and seemed slow. His career counselor had been checking in with Josh's supervisors and speaking with Josh, but improvement was not happening. After consultation with the supervisors and the owner, a decision was made to find Josh a mentor in the community. A 67-year old retired man volunteered to take Josh under his wing. He had been a store owner previously and knew the value of a good employee and how some needed more training and encouragement than others. He met with Josh several times, visited the store to understand his work environment, and spoke with Josh's supervisors. It was a more intensive approach, but one that was necessary. It evidently met with some measure of success. Josh was notified he was going to be kept on after his work experience ended. This will be the first "real" job Josh has ever had. He continues to work on his HiSET, which when completed, will be another milestone for him.

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

HUD Invites Applications for its Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is accepting applications for its Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants. The CoC Program (24 CFR part 578) is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit organizations, state governments, local governments, instrumentalities of state and local governments, Indian Tribes, tribally designated housing entities, as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103), and public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100, are eligible without limitation or exclusion, to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness. Grant number: [FR-6500-N-25](#). **Deadline: November 16.**

DOC Invites Applications for its American Rescue Plan Act Good Jobs Challenge. The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) is accepting applications for its FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Good Jobs Challenge grant program. The program is designed to help get Americans back to work by developing and strengthening regional systems to develop and execute sectoral partnerships that will lead to well-paying jobs. Grant number: [EDA-HDQ-ARPGJ-2021-2006964](#). **Deadline: January 26, 2022.**

The Reconnecting Youth Campaign Announces the Launch of its Opportunity Youth Congressional Liaison Program. The Reconnecting Youth Campaign is accepting applications for its nominations for its Opportunity Youth Congressional Liaison Program. This 3-month opportunity looks to equip Opportunity Youth with the skills and tools they need to directly advocate to lawmakers. This paid opportunity for young people that has been intentionally built for 16- to 26-year-olds who are neither enrolled in school nor employed in order to level up their advocacy skills and connect them to others in the Opportunity Youth and youth equity space. [read more...](#) **Deadline: September 13.**

Allstate Foundation Invites Applications for its Youth Empowerment Grants. The Allstate Foundation is accepting applications for its Youth Empowerment Grants. Grantees will be awarded \$25,000 to \$100,000 for a 12-month period and up to \$200,000 for a 24-month period for service-learning programs, positive youth development programs, and professional development programs for educators. [read more...](#) **Deadline: September 17.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

NACE Invites Proposals from Community College Workforce Programs. New America's Center on Education (NACE) and Labor in partnership with Lumina Foundation is accepting proposals from community colleges for its New Models for Career Preparation's Workforce Innovators Cohort project. The project aims to unpack the replicable and scalable principles that go into creating high-quality, non-degree programs at community colleges. Six colleges will receive \$50,000 grants to support their workforce needs while joining the national research and storytelling effort to help community colleges elevate the visibility and maximize the impact of their workforce programs. [read more...](#) **Deadline: September 24.**

Constellation Invites Applications for its E2 Energy to Educate Grants. Constellation is offering grant awards up to \$25,000 for grade 6-12 schools and up to \$50,000 for colleges and universities to support educational programs that help inspire students to think differently about energy. [read more...](#) **Deadline: October 1.**

Schmidt Futures Announces Learning Engineering Tools Competition 2021. Schmidt Futures in partnership with Citadel Founder and CEO Ken Griffin, the Walton Family Foundation, the Siegel Family Endowment, and the Overdeck Family Foundation invites applications for its Learning Engineering Tools Competition 2021 ("Tools Competition"). This multi-million dollar prize challenge is designed to leverage technology, data, and learning science to meet the urgent needs of learners across generations. This year's Tools Competition will offer more than \$3 million in prize awards. [read more...](#) **Deadline: October 1.**

You(th) Matter Invites Applications for its Youth Voices Contest. You(th) Matter invites youth to participate in this national competition to express their views on the relationship between policing and democracy. The contest is designed to allow youth to express their views on the relationship between policing and democracy, in a national competition to win cash prizes. The contest will also showcase youth writing, film, and artwork from communities nationwide. Eligible contestants must be between 14-18 years old. Each Winner will receive \$1,000; Each Runner up will receive \$500; and Each Second Runner Up will receive \$250. [read more...](#) **Deadline: November 15.**

YSA Invites Applications for its Everyday Young Hero Award. Youth Service America (YSA) is accepting nominations for young people ages 5-25, who are improving their communities through service. An awardee will be selected weekly and receive a letter and certificate of recognition, and highlighted in YSA's newsletter and social media. [read more...](#) **Deadline: Rolling.**

Resources

U.S. Department of Labor's Empowering Teens in Their Workplaces National Online Dialogue.

This summary [report](#) published by ePolicyWorks highlights the national discussion around teen workers. The national online dialogue provided an innovative opportunity for teen workers and their families, educators and mentors, advocacy groups, researchers, employers and business organizations, state and local government officials, and other stakeholders and subject matter experts to play a key role in informing the U.S. Department of Labor's efforts to best inform teen workers of their rights and protections in the workplace.

Lessons Learned Delivering Remote Services to Job Seekers with Low Incomes During the COVID-19 Pandemic. This [brief](#) released by the Pathways to Work Evidence Clearinghouse, describes lessons learned from three organizations that adapted existing interventions to remotely provide work readiness activities or education and training services to job seekers with low incomes. Lessons learned from these service adaptations can help other organizations offering similar employment services remotely.

Secure Your Financial Future. This [toolkit](#) developed by the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy and Employee Benefits Security Administration provides a path forward, based on where one is in their employment journey. The noted topic areas — [Preparing for a Job](#), [Starting a Job](#), [Maintaining a Job](#), [Changing or Losing a Job](#), and [Retiring from a Job](#) — provides answers to important questions, including tools and resources to help individuals meet their financial goals.

Leveraging Digital Tools To Connect With Tribal Youth. This [article](#) featured in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) News @ a Glance newsletter discussed how the Challenges stemming from the emergence of COVID-19 last year helped to reshape programs and outreach to American Indian and Alaska Native youth by tribal organizations. In response to pandemic-related restrictions, many tribal communities looked to social media to stay connected with their members. The article also included sessions from the [2021 OJJDP Tribal Youth Virtual National Conference](#) held March 29–April 2, which highlighted the potential of digital platforms to engage tribal youth.

Broward County, Florida: Exploring the Children's Services Council Strategic Use of Resources, Funding, and Partnerships to Support Disconnected Youth. This [case study](#) released by Jobs for the Future describes how federally-funded technical assistance helped the children's services council parlay lessons learned from past programs serving disconnected youth into a more expansive effort to align funding for this population across all county systems and services.

Resources

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With Learners, Not for Learners: A Toolkit for Elevating Learner Voice in CTE. This [toolkit](#) will provide state and local Career Technical Education (CTE) leaders with actionable resources, guidance and tools to help them develop and engage learners for the improvement of CTE policies and practices.

Employment and Unemployment Among Youth — Summer 2021. This [news release](#) by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) highlights In July 2021, 54.4 percent of young people (persons ages 16 to 24) were employed, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was up from 46.7 percent in July 2020—when youth employment was unusually low due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic—but down from 56.2 percent in July 2019, before the pandemic.

Upcoming Webinars

On September 14th, the LEAD Center will host a webinar entitled: **How Workforce Systems Can Leverage Bank Resources to Enhance the Lives of Low- and Moderate-Income Individuals.** During the webinar presenters will discuss a 1977 federal law called the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) that encourages banks to work with and invest in low- and moderate-income individuals and neighborhoods. This includes workforce development-related activities for people with disabilities. The webinar will also use the CRA to provide financial coaching, financial assistance for entrepreneurs, workforce training, credit assistance, career preparation and other activities. To register for the webinar, visit: https://www.addevent.com/event/Fq8020621?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_8-20-21.

On October 7th, the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment's Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth) will host a webinar entitled: **Trauma-Informed Policy Considerations for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities.** This webinar will highlight the pervasive nature of trauma and adverse childhood experiences among youth and young adults with disabilities and explore how trauma-informed care practices can be applied to workforce systems to help decrease barriers to employment for youth with histories of trauma. Speakers will discuss innovative and promising trauma-informed care and culturally responsive practices being used by states to fulfill the spirit of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) by improving access to employment among youth who have historically experienced barriers. To register for the webinar, visit: <https://csg-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkd-utqTkqHtFIHs3Xzu1YNs61p6uOMWLe>.

Resources

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Past Webinars

On August 19th, ETA hosted a webinar entitled: **CareerOneStop: Workforce Professionals Toolkit**. The webinar provided information and examples on how Workforce Professionals can utilize CareerOneStop in their work with clients. The staff of CareerOneStop provided information and examples of some of the more common tools available on CareerOneStop, as well as other tools that are not as well known. To view an archive of the webinar, visit:

<https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2021/07/28/13/30/CareerOneStop-Workforce-Professionals-Toolkit>.

On August 10th the Mid-Atlantic Center hosted a webinar entitled: **Health Condition and College: Accommodations, Considerations, and Information**. The webinar focused on college students with disabilities and navigating the supports available when transitioning into the college environment. To view an archive of the webinar, visit:

<https://www.adainfo.org/training/webinar-health-conditions-and-college-accommodations-considerations-and-information>.

On July 30th, the Job Accommodation Network hosted a webinar entitled: **ADA Update**. The webinar featured Jeanne Goldberg, senior attorney advisor at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, who discussed the latest developments in Americans with Disabilities Act workplace issues, tips for compliance and answers to ADA questions. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdWP6CTdVWs>.

Upcoming Events

September 1-21. Join This Way Foundation [#BeKind21](#).

September 11. Youth Service America's [9/11 Day of Service](#).

September 14-15. Search Institute's Workshop - [Developmental Assets & Developmental Relationships: Connections that Help Youth Thrive](#).

September 22. [Federally Employed Women's Virtual STEM Day](#).

October 8. Federal Aviation Administration [Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force Meeting](#).



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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.

The Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) does not take responsibility for non-endorsed DOL/ETA resources included in the newsletter.