

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 Announced Availability of \$10 Million for National Out-of-School Time Organizations to Expand Workforce Pathways for Youth. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of \$10 million to fund national out-of-school time organizations that will expand workforce pathways for youth ages 14-21. Through the Workforce Pathways for Youth program, the Department seeks to increase alignment between workforce and out-of-school programs, and expand job training and workforce pathways for youth, including career exploration, job readiness and certification, soft skill development, summer jobs, year-round job opportunities and apprenticeships. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20201214-0>. **Grant No. [FOA-ETA-21-01](#).**
Deadline: February 4, 2021.

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 Announced the Availability of Approximately \$89 Million in Grant Funding for YouthBuild Projects. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of approximately \$89 million in grant funds authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for YouthBuild. Under this Funding Opportunity Announcement, the Department will award grants through a competitive process to organizations providing pre-apprenticeship services that support education, occupational skills training and employment services to at-risk youth, ages 16 to 24, while performing meaningful work and service to their communities. In addition to construction skills training, YouthBuild applicants may include occupational skills training in other in-demand industries, including through registered and industry-recognized apprenticeship programs. This expansion into additional in-demand industries is the Construction Plus component, a priority in this grant competition. To view press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20201214>. **Grant No. FOA-ETA-21-04.**
Deadline: February 2, 2021.

DOL Announces Availability of \$3.3 Million To Fund Fidelity Bonding Demonstration Grants. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has [announced](#) the availability of \$3.3 million to fund Fidelity Bonding Demonstration Grants to states and outlying areas to expand their Federal Bonding Programs for individuals with criminal records, including those recovering from opioid and other drug addictions. Administered by the Department's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), the grants will encourage states and workforce development partners to provide fidelity bonds to employers as a hiring tool for persons with criminal records. By doing so, ETA aims to improve employment outcomes and decrease recidivism for such individuals. The grants will also serve to educate employers and the public on fidelity bonds' availability and benefits. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20201222>.

ETA Hosted First WIOA Youth Listening Session. On December 9, 2020, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) hosted a webinar entitled: **Youth Listening Session "Youth Voice: How Workforce Development Programming Best Supports Me!"**. The webinar provided a forum for youth to discuss their experiences in U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funded youth programs. This event featured nine youth participants from various Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs across the country who shared their experiences in virtual work and learning opportunities, college readiness, youth leadership, and civic engagement. To view and archive of the Youth Listening session event, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2020/10/20/14/23/Youth-Listening-Session-Youth-Voice-How-Workforce-Development-Programming-Best-Supports-Me>.

Headlines

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ETA Issues TEN 14-20 -- Planning Estimate for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Worker Program Allotments for Program Year (PY) 2021. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 14-20. This TEN transmits to states and outlying areas the impact of updated data on WIOA Title I Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Worker program allotments for PY 2021. To obtain additional information, visit: https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=7032.

ETA Issues TEN 6-20 -- Announcing the Availability of Resources to Support Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAP) and Standards Recognition Entities (SRE). The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 6-20. This TEN informs stakeholders of resources available to support IRAPs and SREs as part of the Department of Labor's (DOL or the Department) implementation of the Apprenticeship Programs, Labor Standards for Registration, Amendment of Regulations Final Rule, which went into effect on May 11, 2020. To obtain additional information, visit: https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=9094.

ETA Issues TEGL 08-20 -- Pay for Performance (PFP) Guidance for WIOA title I, subtitle B. The Employment and Guidance Letter (TEGL) has published Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 08-20. This TEGL provides guidance on PFP for state and local WIOA title I, subtitle B programs that implement PFP contract strategies. To obtain additional information, visit: https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=5237.

SBA's Emerging Leaders Initiative to Help Growing Entrepreneurs Opens for 2021 Recruitment. The [U.S. Small Business Administration](https://www.sba.gov) (SBA) has announced the launch of the 2021 Emerging Leaders initiative for executives of small businesses poised for growth in underserved markets. Local area recruitment for the 2021 training cycle is currently underway at designated SBA District Offices. Interested small business owners can learn more regarding eligibility, how to apply, class schedules and locations at www.sba.gov/emergingleaders, or by contacting their local [SBA District Office](#). To view the press release, visit: <https://www.sba.gov/article/2021/jan/15/sbas-emerging-leaders-initiative-help-growing-entrepreneurs-opens-2021-recruitment>.

Headlines

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Department of Education Announces Expansion of Revamped College Scorecard, Adds Second-year Post Graduation Earnings and Cumulative Loan Data to Help Students Make Informed Choices. U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that students can now compare average earnings two years after graduation based on field of study and how much federal student loan debt they can expect to incur, including new information on Parent PLUS loans, based on where they decide to attend school. The updates to the College Scorecard make it easier to search for different fields of study and to compare those fields side by side, whether they are within one institution or across several institutions. For instance, a student interested in health professions can now more easily compare health-related fields of study at several institutions or different health-related fields of study within the same institution. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-expands-revamped-college-scorecard-adding-second-year-post-graduation-earnings-and-cumulative-loan-data-help-students-make-informed-choices>.

HUD Introduced Find Shelter Tool to Help Community Members Locate Service Providers and Local Resources. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) introduced the [Find Shelter tool](#), a new resource developed by the Department to help individuals and families in need to locate nearby resources. Specifically, users can search for facilities that provide **shelter, clothing, health clinics, and food pantries** to those in need. Find Shelter provides mapping and contact information for these service providers and the site is optimized for mobile use. To view the press release, visit: https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_21_002.

AI Announces New Fund to Expand Access to Capital for Small Businesses Owned by Entrepreneurs of Color. The Aspen Institute (AI) and the Microfinance Impact Collaborative announced the creation of the [Entrepreneur Backed Assets \(EBA\) Fund](#), which will strengthen the capacity of community-based financial institutions to lend to small businesses in low-income communities and those owned by people of color. The fund, which will create a secondary market for loans originated by community-based microlenders, has been launched with initial grant funding from the Citi Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Microsoft Corporation and Woodforest National Bank are making the first capital investments in the Fund. A total of \$8.75M in founding commitments have been made to this innovative solution. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/news/press-release/eba-fund-announcement/>.

Headlines

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Comcast Announces \$1 Million Commitment to Per Scholas to Combat the Tech Opportunity Gap Across the U.S. Comcast NBCUniversal announced a \$1 million commitment to national tech training nonprofit [Per Scholas](#) to scale its remote operations and train 1,000 learners — 87% of whom are people of color, 30% women, and 60% with no degree beyond high school — for in-demand technology jobs. The partnership will enable Per Scholas to provide tuition-free training remotely to diverse talent in 10 U.S. markets, with programs in IT support, software engineering, cybersecurity, and cloud support. To view the press release, visit: <https://corporate.comcast.com/press/releases/comcast-announces-commitment-per-scholas-tech-opportunity-gap>.

State of Innovation Challenge Invites Washington Youth to Design Solutions to the State's Big Issues. Governor Jay Inslee, Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal, the STEM Education and Innovation Alliance, Career Connect Washington and community partners including 4-H Washington, announce the launch of the State of Innovation Challenge—a virtual, career-connected problem solving challenge that invites Washington youth to design and share their own solutions to some of the biggest issues Washington's employers and communities are facing in 2020 and 2021. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/state-innovation-challenge-invites-washington-youth-design-solutions-states-big-issues>.

Featured Program

YARG Grantees At-A-Glance

In June of 2020, the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration and Office of Apprenticeship awarded \$42,296,247 in grants to 14 grantees in 12 states and the District of Columbia for the Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grants (YARG) program. Individual awards ranged from \$1.4 million to \$5 million to support apprenticeship programs in advanced manufacturing, coding, construction, healthcare, hospitality, financial, and maritime sectors.

YARG awards are structured to support the enrollment of youth (16 - 24 years, in-and-out of school) into new or existing Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) and promote the apprentices' prospects of success in the program by ensuring wraparound services are readily accessible.

Through the YARG grant program, the partnership will directly engage educational entities, including traditional, alternative, and non-traditional schools, as well as programs that serve out-of-school youth, school boards, workforce boards, employers, workforce partners, and other apprenticeship intermediaries, to develop comprehensive approaches to establishing new apprenticeship models for youth or expanding existing apprenticeship programs for youth. For more detailed information on the YARG grantees see the "YARG Grantees At-A-Glance" document in the Related Content section at: <https://youthasready.workforcegps.org/resources/2020/09/27/13/32/YARG-Grantees-At-A-Glance>.

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

ED Invites Applications for its Talent Search Program. The Office of Postsecondary Education within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published a notice in the [December 28 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). ED is accepting applications for its Talent Search Program. The program is designed to identify qualified individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds with potential for education at the postsecondary level and encourage them to complete secondary school and undertake postsecondary education. **Applications due: February 26.**

DOJ Invites Applications for its 2021 National Mentoring Programs. The Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention within the U.S Department of Justice (DOJ) is accepting applications for its Fiscal Year 2021 Supporting Tribal Youth: Training and Technical Assistance and Youth Leadership. This purpose of this program supports the implementation and delivery of mentoring services to youth populations that are at risk for juvenile delinquency, victimization, and juvenile justice system involvement. Grant number: [O-OJJDP-2021-48008](#). **Deadline: March 9.**

DOJ Invites Applications for its 2021 Multistate Mentoring Programs Initiative. The Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention within the U.S Department of Justice (DOJ) is accepting applications for its Fiscal Year 2021 Multistate Mentoring Programs Initiative. This program supports the implementation and delivery of mentoring services to youth populations that are at risk for juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice system involvement. Mentoring services can be one-on-one, group, peer, or a combination of these types. Grant number: [O-OJJDP-2021-48007](#). **Deadline: March 9.**

Herb Block Foundation Invites Applications for Pathways Out of Poverty Program. The Herb Block Foundation is accepting applications for its Pathways Out of Poverty program. Through the program, grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded to nonprofit organizations working to help young people and adults in need in the greater Washington, D.C., region gain a quality education. Eligible applicants must be a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and be located in and/or provides services within the greater Washington, D.C. region (defined by the foundation as the District of Columbia; the counties of Arlington and Fairfax and the City of Alexandria in Virginia; and the counties of Montgomery and Prince George in Maryland). [read more...](#) **Deadline: February 4.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

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James R. Thorpe Foundation Invites Applications for its Minneapolis Youth Programs. The James R. Thorpe Foundation is accepting applications for its youth program. Grants will be awarded to organizations located in and serving the City of Minneapolis and its western suburbs working to create opportunities for middle school and high school age youth that help them achieve productive and independent lives. Eligible applicants must be tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and have an operating budget of \$3 million or less. [read more...](#) **Deadline: February 15.**

Dollar General Literacy Foundation Invites Applications for Adult Literacy Program. The Dollar General Literacy Foundation is accepting applications for its Adult Literacy Grants program. Through the program, grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to organizations providing direct services to adults in need of literacy assistance in one of the following areas: adult basic education; GED or high school equivalency preparation; and English language acquisition. Eligible applicants must be a nonprofit organization as determined by the IRS or a public library, school, or college providing direct literacy services in a state in which Dollar General operates, and be within located fifteen miles of a Dollar General store. [read more...](#) **Deadline: February 18.**

William T. Grant Foundation Invites Applications for Youth Service Improvement Grants. The William T. Grant Foundation is accepting applications for its Youth Service Improvement Grants (YSIG) program. The program supports activities aimed at improving the quality of direct services for young people between the ages of 5 and 25 in the five boroughs of New York City. The goal is to strengthen existing services by helping youth-serving nonprofit organizations address challenges or remedy problems at the point of service, where staff and youth interact. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 11.**

Resources

Connecting Opportunity Youth and Employers through Work-Based Learning. This [paper](#) published by the Citi Foundation incorporates current research and best practices informed by YouthBuild USA's collaboration with YouthBuild programs that participated in the YouthBuild High-Demand Career Pathways Initiative. The paper also embeds resources that demonstrate how adjustments for virtual learning and working can be implemented within programs.

Resources

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Twitter Analysis Can Help Practitioners, Policymakers, and Researchers Better Understand Topics Relevant to American Indian/Alaska Native Youth. This [brief](#) and data visualization provide an overview of learnings from a recent analysis of Twitter engagement around AI/AN-focused hashtags. The interactive data visualization displays the top 50 hashtags for each month in our analysis (January 2015 through July 2020) with important AI/AN-specific and U.S. events provided on a timeline slider for context.

Dual or Concurrent Enrollment in Public Schools in the United States. This [report](#) released by National Center for Education Statistics examines dual or concurrent enrollment at public schools in the United States with students enrolled in any of grades 9–12. It uses data from the public school questionnaire of the 2017–18 National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS), which is a nationally representative sample survey of public and private K–12 schools, principals, and teachers in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. State representative information is also available for public schools and their principals and teachers.

Two-Generation Strategies to Improve Educational Activities. This [policy brief](#) released by the Education Commission of the States defines two-generation strategies, which support students who are parents in continuing their educational careers, and it highlights policy examples in six states.

The Path Forward: A Bold Policy Agenda for Young People, by Young People. This [resource](#) released by Young Invincibles includes a set of policy recommendations around their belief that lasting social change is created by empowering local young adult leaders with deep community ties who can design and drive the work.

Digital Summer Youth Employment Toolkit 2.0. This [publication](#) released by the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions is designed for practitioners and systems leaders who implement and oversee local summer youth employment programs (SYEP) planning for 2021. Many of the strategies are relevant for year-round career readiness, training and work-based learning programs in high school or community-based organization settings. Policymakers, employers and philanthropy will also find this full toolkit useful, but we highlight specific calls to action for these audiences, followed by options for funding SYEP.

Resources

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Virginia High School Graduates' Career and Technical Education (CTE) Credentials. This [study](#) released by the Institute of Education Sciences examined the CTE credentials Virginia high school graduates most commonly earned from 2011 through 2017. The five most commonly earned CTE credentials in Virginia remained the same during this time period, but the percentage of students earning the Workplace Readiness Skills (WRS) and Wise Financial Literacy Certification credentials increased. Both of these credentials cover broad skills relevant to a wide range of jobs, as opposed to a specific occupation or industry.

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On February 4, the Employment and Training Administration will host a webinar entitled: **Using CareerOneStop to Provide Virtual Job Search Services to Help New College Graduates.** During the webinar staff from CareerOneStop will present how to use CareerOneStop to provide virtual services to help new college graduates job search. This webinar is an expanded dive into one user pathway from the "Using CareerOneStop to Provide Virtual Career and Job Services" webinar presented on September 24, 2020. To register for the webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2021/01/12/13/35/Using-CareerOneStop-to-Provide-Virtual-Job-Search-Services-to-Help-New-College-Graduates>.

Past Webinars/Webcasts

On December 16th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Learning and Leading: Service Delivery to Job Seekers in a Virtual Environment.** This webinar highlighted promising practices and featured organizations that have successfully used virtual platforms to deliver workforce development services to jobseekers. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2020/12/08/12/20/Learning-and-Leading-Service-Delivery-to-Job-Seekers-in-a-Virtual-Environment>.

On December 10th the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) hosted a podcast entitled: **Children's Savings Account Programs Can Help Families Build Savings and Envision College.** This podcast highlights how rising college costs have outpaced federal grant aid and placed more of the financial burden on students and their families. The webinar also highlighted the Senate Appropriations Committee report, which included provisions for GAO to examine various aspects of college savings account programs and their effectiveness. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-21-10?utm_campaign=usgao_email&utm_content=daybook&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

Resources

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On December 7th What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) released a webinar entitled: **Evidence-Based Instructional Practices for In-Person and Remote Learning**. This webinar discussed how the WWC practice guides and other resources can support educators in using evidence-based instructional practices for instruction in any setting, including remote learning. During the COVID-19 pandemic, educators are facing an unprecedented situation with many schools delivering some or all instruction remotely. WWC resources like practice guides remain relevant to educators even as the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way instruction is delivered. To view an archive of the webinar, visit: <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Resources/ResourcesForEducators>.

Upcoming Events

February 13-20, 2021. [National Entrepreneurship Week](#).

February 25, 2021. [Digital Learning Day](#).

March 15-18, 2021. Corps Network [2021 National Conference](#).

April 12-15, 2021. National Youth Leadership Council's [32nd Annual National Service-Learning Conference](#), "Engage. Evolve. Energize!".

April 28 – 29. California Mental Health Advocates for Children & Youth (CMHACY) [41st Annual CMHACY Conference](#).



To subscribe or unsubscribe to the Youth Resource Connections Newsletter, visit: http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services and click the "Subscribe to E-mail Updates" button.

We welcome your input.

Please let us know how these newsletters might be improved to better serve your needs. If you have comments, contact the Employment and Training Administration's Division of Youth Services at **(202) 693-3030** or e-mail: youth.services@dol.gov.

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