

# 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

**ETA Releases WIOA Youth Monitoring Supplement.** This supplement complements the Employment and Training Administration's Core Monitoring Guide and is a tool for Federal staff to perform program-specific monitoring of the formula-funded Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) youth program at the state and local levels. This supplemental guide identifies compliance requirements along with additional questions which may be used to assess state progress and provide information about a state's implementation of WIOA. To view the supplement, visit: <https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2018/12/18/13/57/Final-WIOA-Youth-Monitoring-Supplement>.

**White House Releases New Strategic Plan on STEM Education.** The White House has released a fact sheet detailing President Donald J. Trump's plan to strengthen education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The President's plan seeks to ensure that all Americans have access to quality STEM education and safeguard America's place as the global leader in STEM innovation and employment. The Administration's goals include building a strong foundation of STEM literacy, increasing diversity in STEM careers, and preparing the STEM workforce of the future. For additional information and to view the fact sheet, visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-is-working-to-ensure-all-americans-have-access-to-stem-education/>.

### 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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**U.S. Department of Commerce Invests \$21 Million to Accelerate Entrepreneurship across the Nation; Announces Timeline for Next Round of Regional Innovation Strategies.** U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that 40 organizations — including nonprofits, institutions of higher education, and entrepreneurship-focused organizations — from 28 states and two territories will receive \$21 million to create and expand cluster-focused entrepreneurship and technology transfer programs, and early-stage seed fund support under the Economic Development Administration's 2018 [Regional Innovation Strategies \(RIS\) program competition](https://www.eda.gov/news/press-releases/2018/12/04/ris.htm). To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.eda.gov/news/press-releases/2018/12/04/ris.htm>.

**All Within My Hands Foundation and American Association of Community Colleges Launch the Metallica Scholars Initiative.** Metallica's All Within My Hands Foundation has launched a major workforce education initiative that provides direct support to community colleges to enhance their career and technical education programs. These programs provide skills and services to students who are looking to enter a traditional trade or other applied learning program. Ten colleges from across the country will receive \$100,000 to support more than 1,000 students training to enter the American workforce. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.aacc.nche.edu/2018/12/11/all-within-my-hands-foundation-american-association-of-community-colleges-launch-the-metallica-scholars-initiative/>.

**JPMorgan Chase Commits \$6 Million to Prepare Greater Washington Area Students for Local, In-Demand Jobs.** JPMorgan Chase & Co. has announced \$6 million to expand access to economic opportunity for thousands of young people and help meet the growing demand for skilled workers in the Greater Washington region. As the regional economy grows, these investments are designed to increase the number of graduates from local public high schools, community colleges and universities with clear opportunities to secure well-paying local technology jobs. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20181206005205/en/JPMorgan-Chase-Commits-6-Million-Prepare-Greater>

**Mathematica Post Blog: It's Time to Move Forward on Solutions to Support Youth with Disabilities.** This blog by Todd Honeycutt, lead researcher on the Supplemental Security Income Youth Recipient and Employment Transition Formative Research project funded by Office of Disability Employment Policy, discusses the need for better solutions to address the hurdles that youth receiving Supplemental Security Income encounter when they transition to adulthood. Despite large investments in initiatives to help them, very little is known about what works for these youth. Honeycutt proposes five strategies that policymakers could pursue to ensure transition programs make a difference. To view the blog, visit: <https://cire.mathematica-mpr.com/commentary/its-time-to-move-forward-on-solutions-to-support-youth-with-disabilities>.

## Headlines

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**Rhode Island's Works Wonders Program Awarded Harvard's 2018 Innovations In American Government Award.** [The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation](#), a leading research center at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, last week named Works Wonders, a job training and placement initiative in Rhode Island aimed at youth who have aged out of—or are about to age out of—state care, as the winner of the 2018 [Innovations in American Government Award](#). Rhode Island's Works Wonders program was recognized by the Innovations Award Program at the Ash Center for its groundbreaking approach to filling the gap between traditional workforce development programs, which are traditionally aimed at adults, and youth-centric programs which assume a level of parental engagement. The Program involves adolescents ages 16-21 in a rounded support system that addresses both hard and soft skills. Participating youth have access to education, peer support, counseling, experiential learning opportunities and ultimately; paid jobs, vocational programs, and continued educational opportunities. A recent research study showed that Works Wonders has an 83 percent completion rate and participants are 37 percent more likely to be employed as compared to those who did not participate in the program. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://ash.harvard.edu/news/press-release-categories/innovations-government>.

## Success Story

### Workforce Southwest Washington, Vancouver, WA

Melanie walked in to WorkSource at the beginning of August because she had been turned down for a job and the employer suggested she head over to WorkSource for some help. A youth team members happened to be standing near the front desk at WorkSource when she came in and overheard Melanie's situation. Noticing that Melanie was very timid and unsure of what she needed, the youth team member decided to engage with Melanie and invited her to participate in Next, an initiative of Workforce Southwest Washington which provides young adults ages 16-24 support and training to succeed in their careers and lives. Melanie agreed, and returned right-away the following day with all of the documentation necessary to get enrolled in the program. Melanie quickly demonstrated her commitment to making her dreams happen right away. After spending more time with Melanie, staff found that she had recently moved away from her family in Northern Washington and it had not been a clean break. While she had graduated high school, she was struggling financially and did not know how long she would be able to stay in her current housing situation. She was sure that she needed to get a job right away so that she could support herself. Melanie attended a week-long employment readiness class and re-discovered her love of the tech field, and more specifically, in design and coding. As she went through the class, she realized that she had a deep desire to pursue tech as a career. She was set up with an internship at a local tech company called GTMA where she excelled. She was regularly asked to work additional hours. She found a home with the team, and her supervisor added additional responsibility to her plate. Melanie successfully completed her internship and recently interviewed for an official position with GTMA. Staff was happy that Melanie found a pathway she was excited about and that she found a home at Next and with GTMA. Melanie was able to participate in all of the program elements because she was enrolled in Career Connect WA, Youth Title I, and Adult Title I services. Her story is just one example of how multiple programs operating out of the same space can create greater opportunities for young people.

For additional information on the Next initiative, visit: <https://workforcesw.org/job-seekers/young-adult-job-seekers>.

#### 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

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Announces the Following Grant Opportunities Related To Opioid Use/Disorder.**

HHS is accepting applications for its Helping to End Addictions Long-term Initiative: Preventing Opioid Use Disorder in Older Adolescents and Young Adults. This initiative is designed to stimulate research studies conducted in populations and geographic areas most affected by the opioid crisis or with indicators of an emerging crisis. Of priority are studies that target older adolescents and young adults (ages 16-30) in health care settings (including primary care, surgical, orthopedic and other specialty care, dental care, emergency departments, urgent care, HIV/STI and reproductive health clinics, prenatal clinics, school-based health centers, federally qualified health centers, military medicine settings, occupational health settings), justice settings (including criminal justice, juvenile justice, as well as child welfare and other systems that cross with the justice system) and other systems and settings. [read more...](#)

**Deadline: March 13, 2019. (grant no. RFA-DA-19-035)**

HHS is accepting applications for its Helping to End Addictions Long-term (HEAL) Initiative: Coordinating Center to Support National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Preventing Opioid Use Disorder in Older Adolescents and Young Adults (16-30). This initiative is designed to fund a single coordinating center to formalize and centralize support for the HEAL initiative administered by NIDA. The coordinating center will provide administrative and scientific, technical, and logistical support for coordination of common data elements, data harmonization, data sharing across projects; methodological and statistical support in the areas of study design, complex statistical analyses, economic analyses, implementation research; coordination of stakeholder and partnership engagement activities; developing and coordinating a HEAL prevention initiative publication and dissemination plan, providing logistical support for in-person meetings, conference calls, and webinars that include HEAL prevention grantees, funders and stakeholders. In addition, the coordinating center also will assist with collecting data on prevalence, incidence, risk and protective factors, and contextual factors in the identified populations and settings that will inform HEAL prevention research projects. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 13, 2019. (grant no. RFA-DA-19-034)**

## Funding & Other Opportunities

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**William T. Grant Foundation Seeks Applications for Inequality Research Grants.** The William T. Grant Foundation is accepting applications from organizations to improve the lives of youth between the ages 5 and 25. The grants are designed to support research projects to advance understanding in the area of inequalities in youth development and/or increase understanding of how research is acquired, understood, and used, as well as the circumstances that shape its use in decision making. Awardees will receive grants of up to \$600,000. Eligible organizations must be considered tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 9, 2019.**

**Spencer Foundation Invites Proposals for Education Research Projects.** The [Spencer Foundation](#) is accepting proposals for education research projects through their Small Research Grants Program. The program is designed to fund academic work that contributes to the improvement of education. Eligible, principal investigators and co-PIs must have an earned doctorate in an academic discipline or professional field, or appropriate experience in an education research-related profession. In addition, the PI must be affiliated with a college, university, school district, nonprofit research facility, or nonprofit cultural institution that is willing to serve as the fiscal agent if the grant is awarded. Awardees will receive grants of up to \$50,000. [read more...](#) **Deadline: February 1, 2019.**

**CJCA Invites Applications for its Youth Initiative.** The Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators and the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform are accepting applications for the Youth in Custody Practice Model initiative. The program is designed to assist state and county juvenile correctional agencies and facility providers in implementing a comprehensive and effective approach to serve youth in residential treatment. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 11, 2019.**

## Resources

**Educational Credentials Come of Age: A Survey on the Use and Value of Educational Credentials in Hiring.** This [report](#) released by Northeastern University's Center for the Future of Higher Education and Talent Strategy is a national research survey of 750 human resources (HR) leaders at U.S. employers, spanning all industry sectors and organizational sizes. This project is one of the center's inaugural studies related to understanding the future of educational credentials and their value and use in the workplace – a core research theme. A profile of the survey sample and methodology is included at the end of this report.

**Philadelphia Youth Network's 2020 Vision.** This [publication](#) developed by the Philadelphia Youth Network discusses the value and impact of their efforts through their WorkReady and Project U-Turn programs, which were created to improve education and employment outcomes. This work has transformed progress in the city by bringing together previously siloed systems and work, creating new opportunities for collaboration and resource alignment, and increasing access to education and employment opportunities.

**Foundational Elements for Post-Secondary Bridging.** This [handbook](#) developed by Philadelphia Youth Network in partnership with Project U Turn offer a set of practices and actionable tools that are intended to be adapted to one's needs. Within the document one will find the components deemed most beneficial: from targeted learning outcomes, to lesson plans, key elements for success, and materials used in programming.

**Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine's Website.** This site developed by The City of Philadelphia provides information on a citywide workforce development strategy. This strategy from the Office of Workforce Development and its partners works to address the talent needs of employers. The goal is also to prepare Philadelphia residents for careers in family-sustaining jobs. To view the website, visit: <https://www.phila.gov/programs/workforce-development/>.

**New Directions: Creating Career Pathways for and with Opportunity Youth.** This [report](#) released by Boston Private Industry Council chronicles the Opportunity Youth Collaborative's activities and lessons learned over its six-year effort to engage opportunity youth in career pathways. Most importantly, it provides forward facing recommendations for policy and practice change in the workforce, postsecondary education, K-12 and youth development systems.

## Resources

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**Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 2018.** This [report](#) released by the National Center for Education Statistics draws on a wide array of surveys and administrative datasets to present statistics on high school dropout and completion rates at the state and national levels. The report includes estimates of the percentage of students who drop out in a given 12-month period (event dropout rates), the percentage of young people in a specified age range who are high school dropouts (status dropout rates), and the percentage of young people in a specified age range who hold high school credentials (status completion rates). In addition, the report includes data on the percentage of students who graduate with a regular diploma within four years of starting ninth grade (adjusted cohort graduation rates) and data on alternative high school credentials. This report updates a series of NCES reports on high school dropout and completion rates that began in 1988.

**Graduation Rates for Selected Cohorts, 2008-13; Outcome Measures for Cohort Year 2008; Student Financial Aid, Academic Year 2015-16; and Admissions in Postsecondary Institutions, Fall 2016: First Look (Provisional data).** This [report](#) released by The National Center for Education Statistics is a revised version of the preliminary report released on October 12, 2017. It includes fully edited and imputed data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) winter 2016-17 data collection, which included four survey components: Graduation Rates for selected cohorts 2008-2013, Outcome Measures for cohort year 2008, Student Financial Aid data for the academic year 2015-16, as well as Admissions for Fall 2016. Selected cohorts 2008-2013, Outcome Measures for cohort year 2008, Student Financial Aid data for the academic year 2015-16, as well as Admissions for Fall 2016.

**A Look at Postsecondary Students' 3-Year Persistence and Attainment Rate.** This [report](#) released by the National Center for Education Statistics uses data from the 2006 and 2014 administrations of the Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Studies, which were follow-ups to, respectively, the 2003-04 and 2011-12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies.

**Why Didn't Students Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)? A Detailed Look.** This [Statistics in Brief](#) builds on prior National Center for Education Statistics publications to provide an updated and detailed look at why students, or their parents, reported that they did not complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

**Federal Pell Grant Program of the Higher Education Act: Primer.** This [report](#) released by the Congressional Research Service provides descriptions of key elements of the Pell Grant program and information on recipient demographics, award levels, award value, program costs, and program funding.

## Resources

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**Making Their Way: Summary Report on the Youth Villages Transitional Living Evaluation.** This [report](#) released by MDRC summarizes three previous reports. The first of these reports details the Transitional Living program model and assesses its implementation. The second report analyzes the one-year impacts of the program on outcomes in six domains: education; employment and earnings; housing stability and economic well-being; social support; health and safety; and criminal involvement. The third report examines the program's impact after two years on outcomes in three of the original six domains — education, employment and earnings, and criminal involvement — for which longer term data were available; and provides information about the costs of operating the Transitional Living program.

**Doubling Graduation Rates in a New State.** This [brief](#) released by MDRC presents academic effects after two years for the pooled, full study sample in the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs Ohio demonstration. The findings show that students in the program group clearly outperformed the control group with respect to persistence in school, credit accumulation, and graduation. Graduation rates more than doubled: 19 percent of the program group earned a degree or credential after two years compared with 8 percent of the control group. The brief also presents some findings from analyses of the programs' implementation and costs.

**A Worksheet to Select Employment Interventions That Benefit Youth.** This [issue brief](#) released by Mathematica includes a worksheet of questions that federal policymakers can ask themselves to help identify and develop interventions to improve employment-related outcomes for youth with disabilities. The issue brief's insights come from the U.S. Department of Labor's Supplemental Security Income Youth Recipient and Employment Transition Formative Research project.

### Upcoming Webinars

On January 22, 2019, the Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures will host a webinar entitled: **Trauma-Informed Care in Youth-/Young Adult-Serving Organizations.** During the webinar, participants learn how youth- and young adult-serving organizations can implement the principles of trauma-informed care. Examples and tools will be provided with an emphasis on those developed by and with youth and young adults. To register for the webinar, visit: <https://www.pathwaysrtc.pdx.edu/webinars-upcoming>.

## Upcoming Events

**January 21, 2019.** [Martin Luther King Day of Service.](#)

**January 30 – February 1, 2019.** Mentor's [Ninth Annual National Mentoring Summit.](#)

**February 5-7, 2019.** [National Skills Coalition 2019 Skills Summit.](#)

**February 10-13, 2019.** Washington, DC. Resilience - [The Corps Network 2019 National 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.