

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

Supporting Apprenticeship through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program: New Fact Sheet Available. The Employment and Training Administration has prepared a new fact sheet presenting the ways in which the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program can serve as a funding vehicle to support apprenticeship. To view the fact sheet, visit: https://doleta.gov/tradeact/benefits/docs/Apprenticeship_and_TAA_Fact_Sheet.pdf.

DOL Seeks Comments on Proposed Information Collection. The Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division has published a request in the [November 15 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) extending the period for submitting written comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking entitled "Expanding Employment, Training, and Apprenticeship Opportunities for 16- and 17-Year-Olds in Health Care Occupations Under the Fair Labor Standards Act." **Comments due: December 15.**

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)

Amazon's Jeff Bezos to Spend Nearly \$100 Million to Address Homelessness. The world's richest man, Jeff Bezos, is giving nearly \$100 million to address homelessness in America in what amounts to his biggest publicly-announced charitable donation yet. On Tuesday, November 20th, the Amazon founder and CEO outlined his plans to give \$97.5 million to two dozen nonprofits around the country that are providing services to the homeless. This is the first round of giving that Bezos will conduct as part of his Day One Fund, [announced in September](#), in which he pledged \$2 billion to help homeless families and create Montessori-inspired preschools. (Bezos himself attended a Montessori school.) The nonprofits that will receive funding are located in places like San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Omaha, where they operate emergency and short-term shelters and also help families move into permanent housing. Each organization will receive \$2.5 million or \$5 million from the Day 1 Families Fund. The money will be used to help the organizations "expand the scope and impact of their efforts," according to a [statement](#). For additional information, visit: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/laurengensler/2018/11/20/amazon-jeff-bezos-day-one-families-fund-homelessness/#7c6a0cc160c5>.

American Youth Policy Forum Posts Blog: From Foster Care to College: An Uphill Battle. The American Youth Policy Forum released a blog, which discusses the lack of accessibility to college for students who have been involved with the foster care system. These students face unique challenges that can make postsecondary education unobtainable without the right support. As a result, less than half of this cohort will graduate with a high school diploma, and less than three percent will go on to complete a bachelor's degree. To view the blog, visit: <http://www.aypf.org/college-and-career-readiness/blog-from-foster-care-to-college/>.

American Youth Policy Forum Post Blog: Looking Backward, Moving Forward: Experts Talk Education, Youth and Workforce Policy. The American Youth Policy Forum's Betsy Brand released a blog which recaps their 25th anniversary panel discussion with national experts in education, youth, and workforce policy. During the discussion the panel reflected upon what has and hasn't worked to help underserved youth be successful. To view the blog, visit: <https://www.aypf.org/blog/looking-backward-moving-forward-experts-talk-education-youth-and-workforce-policy/>.

Headlines

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HHS Seeks Comments on National Youth in Transition Database. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has published a request in the [November 16 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) for the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) and Youth Outcomes Survey. The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 as amended by Public Law 106-169 requires State child welfare agencies to collect and report to the ACF data on the characteristics of youth receiving independent living services and information regarding their outcomes. The regulation implementing the NYTD, listed in 45 CFR 1356.80, contains standard data collection and reporting requirements for States to meet the law's requirements. Additionally, the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2017 (H.R. 253) further outlines the expectation of the collection and reporting of data and outcomes regarding youth who are in receipt of independent living services. ACF will use the information collected under the regulation to track independent living services, assess the collective outcomes of youth, and potentially to evaluate State performance with regard to those outcomes consistent with the law's mandate. **Comments due: December 11.**

ED Seeks Comments on its Performance Partnership Pilots. The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education has published a request in the [November 21 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) soliciting applications for its Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth. The pilots are designed to provide States, localities, or tribal governments receiving funds under multiple Federal programs additional flexibility in using these funds to achieve significant improvement in outcomes for disconnected youth. **Comments due: January 22, 2019.**

Success Story

Greater Raritan Workforce Investment Board - Somerville, New Jersey

Barbara M. was referred to the Greater Raritan Workforce Investment Board's Youth Employment Services (YES) program in October, 2017. She had withdrawn from school the previous month, a few days after her 18th birthday, due to excessive absences related to anxiety, depression, and a chronic medical problem. At the time of her enrollment in the YES program, Barbara felt like a failure and was discouraged about her future career options. She has always been passionate about wanting to work with animals, particularly exotics, but her academic struggles left her lacking confidence about her ability to pursue her dream of becoming a veterinarian.

Shortly after entering the YES program, Barbara enrolled in GED prep classes at the Educational Services Commission (ESC) WorkForce Learning Link (WFL) in Flemington. Her initial testing revealed a few academic areas that needed attention in order for her to be ready to sit for the test. She attended the program several times a week, always with a great attitude and a desire to work hard, and quickly got her academic skills up to par. Though the teachers felt she was ready for the test after a couple of months, Barbara was reluctant to take the plunge, fearing another failure in her life. Thanks to the caring encouragement of the staff at the WFL (who continued to provide her with practice tests and drills- not to boost her skills, but her confidence) Barbara successfully passed the HiSet with flying colors on April 8, 2018.

Barbara's next step in the YES program was to participate in job readiness skills training and job sampling through the Visions program at Middle Earth (a local nonprofit and contracted vendor of the YES program). She quickly completed ten hours of work readiness classroom training, four hours of community service at the local 4H center, and certification in Animal First Aid and CPR. The Visions program typically does the legwork to identify job sampling sites that relate to a participant's career goals, but Barbara took the initiative to find a site and arrange for her own 20 hour work experience at the Woodlands Wildlife Refuge. She felt such a deep connection to the organization, and was so highly valued by the staff there, that she has continued to volunteer there weekly, long after completing her 20 hour requirement.

Building on all of these successes, Barbara summoned the courage to give formal education another try. After applying for and receiving a WIOA training grant, Barbara enrolled in a 6 month Veterinary Assistant training program at the Hunterdon County Polytech which started at the beginning of October. One year and a few weeks after she left the public school system feeling defeated and hopeless, Barbara responded to the question "how is school going?" with "School is going great love the class and the teacher is awesome and I've already learned so much!"

Success Story

(continued)

When she first started the YES program, Barbara's dream was to become a licensed veterinarian, but she was doubtful about whether she would even be able to complete a basic training program. While she is still not sure if she will go "all the way" through medical school, she now recognizes that educational milestones are not obstacles to her dream, but stepping stones that she can follow as far as her new-found confidence will take her.

For additional information on the YES program visit: <https://www.thegrwdb.org/>.

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

Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation Seeks Application for Community Youth Programs.

The [Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its B.E.S.T community grant program. This program is designed to award grants of up to \$50,000 to programs or projects focused on the needs of Michigan youth. Priority will be given to projects that increase the capacity of the community to participate in identifying needs and developing and implementing solutions; demonstrate a clear and convincing need; develop self-reliance; target gaps in services; and/or mirror community diversity. In addition, the program seeks projects that solve or address critical local needs; are evidence-based and achieve significant desired outcomes; are sustainable and focused on prevention; encourage collaboration and cooperation among charities; and/or unite and build local communities. Eligible applicants must be considered tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States. [read more...](#) **Deadline: December 15.**

Governor Cuomo Announces \$5.5 Million Available for Workforce Development Targeting At-Risk Youth.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the availability of \$5.5 million for qualified not-for-profit and charitable organizations in targeted areas of the state to provide education and employment services to help at-risk youth succeed in life and avoid both victimization by, and involvement with, criminal activity. One million dollars of the funding will be reserved for Nassau and Suffolk Counties, which has been at the epicenter of MS-13 gang violence in New York State. The two-year project will serve vulnerable youth and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24. [read more...](#) **Deadline for Submission of Proposals: December 28.**

Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation Invites Nominations for Outstanding Teacher Awards.

The [Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation](#) is accepting application for its Outstanding Teacher Awards. The annual award are designed to recognize up to fifteen public school teachers in Omaha who have instilled in their students a desire to learn and achieve; understand the individual needs of students and encourage their talents; and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of their individual subject matter and possess the ability to share it effectively with students. Any Omaha public school teacher or counselor (K-12) with a minimum of two years' experience is eligible for nomination by students (current and former), parents, other teachers, administrators, and the general public. Awardees will receive public recognition and a \$10,000 cash gift, an Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award Medallion, and \$500 in McDonald's gift certificates. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 15, 2019.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

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AWS Foundation Accepting Applications for Indiana Organizations Serving People With Disabilities. The [AWS Foundation](#) is accepting applications from organizations in northeast Indiana for its awards grants to organizations in northeast Indiana to help children and adults with enduring intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities live as independently as possible, be included in the community, and function at their highest potential. Grants will be awarded to programs focused on individuals with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities such as Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, fragile X syndrome, and alcohol fetal syndrome. Aging or illness related disabilities fall outside the scope of disabilities considered. [read more...](#) **Deadline: February 1, 2019.**

Blandin Foundation Invites Applications for Itasca-Area Education Grants. The [Blandin Foundation](#) is accepting applications from Itasca-area students for Blandin Foundation Education Grant program. The program is designed to award need-based grants of up \$4,500 to local students who will graduate, or have graduated, from one of the following high schools: Grand Rapids, Bigfork, Deer River, Hill City, Greenway, Nashwauk-Keewatin, Remer, Blackduck, Northome, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig, and Northern Lights Community School, as well as home-schooled students who have attended any of these schools. Eligible students must be under the age of 25 as of September 1, 2019, and be registered as a full-time student (12 credits per semester) at any accredited school in the United States. This can include certificate programs, community colleges, technical and tribal colleges, as well as four-year colleges and universities. (Graduate and doctoral students are not eligible.) Students must make satisfactory academic progress toward their degree program, meaning they maintain at least a 2.0 GPA or higher. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 1, 2019.**

Learning to Give Invites Applications for its Mini-Grants for Service-Learning. Learning to Give is accepting applications for its mini-grants which range from \$250 to \$500. The grants are designed to inspire classroom discussion and action toward students using their time, talent, and treasure for the common good. Priority will be given to those who use social media to share their plans, discuss ideas, and reflect! Applications will be reviewed on the 22nd of each month. [Read more...](#) **Deadline: March 22, 2019.**

Resources

Homelessness in America: Focus on Youth. This [brief](#) released by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is part of USICH's Homelessness in America series, which summarize data and research about specific subpopulations to help inform the work required to end homelessness. Within this brief, USICH focuses on unaccompanied youth.

Internships, Fellowships, and Other Work Experience Opportunities in the Federal Government. This [report](#) released by Congressional Research Services describes internet resources for prominent and popular opportunities for internship, fellowship, and work experience programs within the federal government. The report is intended as a selective guide for students of all levels: high school, undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate. It provides information on legislative, executive, and judicial branch opportunities and links to several aggregators of jobs data. The introduction provides a number of insights to assist applicants on understanding terminology, timing applications, and expectations for types of work involved.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program: Selected Issues. This [report](#) released by Congressional Research Services begins with a brief legislative and regulatory history of the PSLF program. This is followed by a brief description of how the program works. Finally, the report describes several selected program issues that have arisen in recent years. These are issues that have received recent congressional and stakeholder attention and issues identified in reviews of the program, as well as some that have been raised by researchers, analysts, and other entities outside of the government.

Helping Young People Move Up. This [brief](#) discusses the findings from the three new studies and their implications for youth programs. It argues that no one program is the answer for disconnected young people, but that each program serves a particular segment of the population, and each can serve as a step toward upward mobility. What's missing is the system to help young people navigate these programs and move up.

Factors That Influence Student College Choice. This [report](#) released by the National Center for Educational Statistics is based on data from the High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSL:09), a nationally representative, longitudinal study of more than 23,000 ninth-graders in 2009. The cohort was surveyed again in spring 2012 when most students were in the eleventh grade. The 2012 survey included questions about why students transferred schools or became homeschooled.

Resources

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Three Educational Pathways to Good Jobs: High School, Middle Skills, and Bachelor's Degree.

This [report](#) produced by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce examines the three pathways to good jobs defined by education and skills: the high school pathway, the middle-skills pathway, and the bachelor's degree (BA) pathway.

Accommodation and Compliance: Low Cost, High Impact. The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) published this annual [report](#) on the benefits and costs of workplace accommodations. The information was gathered from employers who have used JAN's services in the past year. The findings show that 59 percent of accommodations cost nothing to make, while the rest of the accommodations had a typical cost of \$500. This is consistent with the results of last year's study, demonstrating that job accommodations generally are not costly.

Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce for The Fourth Industrial Revolution | For Business: A Framework for Action. This [report](#) released by Global Business Coalition For Education offer advice on the challenges, obligations people are not equipped for the work that needs to be done and opportunities facing business leaders. It also outlines recommendations that, taken together - as coordinated action between industry, governments, young people and other stakeholders - create a strong framework for advancing the cause but it's more than a collection of ideas. This report also represents a bold vision to convene business around a movement to prepare youth for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It's a call to action—to respond to critical challenges by committing to support and develop the workforce of tomorrow.

Supporting In-School and Out-of-School Youth Experiencing Homelessness Through Education and Workforce Partnerships. This [brief](#) released by the National Center for Homeless Education is designed for educators, including State Coordinators for Homeless Education and local homeless education liaisons, adult education and career and technical education program providers, and providers of U.S. Department of Labor youth programs, including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth formula program, Job Corps, and YouthBuild. It provides an overview of education and workforce programs that may serve youth experiencing homelessness, and suggests strategies for cross-system collaboration to support these youth.

Resources

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Upcoming Webinars

On December 6 Education Week will host an online summit entitled: **Pathways to Personalized Learning**. This free online summit invites individuals to take part in a series of peer-to-peer discussions on how the direction of school districts around the country. Also during the summit participants will look at the challenges that K-12 officials face in crafting customized academic approaches that work for teachers and students—and how district and school leaders choose strategies and education technology to accomplish their goals. To register for the summit, visit: <https://www.edweek.org/ew/events/pathways-to-personalized-learning-an-education.html>.

On December 7th, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will host a webinar entitled: **Adolescent Intersections: Depressive Disorders, Developmental Trauma, and Psychoactive Substances**. This 90-minute Learning Community is presented from the specialized perspective of providing clinical services to youth with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders – with careful attention included regarding the high prevalence of interwoven trauma and developmental trauma experiences. This Learning Community training is designed most specifically for clinicians providing direct care to youth and families and to those supervising these clinical staff. It will also benefit those concerned about designing programming for youth and families. To register for the webinar, visit: https://events-na11.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1120832267/en/events/event/shared/1159765005/event_landing.html?sco-id=2017532299& charset =utf-8.

On December 11th, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will host a webinar entitled: **Adapting Wraparound for Older Youth and Young Adults**. This webinar describes the ways in which providers are adapting Wraparound and challenges related to making adaptations. The webinar also outlines key research and practice questions that will need attention in the future. To register for the webinar, visit: https://events-na11.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1120832267/en/events/event/shared/1159765005/event_landing.html?sco-id=2022222460& charset =utf-8.

Upcoming Events

December 12-14. Chicago, IL. National Association Workforce Development Professionals, [Youth Symposium 2018](#).

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. Washington, DC. Resilience - [The Corps Network 2019 National 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.