

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

Opportunities for WIOA Youth Programs to Better Serve Foster Youth through Housing and Child Welfare Partnerships. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide information on the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) housing voucher program and to encourage partnership opportunities between Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) youth programs, Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) and Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs). The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative makes Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance available to PHAs in partnership with PCWAs. In addition to providing up to 36 months of rental assistance, youth must be provided supportive services to assist the young person on their path to self-sufficiency. These services, such as basic life skills information, counseling on money management, counseling on rental lease requirements, rental voucher assistance, job preparation and counseling, and educational and career advancement counseling, can be provided by WIOA Youth programs, as these closely align with the required 14 program elements of WIOA. To obtain additional information and resources, click [here](#).

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)

ETA issues TEGL 01-23 - Updated Disadvantaged Youth and Adult Data for use in Program Year (PY) 2023 and future Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth and Adult Within-State Allocation Formulas. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 01-23. The TEGL: 1) advises states of the availability of disadvantaged Youth and Adult data for use in the WIOA Youth and Adult within-state allocation formulas and, 2) requests that states use this data in their PY 2023 and future within-state allocation formulas. To read the TEGL click [here](#).

DOL Announces Our Future Matters: Informing the Federal Interagency Strategy. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), in collaboration with partners across federal agencies, is hosting this ePolicyWorks online dialogue to help improve policies and practices that lead to a smooth transition to adulthood for youth with disabilities. We welcome ideas and experiences from all stakeholders, including anyone with a personal or professional interest in supporting the aspirations of youth and young adults with disabilities to live, work, and thrive in their communities. To obtain additional information, click [here](#). Deadline to share ideas and experiences: August 14.

DOL Announces the Launch of its Youth Employment Works! Community of Practice. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration has developed **A CALL TO ACTION! Department of Labor Launches Youth Employment Works! Community of Practice (CoP)** webpage. This CoP page provides information on DOL's Youth Employment Works! priority which focuses on youth and young adult employment and workforce development. Individuals are invited to share their story in response to the Youth Employment Works Call to Action and are able to view the [Youth Employment Works Summit](#) which took place on March 9, 2023. To obtain additional information, click [here](#).

DOL Awards Nearly \$17M to Expand Use of Registered Apprenticeships in Education, Clean Energy, Other Critical Industries. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of nearly \$17 million in funding contracts to seven organizations to promote Registered Apprenticeships in emerging industries where they have not been scaled traditionally and to continue to expand in industries where they exist currently. Administered by the department's [Employment and Training Administration](#), the funding will enable these industry intermediaries to launch, promote and expand multi-employer Registered Apprenticeship models in critical industries. These organizations will include a focus on increasing career pathways, particularly for underrepresented populations, in education and the care economy, clean energy, cybersecurity, hospitality and transportation. To view the press release, click [here](#).

Headlines

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DOL Awards \$65M to Help States Increase, Expand Access to Registered Apprenticeships in High-Growth, High-Demand Industries. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of more than \$65 million in grants to 45 states to increase their ability to serve, improve and strategically expand their Registered Apprenticeship programs and pre-apprenticeships leading to Registered Apprenticeships to enhance the National Apprenticeship system. To view the press release, click [here](#).

DOL, HHS, Treasury Announce Proposed Rules to Strengthen Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. The departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and the Treasury announced an important step in addressing the nation's mental health crisis by [proposing rules to better ensure that people seeking coverage for mental health and substance use disorder care can access treatment as easily as people seeking coverage for medical treatments](#). The proposed announced rules seek to fully protect the rights of people seeking mental health and substance use disorder benefits and provide clear guidance to plans and issuers on how to comply with the law's requirements. In developing their proposals, the departments drew from their combined and individual experiences in enforcing the act and in working with plans and issuers, as well as state regulators. To view the press release, click [here](#).

ED Invites Applications for its Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3). The Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published a notice in the [July 7 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The notice is soliciting applications for a new round of Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3). P3 was first authorized by Congress in 2014 and enables pilot sites to blend Federal funds and obtain waivers of program requirements, including statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements that are barriers to achieving improved outcomes for youth-serving programs included in the authority. Under P3, pilots can test innovative strategies to achieve significant improvements in educational, employment, and other key outcomes for disconnected youth. More information about [previous rounds of P3 is available here](#). **Deadline: September 5.**

ED Announces List of Tests Approved for Use in the NRS for Adult Education. The Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education within the U.S. Department of Education has published a notice in the [July 13 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The purpose of this notice is to announce the three new tests that measure the National Reporting System (NRS) educational functioning levels for Adult Basic Education (ABE) and four new tests that measure the new NRS educational functioning levels for English as a Second Language (ESL). With the approval of new ESL tests in this notice, the new educational functioning levels for ESL described in Appendix A of Measures and Methods for the National Reporting System for Adult Education (OMB control number 1830-0027) are now implemented. This notice also announces a list of tests with NRS approvals expiring on February 2, 2024, and March 7, 2024, which states and local eligible providers may continue to use during a sunset period ending on June 30, 2024. The ESL educational functioning level descriptors to which the ESL tests with expiring NRS approvals are aligned will be retired on June 30, 2024. Until that time, the current ESL educational functioning level descriptors and the new ESL educational functioning level descriptors will be in effect.

Headlines

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ED Seeks Comments on its Vocational Rehabilitation Report. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published a notice in the [July 5 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The Department is proposing a revision of a currently approved information collection request (ICR). This report (RSA-17) collects data on the State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services program activities for agencies funded under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act), as amended by title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), U.S. Department of Education (Department) uses the data to evaluate and monitor the financial and programmatic performance of VR agencies. The data collected via the RSA 17 are necessary to ensure Federal requirements imposed by the Rehabilitation Act and its implementing Federal regulations are satisfied. **Comments due: August 4.**

ED Strengthens Guidance to Improve Equal Educational Opportunity for Children with Disabilities. The U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of Special Education Programs released updated policy guidance, which takes immediate effect, to ensure and strengthen the rights and protections guaranteed to children with disabilities and their families under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The [guidance](#) and accompanying [Dear Colleague Letter](#) address the IDEA's "general supervision" requirement, which necessitates states monitor [local educational agencies](#) (LEAs) as required by [IDEA Part B](#), and early intervention service (EIS) [programs](#) and [providers](#) as required by [IDEA Part C](#) to ensure children with disabilities and their families access their rights under IDEA. To view the press release, click [here](#).

HHS Seeks Comments for its Chafee Strengthening Outcomes for Transition to Adulthood Project. The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published a notice in the [July 25 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). This notice requests Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for an overarching generic clearance to collect data on programs serving youth transitioning out of foster care as part of the Chafee Strengthening Outcomes for Transition to Adulthood Project. The generic mechanism will allow ACF to conduct rapid-cycle evaluations that would not otherwise be feasible under the timelines associated with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The purpose of these data collections submitted under the generic will be to inform ACF programming by building the evidence about what works to improve outcomes for the target population and to identify innovative learning methods that address common evaluation challenges. **Comments due: August 25.**

Headlines

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988 Celebrates its First Anniversary! One year after launching, the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) has encouraged thoughtful discussion and meaningful action to strengthen our crisis care system and make support accessible to more people. 988 recently [expanded](#) to include a Spanish language text and chat function and specialized services for LGBTQ+ youth and young adults! SAMHSA's [updated 988 Partner Toolkit](#) includes social media text and chat shareables to use to honor the one-year anniversary of the 988 Lifeline.

IMLS Seeks Comments on Literacy Skills. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has published a notice in the [July 25 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). The IMLS is requesting information on programs, resources, and activities designed to strengthen information literacy skills. The agency is particularly interested in programs and activities that can be implemented at the local level, in community organizations such as museums and libraries, to help individuals develop the skills necessary to find, evaluate, use, and create information in meaningful ways. The agency is also interested in tools and approaches that can be adapted to meet the needs of different users. **Comments due: August 18.**

Governor Hochul Announces \$31.5 Million Awarded for New York State Pathways in Technology Early College High School Program. Governor Kathy Hochul announced \$31.5 million in funding for the New York State Pathways in Technology program that will prepare thousands of New York students for high-skill jobs of the future in technology, manufacturing, health care, and finance. This investment funds regional partnerships that respond to the greatest need for enhanced access to post-secondary opportunities primarily for academically and economically at-risk students and works to strengthen the pipeline between local talent and industries with a favorable job outlook. Each partnership will include K-12, higher education, and business/employer partners. To view the press release, click [here](#).

Acend's 2023 Parent-Powered Solutions Fund Centers Student Parent Expertise, Advances Postsecondary Success. [One in five college students](#) – close to 4 million – is pursuing higher education while parenting. Engaging this vital population's ideas, perspectives, and expertise is critical to co-creating solutions that advance postsecondary completion for student parents and build intergenerational family prosperity and well-being. That's why Ascend at the Aspen Institute is excited to announce the launch of the [2023 Parent-Powered Solutions Fund](#), which will provide financial resources and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations and institutions focused on increasing postsecondary success among parents. The Parent-Powered Solutions Fund is the first parent-led fund of its kind – designed, led, and evaluated by [Ascend Parent Advisors](#) to the [Ascend at the Aspen Institute's Postsecondary Success for Parents \(PSP\) initiative](#) and funded by [Imaginable Futures](#). This public fund supports nonprofit organizations and institutions focused on increasing postsecondary success among parents via workforce development, career and technical education, and baccalaureate degree programs. Organizations may apply for awards of \$12,500; \$25,000; and \$50,000. Selected fund partners will also participate in a yearlong peer-learning cohort. To obtain additional information, click [here](#).

Headlines

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Youthful Savings Launches Summer Program to Expand Youth Workforce Development in Business, Finance, and Technology. Partnering with this year's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), overseen by the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, Youthful Savings (YS) will implement their socioeconomic empowerment EdTech, [The Learning Marketplace](#) (TLM), to educate more than 1,500 youth. TLM's learning platform offers innovative, self-paced learning exercises and instructor-led Live Experiences. TLM provides learning exercises on finance, college planning, entrepreneurship, technology, personal development, and other relevant real-world skills. With TLM in this year's SYEP, youth will learn essential workforce development skills, including transferable business, communication, technology, and finance skills. To view the press release, click [here](#).

IMLS Announces \$20 Million Investment in U.S. Library and Archive Initiatives. The Institute of Museum and Library Services announced 64 awards totaling \$20,363,297 to support libraries and archives across the country. The FY 2023 awards were made through [National Leadership Grants for Libraries](#) and the [Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program](#). The [awarded grants search](#) on the IMLS website contains a complete list of grantees and project descriptions. To obtain additional information and view the press release, click [here](#).

Featured Programs

Region 6 YouthReady Participant

Caden dreamed of being a Barber since the age of 13. When he turned 18, he utilized Region 6 WIOA funding and enrolled in Sharp as an Errol Barber School in Morgantown, West Virginia. He traveled two hours a day to get to training. He received support services to help cover cost of traveling and out of pocket expenses of training supplies. Upon graduation and obtainment of a Barber License, he fulfilled his dream of opening his own barber shop in his hometown of Philippi, West Virginia. He is currently the only barber shop in the community. The town held a ribbon cutting ceremony for him on January 17, 2023, to celebrate his opening.

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

Nasdaq Foundation Invites Applications for its Quarterly Grant Program. The [Nasdaq Foundation](#) invites applications for its Quarterly Grant Program which strives to accelerate progress in diversifying entrepreneurship and empowering a more diverse group of investors. Organizations designated as tax-exempt according to §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code are eligible to apply. [read more...](#) **Deadline: August 11.**

Foot Locker Foundation Invites Applications for its Community Empowerment Program. The Foot Locker Foundation is accepting applications for its Community Empowerment Program. The program will provide grants from \$25,000 to \$100,000 to organizations that offer a range of services for young people, including health and wellness, education and life skills support, mentoring, and career development in 13 cities. [read more...](#) **Deadline: Augusts 30.**

Society of Aviation and Flight Educators Invites Applications for K-12 Teacher Grants. The [Society of Aviation and Flight Educators](#) (SAFE) is accepting applications for its K-12 Classroom Teacher Grant program. Through the program, four grants of \$250 each will be awarded to K-12 teachers to incorporate aviation-themed lessons into the regular curriculum. Any credentialed teacher in a public, private, or charter school or a group of teachers from the same school are eligible to apply. Local STEM coordinators and homeschooling cooperatives may also apply. [read more...](#) **Deadline: August 31.**

9/11 Day Invites Applications for its Teacher Appreciation Sweepstake. 9/11 Day is accepting application for its Teacher Appreciation Sweepstake. This funding opportunity is designed to recognize teachers in the United States who help teach students about the 9/11 National Day of Service ("9/11 Day,"). Three teacher awardees will receive expense-paid trips for two to visit the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York City. Second place winners receive other valuable prizes including iPads and other technology that can help in the classroom. [read more...](#) **Deadline: September 7.**

NYLC Invites Applications for its Youth as Solutions Grants. The National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) will accept applications from leadership teams of young people in grades 6-12, along with an adult mentor. Awardees will be part of one of the Youth as Solutions cohorts focused on education equity, teen driving safety, or public health promotion in Latino communities. Grants will range from \$250-\$1,00. [read more...](#) **Deadline: September 13.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

William T. Grant Foundation Invites Applications for its Institutional Challenge Grant. The [William T. Grant Foundation](#) is accepting proposals for its Institutional Challenge Grant. The grant supports university-based research institutes, schools, and centers in building sustained research-practice partnerships with public agencies or nonprofit organizations in order to reduce inequality in youth outcomes. Eligible, research institutions must be from tax-exempt organizations, including university-based research institutes, schools, or centers. Institutions outside the academy, such as research organizations and think tanks, are not eligible. Awardees will receive \$650,000 over three years. [read more...](#) **Deadline: September 13.**

ED Invites Applications for its PSSG Program. The Office of Postsecondary Education within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published a notice in the [July 26 FEDERAL REGISTER](#). This notice invites applications for its Postsecondary Student Success Grant (PSSG) Program. The purpose of this program is to equitably improve postsecondary student outcomes, including retention, transfer (including successful transfer of completed credits), credit accumulation, and completion, by leveraging data and implementing, scaling, and rigorously evaluating evidence-based activities to support data-driven decisions and actions by institutional leaders committed to inclusive student success. **Deadline: September 25.**

NSF Launches Prize Challenge to Develop Innovative Learning Technologies for K-12 Students. The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) launched a \$6 million prize challenge to develop innovative learning technologies for K-12 students, made possible through a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Schmidt Futures, and the Walton Family Foundation. The three-phase, one-year challenge, known as the Visionary Interdisciplinary Teams Advancing Learning, or VITAL, Prize Challenge, will encourage interdisciplinary teams from the science and engineering research and startup or small-business communities to advance innovative concepts into prototypes for potentially game-changing learning technologies. Participating teams will have the chance to receive over \$70,000 in development and commercialization support through the Discovery, Semi-final, and Final rounds, and up to \$250,000 in prizes. These teams will be supported through training, coaching, resources, and funding to develop a marketable educational technology prototype that can equitably impact learning. They will simultaneously build capacities in entrepreneurship, research-based design, learner variability, inclusion, and equity in the education marketplace. To view the press release, click [here](#). **Deadline: Winter 2023.**

HHS Invites Applications for its Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is accepting applications for its Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program- Professionals program. The purpose of this program is to increase the supply of behavioral health professionals trained to work with children, adolescents, and transitional-aged youth at risk for behavioral health disorders by engaging and retaining families in mental health prevention and intervention programs. Grant number: [HRSA-24-095](#). **Deadline: January 29, 2024.**

Funding & Other Opportunities *(continued)*

HHS Invites Applications for its Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is accepting applications for its Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program (OIFSP). The program is designed to support training programs that enhance and expand paraprofessionals knowledge, skills, and expertise, and to increase the number of peer support specialists and other behavioral health-related paraprofessionals who work on integrated, interprofessional teams in providing services to children whose parents are impacted by opioid use disorders (OUD) and other substance use disorders (SUD), and their family members who are in guardianship roles. Grant number: [HRSA-24-016](#). **Deadline: March 11, 2024.**

Resources

Toolkit for Implementing Authentic Youth Engagement Strategies Within State Advisory Groups.

This [resource](#) from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention within the U.S. Department of Justice focuses on ways state advisory groups (SAGs) can engage with youth members and understand youth justice issues. It also offers graphics and interactive tools to help SAGs assess and enhance their youth engagement strategies.

In Case You Missed It: DOL Mental Health at Work Resources. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) "Mental Health at Work" initiative offers [resources](#) for employers, workers and others—all designed to create supportive workplaces that prioritize mental health. Additionally, DOL released a [video public service announcement](#) (PSA) to help advance mental health and wellness in the workforce. To obtain

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On September 7th, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Mathematica, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, and a young adult steering committee will host a webinar entitled: **Emerging Practices for Supporting LGBTQI+ Young People Across Human Services Programs.** The webinar focused on uplifting emerging practices to ensure human service delivery and prevention are more welcoming and accessible for LGBTQI+ young people (ages 10-24) in child welfare and juvenile justice systems, as well as those experiencing homelessness, and those seeking sexual health services. To register for the event, click [here](#).

Resources

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Past Webinars/Webcasts

On July 27th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **Identifying, Understanding, and Eliminating Occupational Segregation: Yes, WIOA Can!** The webinar featured a live demonstration of disaggregating publicly available data and guest speakers who shared practical examples of how data can be used to inform program practices and policies. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

On July 26th Credential Engine hosted a webinar entitled: **Credential Engine to Highlight New Career Pathways Tool**. The webinar introduced its Pathway Builder, provided an overview of how the tool works, and discussed why the tool is an important development for credentialing ecosystems. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

On July 19th the Office of Disability Employment Policy hosted a webinar entitled: **Creating a Disability-Inclusive Workforce – The Role of Accommodations**. To celebrate the anniversaries of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehab Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion and the Job Accommodation Network are hosting a discussion on the significance of accommodations in achieving the goals of the Rehab Act and the ADA and how they contribute to creating inclusive workplaces. To view an archive of the webinar click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

September 12-14. Washington, DC. National Youth Employment Coalition's [Youth Days in D.C.](#)

October 15-18. Orlando, FL. National Dropout Prevention Center's [33rd Annual National Dropout Prevention 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.