



December 5, 2022

Dear Colleague:

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration is pleased to announce the launch of the **Youth Systems Building Academy**. This Academy will engage workforce systems and key partners in exploring, designing, testing, implementing, or scaling system improvements over a several month period. The goals of the YSB Academy are as follows:

- Improve youth employment opportunities and outcomes.
- Increase understanding of equitable policies and practices for youth career pathways as well as what a quality job means for youth workers.
- Align local systems policies, resources, and programming, including among DOL-funded programs and investments as well as across other Federal, state, local and philanthropic funded investments.
- Use data to inform system improvements, including promoting a better understanding of how to use and share data to ensure equitable access and outcomes for youth served.
- Increase knowledge and access to resources related to youth workforce professional development and building skills of youth practitioners related to positive youth development and trauma-informed principles.
- Increase awareness of the public workforce system for youth and young adults by engaging youth and including youth voice in messaging, recruitment, and engagement and other programmatic decision making.

Youth with barriers to employment, particularly from marginalized and underrepresented communities, require not only strong education and training opportunities but also comprehensive service delivery models that weave together resources and approaches to offer a seamless set of supports. This no-wrong door approach helps communities holistically address young people's needs and set them on a path to career success. Training and technical assistance (TTA) through this Academy will support the convening and facilitation of community partners to kick start or accelerate this systems-building work.

The Academy will launch in February 2023 and include its **first convening in early March 2023** to provide participating communities with expert knowledge and support to implement their own action plans with individualized TTA supports. Over the course of the Academy, DOL and its TTA coaches will provide ongoing follow-up technical guidance and support to implement each community's tailored plan. These supports will include monthly coaching calls, access to current research, practical implementation expertise, peer sharing, virtual training, tailored written resources, and a second in-person convening in mid-June 2023.

We encourage you to review the overview of the Academy and self-nomination guidelines and instructions, which outline who is eligible to participate in the Academy, the expected outcomes of the Academy, the level of commitment required, the types of TTA and support offered, and

how self-nominations will be considered. ***If you believe that this Academy may help you continue your current community efforts or help you initiate new promising solutions to improve outcomes for youth, please consider applying!***

DOL will host a virtual information session about this Academy on December 13, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET. During this session, we will provide additional details about the Academy as well as answer any questions. [Register here](#). Academy nominations must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on January 13, 2023**.

If you have any questions or need more information about this Academy, please contact YSBAcademy@ICF.com.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kemp

Jennifer Kemp
Division Chief, Youth Services
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U.S. Department of Labor

Attachment: Youth Systems Building Academy Overview, Self-Nomination Guidelines, and Instructions