YouthBuild

All About YouthBuild

The Department of Labor's YouthBuild program aligns with Secretary Thomas E. Perez's goals of preparing workers for good jobs and assuring the attainment of the skills and knowledge that prepare workers to succeed in a knowledge-based economy. YouthBuild specifically targets at-risk, high school dropouts who have the greatest challenges in finding good jobs.

Students at Lewis & Clark Community College YouthBuild

Houston YouthBuild

Anibal Torres of AYE YouthBuild Program

America's youth and young adults are facing challenges today that, if unaddressed, will have long-term negative consequences for our nation. Record youth unemployment, a high school dropout crisis, and a shift to a knowledge and service-based economy requiring greater levels of skill and education all demand that the workforce system be armed with resources sufficient to address the magnitude of this three-fold challenge.

The Department of Labor's YouthBuild program addresses these issues by providing significant academic and occupational skills training and leadership development to youth ages 16-24. YouthBuild provides services to approximately 7,000 youth annually by re-engaging them in innovative alternative education programs that provide individualized instruction as they work towards earning either a GED or high school diploma.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment rates for 16 to 24 year old workers are at levels not seen since World War II. In the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) latest news release on unemployment among youth ages 16 to 24 years old, youth **unemployment was reported to hit its highest July rate** since tracking began for this group in 1948.

For a complete list of DOL YouthBuild grantees, please visit:
www.doleta.gov/youth_services/youthbuildgrantee.cfm

Integrating Education and Construction Skills

The academic program's success is due to its link to occupational skills training. Youth alternate between the classroom and the worksite where they learn construction skills while building affordable housing in their communities. Many of these youth, buoyed by their academic success in the YouthBuild program, continue on to post-secondary education.

YouthBuild programs make explicit links between what is being done at the worksite and what is being taught in the classroom through project-based learning. The work experience, coupled with the award of an industry-recognized certificate, increases opportunities for post-program employment. YouthBuild addresses the challenges faced by unemployed, high school dropouts by providing them with an opportunity to gain both the education and occupational skills that will prepare them for good jobs with good wages.

YouthBuild Classroom

Building a Community Commitment

YouthBuild participants have increased the supply of permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals and low-income families in their communities. This community involvement strengthens participants' commitment to their communities and ensures that the program's positive impact endures long after individuals have graduated. The ultimate goal of the YouthBuild program is to help young Americans transform their own lives and their roles in society by contributing to better outcomes for their communities.

A student at the Florida Institute YouthBuild

CONTACT US

For more information on the YouthBuild program, please contact:

Toni Wilson
202-693-2922
wilson.toni@dol.gov

Jenn Smith
202-693-3597
smith.jenn@dol.gov

For a complete list of DOL YouthBuild grantees, please visit:
www.doleta.gov/youth_services/youthbuildgrantee.cfm