



YouthBuild

The U.S. Department of Labor's YouthBuild (YB) program prepares workers for quality jobs and promotes the attainment of skills and knowledge necessary for success in a knowledge-based economy.

YouthBuild specifically serves opportunity youth ages 16-24 who left high school without a diploma and have the greatest challenges to finding quality jobs.



YouthBuild by the numbers:	
\$90 million* annual funding for competitive grants	1,400+ housing units constructed or renovated since 2012
175* active DOL YB programs	5,000* YB participants served per year
40* states with DOL YB programs	40 months of activity per grant

* approximate

Grant Awards

DOL awards YB grants on an annual basis through a Funding Opportunity Announcement. Eligible applicants include:

- workforce development boards
- school districts
- community colleges
- non-profits and community-based organizations
- housing development agencies
- Indian tribes
- youth service or conservation corps
- ... and many others!

Key Features of the YouthBuild Model

While each YouthBuild program adjusts to the community that they serve, these elements are essential to participant success:

- education (high school diploma or state-recognized equivalent)
- occupational skills training and industry-recognized credentials
- construction of housing for low-income families or individuals
- leadership development
- innovative alternative education programs
- individualized and project-based instruction

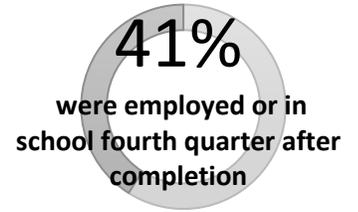
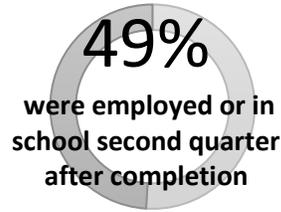


Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

WIOA puts a greater emphasis on collaboration across youth-serving programs:

- opportunity for YB grantees to advance partnerships with other workforce training organizations serving youth through co-location of services, participation on Youth Standing Committees, and leveraging resources to co-enroll youth
- network of opportunities for opportunity youth available through the required partners of the American Job Center (AJC) System
- multiplier effect of successful outcomes for youth, employers, and workforce system due to expanded access to the broad resources, partnerships, and service agencies connected to AJCs

YouthBuild Participant Outcomes**



** WIOA performance indicators; outcomes reflect data available as of June 30, 2021

Construction Plus

All DOL YB programs must offer construction training, and many opt to train participants in other in-demand fields. Known as Construction Plus, this expansion:

- focuses on local high-growth fields with strong career pathways and industry-recognized credentials including healthcare, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and other occupations
- provides access to broader training opportunities to align youth interests and aptitudes with employer needs
- grants flexibility to programs to align their training options with labor market needs and participant interests



Apprenticeship Connections

YouthBuild continues to strengthen connections to career pathways through apprenticeship, a key workforce preparation strategy to provide youth with successful outcomes for education, training, and unsubsidized employment. WIOA designates YouthBuild as a pre-apprenticeship model, which requires alignment with local employer needs, supportive services for participants, career exploration, credential opportunities, and partnership with one or more registered apprenticeship programs.



- The YB model has traditionally provided connections to apprenticeship opportunities in the building trades.
- Recent YB grant competitions align the Construction Plus component with new Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) opportunities
- YB continues to partner with initiatives from the DOL Office of Apprenticeship, including **Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grants (YARG)**, which support youth enrollment in RAPs with wraparound services, and **Youth Apprenticeship Intermediaries (YAI)**, which work to engage underrepresented populations in YARG programs.

Technical Assistance

YouthBuild USA provides technical assistance (TA) to the DOL YB grantees through a five-year contract. YouthBuild USA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that supports an affiliate network of YB programs. Separate from the DOL TA contract, YouthBuild USA provides training and TA, leadership development, funding for innovative program enhancements, and advocacy for their affiliate network programs.

Random Assignment Evaluation

DOL YB completed a comprehensive evaluation in 2018. The final report is available here:

<https://wdr.doleta.gov/research/details.cfm?id=2612>

For additional information on the DOL YB program and a complete list of grantees, please visit:

www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/youth/youthbuild. If you have questions, please contact:

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