



YouthBuild

The Department of Labor's YouthBuild 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.



Students at Lewis & Clark Community College YouthBuild

YouthBuild is a competitive grant program with approximately **\$90 million** (2020) in **annual funding**. There are approximately **210 active*** DOL YouthBuild programs in more than **40 states** serving over **5,000 youth** nationally per year.
*grant awards are for 40 months

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!

Grant Awards:

Grants are awarded on an annual basis through a Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

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

- opportunity for YouthBuild 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 One-Stop 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 the American Job Centers

Key features of the YouthBuild model include:

- education (high school diploma or state-recognized equivalent)
- occupational skills training (industry-recognized credentials in construction or other in-demand industries)
- leadership development
- innovative alternative education programs
- individualized and project-based instruction

Random Assignment Evaluation

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

https://wdr.doleta.gov/research/FullText_Documents/ETAOP_2018-01_Youth_Build_Evaluation.pdf

Construction Plus



Anibal Torres, AYE YouthBuild Program

All applicants for a DOL YouthBuild grant have the opportunity to propose the addition of a Construction Plus component that:

- integrates the training and work experience of the traditional YouthBuild construction model with other in-demand industries
- focuses on local high-growth fields with strong career pathways and industry-recognized credentials including health care, advanced manufacturing, information technology (IT), and other occupations
- provides access to broader training opportunities to align youth interests and aptitudes with employer needs

Apprenticeship Connections

YouthBuild is recognized as a pre-apprenticeship model under WIOA and the program is focused on strengthening connections to career pathways through apprenticeship, which is a key workforce preparation strategy to provide youth with successful outcomes for education, training, and ultimately, unsubsidized employment.

- YouthBuild model traditionally has provided connections to apprenticeship opportunities in the building trades
- The Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion's Final Report is focused on expanding apprenticeship beyond government registration and into industry-recognized apprenticeship programs (IRAP) in non-traditional fields (IT, healthcare, finance, manufacturing)
- The latest grant competition aligns YouthBuild's Construction Plus component and these new IRAP opportunities



Houston YouthBuild

Grantee WIOA Performance Outcomes*:

73%

of YouthBuild exiters earned a degree or certificate*

61%

of YouthBuild exiters increased their measurable skills*

49%

of YouthBuild exiters entered education or employment 2nd quarter after they exited*

41%

of YouthBuild exiters entered education or employment 4th quarter after they exited*

* Outcomes reflect data available as of June 30, 2021.

Technical Assistance:

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

For additional information on the YouthBuild program and a complete list of grantees, please visit: www.doleta.gov/youth_services/YouthBuild.cfm. If you have questions, please contact:

Toni Wilson-King • (202) 693-2922 • wilson.toni@dol.gov | Mark Smith • (202) 693-3747 • smith.mark.w@dol.gov