

### **YouthBuild Grant Program: Overview/Key Requirements**

**Funding Opportunity Number:** SGA-DFA-PY-12-02

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** 17.274

**Deadline for Submission:** March 19, 2013; no later than 4:00:00 p.m. Eastern Time (via grants.gov online portal)

**Summary:** YouthBuild grants will be awarded through a competitive process. Under this solicitation, DOL will award grants to organizations to oversee the provision of education, occupational skills training, and employment services to disadvantaged youth in their communities while performing meaningful work and service to their communities.

**Program Description:** YouthBuild is a community-based alternative education program for youth between the ages of 16 and 24 who are high school dropouts, adjudicated youth, youth aging out of foster care, youth with disabilities, and other at-risk youth populations. The YouthBuild program simultaneously addresses several core issues facing low-income communities: affordable housing, education, employment, crime prevention, and leadership development. All applicants must provide the following:

- An alternative education program for youth that have dropped out of school that assists youth who are often significantly behind in basic skills to obtain the goal of a high school diploma or GED credential.
- Occupational skills training that achieves two things: a) builds career skills related to construction, home design, etc.; AND b) *increases affordable housing stock* in the local area by engaging youth in building new homes or significantly renovating homes for low-income or homeless families or individuals.

Programs that have already received YouthBuild funding may opt to include occupational skills training in other high-demand industries in addition to construction. New grantees must focus the occupational training part of their YouthBuild grant exclusively on home construction or renovation. In order to preserve one of the core aspects of the YouthBuild program as a construction skills training program, all grant programs must offer construction skills training. Construction skills training is central to the overall philosophy of the YouthBuild program.

**Construction Requirement:** The construction component must enable the program to build or substantially renovate *at least one unit of housing* within the grant period of performance, *and each program must have access to a work site to use for on-site construction training*. All units of housing must be utilized by homeless and/or low-income individuals and families.

**Award Amount:** 75 grants of up to \$1.1 million each will be awarded. At least 30% of all awards will be allocated to new applicants.

**Period of Performance:** Three (3) years and four (4) months (40 months total) from the effective date of the grant. This includes an up to four-month planning period, two years of core program operations (education, occupational skills training, and youth leadership development activities) for one or more cohorts of youth, plus an additional nine-to-twelve months of follow-up support services and tracking of

participant outcomes for each cohort of youth. This grant period of performance includes time for all necessary implementation and start-up activities.

**Planning Period:** Within the initial four-month planning period, grantees must achieve certain milestones which include the hiring of or committing additional core program staff, (including the Project Director, Construction Trainer(s), Classroom Teacher(s), and Case Manager(s) positions). During the planning period grantees will perfect all necessary partnerships for the successful delivery of services, initiate recruitment and outreach efforts for enrollment of participants and reconfirm worksite financing and access.

**Eligible Applicants:** Includes public or private non-profit agencies or organizations including agencies that have previously served at-risk youth in a YouthBuild or other similar program. These agencies include, but are not limited to:

- Faith-based and community organizations;
- An entity carrying out activities under Workforce Investment Act (WIA), such as a local workforce investment board, American Job Center (formerly known as One-Stop Career Center), or local school board;
- A community action agency;
- A state or local housing development agency;
- An Indian tribe or other agency primarily serving American Indians;
- A community development corporation;
- A state or local youth service conservation corps;
- A consortium of such agencies or organizations with a designated lead applicant; or
- Any other public or private non-profit entity that is eligible to provide education or employment training under a Federal program.

**Cost Sharing or Matching:** Cost sharing is required as a condition for application. Applicants must provide new cash or in-kind resources equivalent to exactly 25 percent of the grant award amount as “matching” funds while additional cost sharing above 25 percent may be committed towards the grant as “leveraged” funds.. Please note that neither prior investments nor Federal resources may be counted towards the matching funds threshold. Applicants that do not specify matching funds of exactly 25 percent as part of their application will be deemed non-responsive and will not be reviewed. Construction materials that are acquired without grant funds and are used for approved projects as part of the training for YouthBuild participants may be used in fulfilling the 25 percent match requirement. Both matching funds and leveraged resources can come from a variety of sources, including but not limited to: the public sector (e.g., state or local governments); the non-profit sector (e.g., community organizations, faith-based organizations, or education and training institutions); the private sector (e.g., businesses or industry associations); the investor community (e.g., angel networks or economic development entities); and the philanthropic community (e.g., foundations). Grantees must track and report both matching funds and other non-Federal leveraged resources quarterly.

**Eligible Participants:** Youth participants must be between the ages of 16 and 24 on the date of enrollment; **and**

- a. Is a member of a low-income family, a youth in foster care (including youth aging out of foster care), a youth or adult offender, a youth who is an individual with a disability, a child of an incarcerated parent, a migrant youth; **and**

- b. Is a school dropout or an individual who has dropped out of high school and re-enrolled in an alternative school, if that re-enrollment is part of a sequential service strategy.

Up to, but not more than, 25 percent of the participants in the program may be youth who do not meet criteria 1.b. or 1.c. above, but they **must**:

- Be basic skills deficient, despite attainment of a secondary school diploma, GED credential, or other state-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities); or
- Have been referred by a local secondary school for participation in a YouthBuild program leading to the attainment of a secondary school diploma. Individuals referred to YouthBuild programs from secondary schools that provide only a GED certificate are not eligible participants for this grant.

**Cost per Participant:** The Department expects that the annual cost-per-participant will be between \$15,000 and \$18,000, and must not be higher than \$18,000. The expected cost-per-participant is calculated by dividing the total DOL grant award by the number of participants to be enrolled.

**Mandatory Annual YouthBuild Events:** Agency must budget grant funds for attending at least three DOL-sponsored events (not to be confused with events sponsored by YouthBuild USA) for each year of program operation. This would include one national learning exchange normally offered once in the fall and once in the spring; one regional peer-to-peer training event which will be held in the city where ETA's regional office for that grantee's region is located (see <http://www.doleta.gov/regions>); and one DOL multi-site gathering. Grantees must send multiple levels of staff to specialized training that is offered either at learning exchanges or in specific training programs.

Some examples of current Youthbuild projects. Note the kinds of work they do, the various partners they have, and the standard elements they describe (school, leadership, job skills, housing for the community).