

# Mass Workforce Issuance

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**100 DCS 25.131**

☐ Policy ☒ Information

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**To:** Chief Elected Officials  
Workforce Board Chairs  
Workforce Board Directors  
Title I Administrators  
Career Center Directors  
Title I Fiscal Officers  
DCS Operations Managers

**cc:** WIOA State Partners

**From:** Alice Sweeney, Director  
Department of Career Services

**Date:** May 25, 2016

**Subject:** **YouthBuild – Funding Opportunity**

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**Purpose:** To notify Local Workforce Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Funding Opportunity [FOA-ETA-16-10](#): *YouthBuild* released May 17, 2016 through Grants.gov.

**Background:** 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, homeless youth, and other disconnected youth populations. The YouthBuild program simultaneously addresses several core issues important to low-income communities: affordable housing, education, employment, leadership development, and energy efficiency.

The YouthBuild model balances project-based academic learning and occupational skills training to prepare disadvantaged youth for career placement. The academic component assists youth who are often significantly behind in basic skill development to obtain a high school diploma or state high school equivalency credential. The occupational skills training component prepares at-risk youth to gain placement into career pathways and/or further education or training, and also supports the goal of increasing affordable housing within communities by teaching youth construction skills learned by building or significantly renovating homes for sale or rent to low-income families or transitional housing for homeless families or individuals.

Additionally, grantees that have been previously funded by the Department of Labor may include occupational skills training in other in-demand industries in addition to construction skills training. This expansion into additional in-demand industries is the “Construction Plus” component.

Through WIOA, YouthBuild programs are now required partners of the One-Stop Career Centers. All YouthBuild programs must adhere to the requirements of being a One-Stop partner. Partnering with One-Stop Career Centers provides an opportunity for YouthBuild grantees to increase the number of eligible applicants, have greater access to local employers, and develop the ability to directly access information regarding changes to local workforce needs and respond with program changes accordingly.

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| <b>Funding Opportunity Number:</b> | FOA- ETA – 16-10 |
| <b>Application Deadline:</b>       | July 6, 2016     |
| <b>Expected Number of Awards:</b>  | 80               |
| <b>Total Program Funding:</b>      | \$80,000,000     |
| <b>Award Ceiling:</b>              | \$1,100,000      |
| <b>Award Floor:</b>                | \$700,000        |

**Eligible applicants include:** Public or private non-profit agencies or organizations including rural, urban, or Native American agencies that have previously served disadvantaged youth in a YouthBuild or other similar program. These agencies or organizations include, but are not limited to:

- community-based organizations;
- faith-based organizations;
- an entity carrying out activities under the WIOA, such as a local workforce development board;
- community action agency;
- state or local housing development agency;
- Indian tribes or other agency primarily serving Native Americans (including those living on reservations), Native Hawaiians, or Alaska Natives;
- community development corporation;
- state or local youth service or conservation corps;
- any other entity eligible to provide education or employment training under a federal program; or
- an entity in an area designated as a Promise Zone or member of a Promise Zone collaboration, if applicable.