

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Mass Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 25.146

☐ Policy

☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Development Board Chairs
Workforce Development 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: March 10, 2017

Subject: **YouthBuild– Funding Opportunity**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce development partners of Funding Opportunity, FOA-ETA-17-03 under the YouthBuild Program, announced on grants.gov March 9, 2017.

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 in obtaining 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 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. Under WIOA, DOL is emphasizing YouthBuild programs’ role as 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.

Grantees who received funding from the FY 2016 YouthBuild competition (FOA-ETA-16-10) are funded through mid-February 2020, and these grantees are not eligible to participate in this competition.

Funding Opportunity Number:	FOA-ETA-17-03
Application Deadline:	May 9, 2017
Estimated Total Funding:	\$80,000,000
Award Ceiling:	\$1,100,000
Award Floor:	\$700,000
Expected Number of Awards:	80
Eligible Applicants:	Public or private non-profit agencies that have previously served disadvantaged youth in a YouthBuild or other similar program.

Action

Requested: Please share with managers, staff and partners as appropriate.