

Mass Workforce Issuance

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☐ 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: December 2, 2016

Subject: **YouthBuild Report: Building a Future – Interim Impact Findings from the YouthBuild Evaluation**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of the release and availability of a new research report: *Building a Future – Interim Impact Findings from the YouthBuild Evaluation* announced through the Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Training and Employment Notice [\(TEN\) No. 19-16](#).

Background: YouthBuild is a program for 16- to 24-year olds who have dropped out of high school; are at risk of failing to reach key educational milestones; and face additional barriers to success. The program is a nonresidential, community-based alternative education program that provides a mix of academics, vocational training, leadership development, community services, and other activities to young people facing an array of challenges to educational and employment success. Participants in YouthBuild programs learn valuable skills as they build or rehabilitate housing for low-income or homeless individuals and families in their communities.

This report presents the effects of the program 30 months after young people applied to participate in YouthBuild. The interim impact findings include:

- Increased participation in education and training

- Increased GED receipt and enrollment in two-year colleges
- Increased participation in vocational training and led to a small increase in the receipt of training certificates
- Increased civic engagement, particularly volunteering, but had few effects on other measures of youth development or attitudes
- Small increase in employment rates during Year 2, and a small increase in wages and earnings at 30 months

In January 2015, ETA released the evaluation's Implementation Report, which presents a qualitative examination of the YouthBuild program's structure, implementation, and services. The evaluation's final impact report presenting labor market, educational achievement, and personal development impacts 48 months after random assignment and is scheduled to be released in early 2018. That report will also present findings of the cost-effectiveness analysis.

Action

Requested: Please share this information with staff and partners as appropriate.