

# MINNESOTA YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**PURPOSE:** As a dropout prevention strategy for troubled youth, Youthbuild offers construction and soft skills training, academic support, leadership and citizenship opportunities, life skills, and support services to successfully transition youth into productive adults.

**FUNDING:** \$1 million per year from Workforce Development Fund and an equal amount of matching local or federal dollars.

**COST PER PARTICIPANT:** \$2,700 per year

**RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI) TO STATE:** For every dollar the state invests in Youthbuild, \$3.00 is returned to the general revenue within three years (based on state tax revenues and correction savings). A complete ROI analysis can be found at: [http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/All\\_Programs\\_Services/Office\\_of\\_Youth\\_Development/Programs\\_for\\_At-RiskYouth/Youthbuild\\_Program.aspx](http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/All_Programs_Services/Office_of_Youth_Development/Programs_for_At-RiskYouth/Youthbuild_Program.aspx)

## YOUTHBUILD TRAINING AND SERVICES:

Construction training, OSHA 10 and NCCER certification Entrepreneurial Business, Financial Literacy, Life Skills Soft skills in work readiness, work ethic and maturity Counseling, leadership, citizenship, and support services

## CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING CREDENTIALS:

OSHA 10 and EPA Lead Worker/Lead Abatement National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) and Green Advantage certification Green Build certification (through Habitat for Humanity) Pre-apprenticeship Construction Training (PACT) Fork Lift, Basic Welding, Basic Construction Electricity Certified Nursing Assistant, Introduction to Phlebotomy C-Tech Low Voltage Wiring and Computer Refurbishing

**PARTICIPANTS:** 371 total youth served in 2011;  
349 High school dropouts  
90 Chemically dependent youth  
130 Criminal offenders and juvenile delinquents  
56 Foster care and homeless youth  
133 Disabled youth  
263 Basic skills deficient youth (8<sup>th</sup> grade or below level)

## PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES AT EXIT:

**93%** obtained their high school diploma/GED  
**82%** obtained private sector employment  
**46%** enrolled in a post-secondary, apprenticeship, or entered military  
**96%** offenders remained offense-free

## RECENT YOUTHBUILD SUCCESS STORIES:

**Ryan** received a job offer in construction after four weeks in Youthbuild's summer training program. Ryan now works 40 hours per week and recently earned enough credits to receive his high school diploma. He plans to study Law Enforcement at Alexandria Tech in 2012.

**Ricky:** "When I first came to Youthbuild I was living in a tent, had no transportation, and I had just found out that I was going to be a father. In Youthbuild, I got construction experience, an apartment, and my GED. Youthbuild got me on my feet during a very scary part of my life."

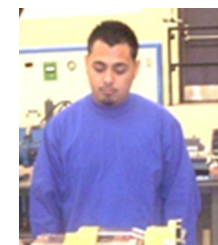
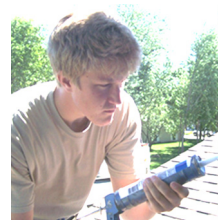
**Alee** dropped out of High School after tenth grade. In Youthbuild, Alee became certified as an EPA Renovator, received her PACT and NCCER construction certifications. Her long-term career plans include pursuing a career in Business Management.

**Jose** had lived in a rough neighborhood and had become a teen parent. When he joined Youthbuild, he obtained a high school diploma and a part-time job, joined the Military, and is planning to attend Minnesota West Technical College next year with the ultimate goal of owning his own Auto Body shop.

**David** came to Youthbuild to get his life back on track and find a stable home for his family. In Youthbuild, he earned an OSHA 10 and First Aid/CPR certifications, driver's license, a State of MN Lead Safe Worker's License, a GED, and is now enrolled at Minneapolis Community and Technical College pursuing his degree in business management. He was hired as a full-time Sales Associate and works part-time on lead abatement and construction projects.

**Omer** became a leader in Youthbuild and as a Cadet in The General Colin Powell Leadership Academy/Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC). He volunteer numerous hours, was hired by Delaware North Companies as a cashier during Twins' home games, graduated from high school and was hired by the Bricklayer's Union as a Stone/Tile Layer at \$13.25/hour in a pre-apprenticeship program.

**Peng** graduated from high school with the class of 2011 and is currently enrolled at Century College to pursue his welding certification. "My plan is to study mechanics so I can help my family do things that they can't do."





## COMMUNITY OFFICIALS, YOUTH, AND PARENTS ON YOUTHBUILD:

"I am impressed with the outcomes and performance levels the students attain through Youthbuild. These skills are a valuable asset to the students and community. I am particularly impressed with the service learning component to Youthbuild and feel funding to this program is essential to both our students and our communities." – **State Senator from St. Cloud area**



"I like seeing students working and involved in the community. Youthbuild gives students the opportunity to help others find affordable housing." – **Mayor of St. Cloud**

"Youthbuild taught me the value of hard work." – **Youth**

"This is an opportunity I would have never thought possible. I just finished my bricklayer pre-apprenticeship and am now actively looking for employment." – **Youth**



"Youthbuild has been a blessing for our son. Without Youthbuild, Michael would not be able to go to college and I think of the downhill slide that would create for his start of an adult life. Michael is currently enrolled at Rochester Community College and his grades are looking good." – **Parent**

"When your kid drops out of school it makes you sad, when he hangs out with the wrong kind of friends it's frustrating, and when he ends up in court it's scary. Youthbuild taught my son he didn't need to go that way ...they gave him a chance to start turning things around." – **Parent**



"Youthbuild was a wonderful experience for my son. It helped him to stay motivated and stay out of trouble at school. He is a hands-on learner, and this is exactly what he needed." – **Parent**

**EXAMPLES OF JOBS THAT YOUTHBUILD GRADUATES WERE PLACED IN:** Carpenter Apprentice, Brick and Tile Layers, Green Build Roofers, Masonry, Welders, Construction Laborers, Business Managers, Satellite/Cable Installer, HVAC Technician, Renewable Energy Technician, General Building Contractor, Industrial Mechanical Technology AAS, Registered Nurse, Graphic Designer, Energy Auditor, Web Designer, Licensed Practical Nurse, Certified Nursing Assistant, Hospice Aide, Auto Mechanic, Dietary Aide, Community Health Worker, Business Manager, Phlebotomist, and service in all branches of U.S. military.



**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** 54 residential units in 2011. Youthbuilders built over 500 affordable and safe homes for low-income families and homeless youth and adults living in Minnesota during the past twenty years. Youthbuild has also built or renovated several hundred public facilities and structures, including abandoned, foreclosed homes, Head Start and Early Childhood Centers, and battered women's shelters.

### SERVICE PROVIDERS:

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (Virginia)  
Carver Scott Educational Cooperative (Chaska)  
Central MN Jobs and Training Services (Willmar and Pine City)  
Guadalupe Alternative Programs (St. Paul)  
Stearns-Benton Employment and Training Council (St. Cloud)

Bi-County CAP, Inc. (Bemidji)  
City Academy (St. Paul)  
Rural Minnesota CEP (Perham)  
Tree Trust (Minneapolis)  
Workforce Development, Inc. (Wabasha)



### Statutory Authority:

Minnesota Statutes 116L.361-116L.366

### For More Information:

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