

YouthBuild Iowa Update

From Iowa Workforce Development - November 3, 2009

Introduction to YouthBuild USA

YouthBuild is a highly successful and comprehensive initiative that addresses some of the top issues affecting low-income neighborhoods: education, employment, housing, crime prevention, and development of future community leaders. YouthBuild assists low-income people ages 16-24 work toward their GED or full high school diploma, learn job skills, and serve their neighborhoods through the construction and renovation of affordable housing.

YouthBuild started as a local project in East Harlem in 1978, came under federal support within the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1994 and was reassigned as a full job training program under the US Department of Labor (USDOL) in 2006. Over that time 44 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands have hosted YouthBuild chapters. The program has educated over 76,000 youth and constructed over 17,000 units of affordable housing.

Statewide Coordination

Iowa has four local independent YouthBuild chapters, three of which are USDOL grantees (see table below). Fort Dodge, Davenport, Cedar Rapids, and Council Bluffs have organized community partnerships and have been involved in applying for funding to start YouthBuild programs. IWD is leading statewide coordination efforts to support growth and sustainable operations for existing and potential YouthBuild sites in Iowa. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service has awarded IWD a \$50,000 planning grant for this purpose. Current program sites began meeting as a group in October 2009. IWD is currently building stakeholder involvement to support resource sharing and best practices between current and potential YouthBuild sites. IWD is also applying for an AmeriCorps State grant to further support programs and participants, and will work with local, state and federal partners to develop diverse funding opportunities for YouthBuild in Iowa.

YouthBuild Iowa Local Independent Chapters

City	Program Name	Program Start Year	Lead Organization	USDOL grant award '09-'11	Participants
Sioux City	Sioux City YouthBuild	2007	Goodwill Industries / Wall Street Mission	\$687,500	64 youth/yr
Ankeny	Construction Prep Alliance	2009 (previous DOL YouthBuild grantee '01-'03)	Des Moines Area Community College	\$494,436	25 youth/yr
West Burlington	Burlington YouthBuild	2009	Southeastern Community College / Region 16 Workforce Center	\$572,351	25 youth/yr
Dubuque	HEART YouthBuild	2009 provisional affiliate (2008 HEART program)	Four Mounds Foundation / City of Dubuque	\$0 (partial AmeriCorps support)	16 youth/yr

YouthBuild Iowa program details:

- Programs offer GED/high school diploma tutoring with on-the-job training in construction
- Training includes First Aid/CPR, disaster readiness, conflict management/communication, "green" construction training, Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training (PACT) certification
- Youth develop citizenship/leadership skills through the comprehensive program, structured opportunities, and community service, including individual projects
- Eligible participants will be co-enrolled in Workforce Investment Act Youth services
- Eligible Participants will be co-enrolled in AmeriCorps through 2010-2011 grant proposal and will receive AmeriCorps education awards of approximately \$2000



YouthBuild Sioux City Mission Statement: To provide a support system that assists youth and their families in fostering healthy development in preparation for success in school, work, home and in the community.

2007 - summer 2009:

- 73 youth ages 16-24 served; 15 current students; new class starts in October 2009
- 2 low-income houses complete, 1 house under construction
- Students have completed community service-learning at Food Pantry at Midtown, Siouxland Blood Bank, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Red Cross, City of Sioux City, Goodwill, Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center and Siouxland Humane Society.

DMACC YouthBuild

Construction Prep Alliance (CPA) program sponsored by YouthBuild combines academic instruction, construction training, leadership development, community-service, life and employability skills training, employee education placement and follow up.

- 18 current students ages 18-24 started September 21, 2009
- Community partners in the process and speakers have included Greater Des Moines Partnership (Chamber of Commerce), National Guard - leadership, AmeriCorps VISTA, Community and Workforce partnership, Carpenters District Council, HOME INC

Dubuque HEART YouthBuild

Four Mounds Foundation works closely with the City of Dubuque to provide Housing Rehabilitation and Re-education Training (HEART) YouthBuild, which is developing into a full YouthBuild model.

Accomplishments last year:

- 12 youth from Dubuque Community Schools worked over 550 hours each on worksites, as well as spending equal time in the classroom, working toward high school diplomas
- 35 youth from Juvenile Court Services averaged over 70 hours on-site, building vocational and life/work skills
- Provided 2 low income families with the opportunity to purchase an affordable, quality home for the first time. Completed total gut rehabilitation of 2 more homes in the Washington Neighborhood, totaling our conversion of 9 sub-standard rental units into 5 beautifully restored, owner-occupied homes
- Filled a need to help Step by Step with quality, affordable work by restoring a downtown, historic walkup into new accessible apartments for women with mobility challenges