

The President's 2006 Budget for the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) includes the transfer of YouthBuild from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to DOL's ETA. The White House Task Force Report on Disadvantaged Youth had recommended such a transfer because the program is "at its core, an employment and training program for disadvantaged youth, and will benefit from administrative oversight in DOL within the Employment & Training Administration, . . ."

The amount requested for program costs in the DOL budget, \$58,900,000, is equal to the amount originally requested in the HUD budget. This represents no change from the previous year's request.

As the Task Force report noted, YouthBuild aligns directly with ETA's demand-driven focus and the need to create a prepared and competitive workforce. As the federal agency most responsible for bringing employment services to youth, logic also dictates that the YouthBuild program be integrated into DOL's portfolio.

YouthBuild features academic and occupational skills training for at-risk youth in construction, one of ETA's high growth industries. Transferring YouthBuild would provide the program with better contacts with One Stop Career Centers, stronger ties to DOL's apprenticeship programs, new links to the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative, improved access to the post secondary and community college system, and stronger connections to DOL's national business and other partners.

