

# President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

## *Bridges to Independence*

**Grant amount:** \$269,193

**Grantee:** ARCH Training Center

**Grant activities** will take place in Washington, D.C.

**Leveraged amount:** \$301,506 in cash and in-kind contributions from employers, foundations, and other community partners.

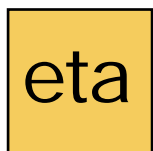
**Key Partners:** PNC Bank, D.C. Department of Employment Services, D.C. Chamber of Commerce, Fannie Mae Foundation.

**Challenge:** The financial services industry has expressed a desire to target youth for outreach and recruitment in order to fulfill employers' need for a pipeline of new workers. At the same time, youth who have dropped out of school face a challenge finding and keeping a job since they often lack the necessary occupational, educational, and life skills required by employers.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The ARCH Training Center is dedicated to providing education and occupational skills training for youth and young adults, aged 15-25 in Washington, D.C. Bridges to Independence will create a financial services pathway utilizing the successful YouthBuild construction training model that integrates hands-on occupational training with a solid academic program for youth who have been unsuccessful in traditional academic settings. The program will help fill the pipeline of entry-level workers while providing participants with critical employment skills. The Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS), a widely used system for assessing adult basic reading, math, listening, writing, and speaking skills within a functional context, will be used for pre- and post-assessment and will serve as the benchmark tool. Successes achieved in this financial services demonstration will serve as a model to replicate in other high growth industries.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- A new occupational skills training model in the financial services industry
- A minimum of 40 youth will be served during the 16-month grant period and a minimum of 80% will graduate
- Among program graduates, 80% will secure their GED or high school diploma before the end of the program
- 90% of program graduates will be placed in employment within two months of graduation
- 100% of program graduates will improve literacy and numeracy by at least two grade levels.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Financial Services Industry Demonstration Grants  
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