

In 2003, the White House Task Force Report on Disadvantaged Youth recommended the transfer of YouthBuild 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.”

On September 22, 2006, President Bush signed into law the YouthBuild Transfer Act (Pub. L. 109-281) which transfers the YouthBuild program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the Department of Labor (DOL). The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) will administer the YouthBuild program beginning in FY 2007. Grants awarded prior to Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 will continue to be monitored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) until the authority to expend these funds has expired. The transfer of the YouthBuild program from HUD to DOL is an example of how this Administration has helped to bring improvements to programs serving the most disadvantaged youth.

YouthBuild is a highly successful alternative education program that assists youth who are often significantly behind in basic skills, in obtaining a high school diploma or GED credential. The primary target populations for YouthBuild are adjudicated youth, youth aging out of foster care, out-of-school youth, and other at-risk populations. YouthBuild has a very serious commitment to high performance and over the thirteen years that YouthBuild program has been part of HUD, they have achieved impressive outcomes with the most at-risk youth. Over a third of the young people transition from the program to post-secondary educational opportunities, gaining the type of educational credentials that will make them valuable in a demand-driven economy.

The YouthBuild Transfer Act essentially maintains the same purpose and core components of the YouthBuild program that existed under the Cranston-Gonzalez Act as follows:

1. To enable disadvantaged youth to obtain the education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency in occupations in demand and post-secondary education and training opportunities;
2. To provide disadvantaged youth with opportunities for meaningful work and service to communities;
3. To foster the development of employment and leadership skills and commitment to community development among youth in low-income communities; and
4. To expand the supply of permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals and low-income families by utilizing the energies and talents of disadvantaged youth.

The YouthBuild Transfer Act places greater emphasis on post-secondary transitions for participants and stronger linkages with the One-Stop Career Center System, community colleges, and apprenticeship programs.

The Department has scheduled two open meetings and will host a Webinar to discuss the transfer of the YouthBuild program and key programmatic issues. The meetings will be held on November 30 in Los Angeles, CA and on December 6 in Pittsburgh, PA. Additional information and online registration for these meetings can be accessed through our Web site which is located at www.doleta.gov/youth_services. All attendees will be required to complete a free registration. The Webinar will be held on December 13 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Additional information on the Webinar can be found at www.workforce3one.org. In addition, we intend to offer the public the opportunity to submit written comments. We expect that a Federal Register Notice announcing the opportunity will be published in the near future. We plan to make a summary of all comments available to the public on the Employment and Training Administration’s Web site at www.doleta.gov.

