

# MINNESOTA YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**PURPOSE:** Youthbuild offers Minnesota's disadvantaged youth a construction career pathway through comprehensive training, services, and support; with the goal of obtaining a diploma or GED, employment or post-secondary placement, and a becoming responsible young adult.

**FUNDING:** \$1 million per year with a \$1 million match requirement; Cost per participant is \$2,118. MN Youthbuild leverages federal YouthBuild funds.

## YOUTHBUILD SERVICES:

- 500 hours of carpentry and construction skills training on affordable housing projects in the community; soft skills training emphasizing every day, on-time attendance and work readiness;
- Industry-recognized credentials in Forklift/Bobcat operations, OSHA 10, Lead Safety/Renovator, Home Builder Institute (HBI) and NCCER pre-apprenticeship training; North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) Career Connections curriculum was introduced this year;
- Support to earn a high school diploma or GED;
- Financial literacy and independent living skills;
- Leadership and community service activities;
- Counseling/case management, support services, Driver's license and transportation support;
- 12 months of follow-up and placement services.

**PARTICIPANTS SERVED:** 472 total in SFY 2016; Demographic characteristics at entry, include:  
**75%** youth from communities of color;  
**99%** high school dropout or academic failure;  
**83%** basic skills deficiencies and/or disability;  
**64%** from a family receiving public assistance;  
**27%** limited English ability;  
**26%** history of criminal or juvenile offense.

## PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES OF EXITED YOUTH:

**377** total industry-recognized credentials earned;  
**94%** earned a diploma, GED or continued school;  
**91%** placed in private-sector employment and/or post-secondary education/technical training;  
**Seven** 2016 graduates working as registered apprentices for union contractors and **56** placed in construction employment or technical school; **220** graduates entered manufacturing, healthcare, mechanical, auto or IT career pathways;  
**95%** youth offenders remained offense-free.

**YOUTHBUILD SUCCESS STORIES:** *each youth listed below struggled with multiple barriers to becoming a successful working adult. With the support of Youthbuild resources and experienced staff, they are now productive young adults working in Minnesota's construction industry.*

**MISRRIAM:** earned his diploma, OSHA 10, driver's license, CPR, and NCCER credentials in SouthWest Metro Youthbuild. He now earns \$17/hour in the west metro as a Local #322 Carpenters apprentice for Nordstrom Construction.

**KAITHLYNN:** earned her diploma, 2-wheel and ATV Forklift, OSHA 10, Lead Worker, driver's license, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid/CPR, HBI RCA credentials in City Academy Youthbuild. She now earns over \$17/hour in the Twin Cities as a Local #322 Carpenters apprentice for Frana Companies.

**JARED:** earned his diploma, OSHA 10, driver's permit and NCCER credentials in Bi-CAP Youthbuild. He now works as a construction laborer for Handyman LCC in Bemidji.

**HAE:** earned his GED, driver's license, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid/CPR, and NCCER credentials in GAP Youthbuild. He is now a Local #96 Roofers apprentice working fulltime for Peterson Companies in the Twin Cities.

**BRADY:** earned his GED and 1<sup>st</sup> Aid certificates in AEOA Youthbuild. He is a laborer at OSI Environmental Services in Eveleth.

**SAW:** earned his GED, driver's license, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, CPR, and NCCER credentials in GAP Youthbuild. He now earns \$17.86/hour as a Local #96 Roofers apprentice with Roof Tech in Stillwater.

**NOAH:** earned his diploma and HBI credentials in Tree Trust Youthbuild. He now works as a construction laborer for Sangwin Built in the Twin Cities.

**LOH BO:** earned his GED, driver's license, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid/CPR, and NCCER credentials in GAP Youthbuild. He now earns \$17.87 as a Local #68 Floor Coverers apprentice in St. Paul.

**JOSE:** took on a leadership role in Rochester Youthbuild helping his peers on the construction site. He earned his OSHA 10 and Forklift certifications and is currently working fulltime for K and B Concrete.



## **PARTNERSHIPS WITH REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP AND LOCAL CONTRACTORS:**

Collaboration among Youthbuild programs, registered apprenticeship and building contractors provides youth with hands-on construction career exploration and networking opportunities with contractors and RA staff. It also offers affiliated employers and local contractors potential workers to meet their work order demands and diversity hiring goals.

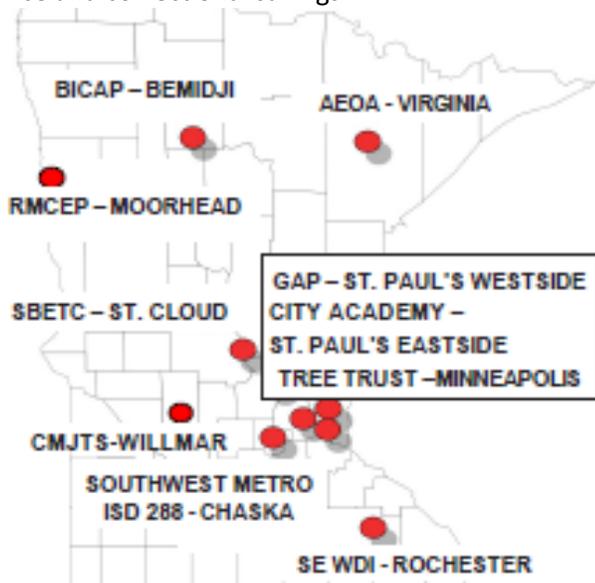
## **QUOTES ABOUT YOUTHBUILD:**

“I was a bit apprehensive at first about working with students with low English skills, but once we got them on the jobsite we could see that they truly had the skills to be successful in the building trades” -**UNION APPRENTICESHIP COORDINATOR**

“Youthbuild graduates are real assets for private contractors. Because of their experience and education, they are job ready.” -**CONTRACTOR**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Youth constructed and renovated 44 affordable residential units in SFY 2016, including a tiny house in Willmar and St. Cloud. Since 1991, Youthbuild crews have built or improved 600 affordable homes for low-income families and homeless persons across the state. Projects have included foreclosed homes, Head Start and Early Childhood centers, and battered women’s shelters.

**RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI):** Within two years, one dollar invested in Youthbuild returns two dollars directly back to the state in the form of increased state tax revenues, and public assistance and correctional savings.



**Statutory Authority:** Minnesota Statutes 116L.361-116L.366

**For More Information:** Kay Tracy, Director (651.259.5555) or Nancy Waisanen, Coordinator (651.259.5556)  
Office of Youth Development, MN Department of Employment and Economic Development  
332 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

**Or Go To:** <http://mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/find-a-job/targeted-services/youth-employment/youthbuild.jsp>

## **MORE YOUTHBUILD SUCCESS STORIES:**

**VICTOR:** earned his diploma, Bobcat, OSHA 10, and HBI credentials in Tree Trust Youthbuild. He now earns \$16.50 per hour as a construction laborer for Waterstone Construction in the metro.

**SHANE:** earned his diploma through Pine City ALC and CMJTS Youthbuild. He is currently working fulltime for Mehoe Construction.

**BEN:** excelled in Rochester Youthbuild, earning his OSHA 10 and Forklift certifications. He is currently working fulltime for Homes of Harmony in residential construction.

**JESSE:** earned his diploma through Pine City ALC and CMJTS Youthbuild. He is currently working fulltime as a construction laborer.

**ROB:** earned his diploma, forklift, and OSHA 10 in Wabasha Youthbuild this past year. He is working fulltime for Chandler Roofing and Construction.

**BRAVORS and JOEY:** earned their diplomas, and certifications in Lead Worker, HBI RCA, and 1<sup>st</sup> Aid/CPR credentials in City Academy Youthbuild. They now earn \$17/hour as lead renovators/construction laborers working fulltime for Larry Pratt Construction in the Twin Cities.

**ANTHONY:** earned his diploma through SouthWest Metro Youthbuild. He works for Medallion Cabinetry.

**HTWA:** earned his diploma and NCCER credentials in GAP Youthbuild and is working for Anderson Brothers as a Local #96 Roofers and Waterproofers apprentice, now earning \$19/hour.

**BA:** earned his diploma and NCCER credentials in GAP Youthbuild. He has worked at Semple Companies as a Local # 563 Laborers apprentice for a year, now earning \$18/hour.

**CHONKHAW:** earned his diploma and lead certification at City Academy Youthbuild. He is now a Plumber’s Helper for Eagan Companies.

