YouthBuild USA Receives National AmeriCorps Grant

Funding will support 3,100 YouthBuild AmeriCorps members to Rebuild Lives, Communities

BOSTON, MA – YouthBuild USA, Inc. has received an $8.5 million AmeriCorps grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to support 3,100 YouthBuild AmeriCorps members.

At YouthBuild programs in the United States, unemployed, undereducated and out-of-school young people work toward their GED or high school diploma, while learning job skills by building affordable housing and other community assets in their neighborhoods and engaging in community service and leadership training.

This grant will support AmeriCorps members in 80 cities and 32 states across the country. YouthBuild AmeriCorps members will build safe and affordable housing for low-income individuals and families; will bridge the digital divide; will offer community health and wellness services to low-income individuals; and will undertake environmental conservation service.

“AmeriCorps is an indispensable resource to help meet critical challenges facing our communities and nation,” said Dorothy Stoneman, founder and CEO of YouthBuild USA, Inc. “We’re thrilled that the Corporation for National and Community Service has recognized the value that AmeriCorps members serving with YouthBuild offer to communities. These AmeriCorps members will meet pressing local needs as they develop civic and leadership skills that last a lifetime.”

“AmeriCorps members make a powerful impact on the toughest challenges facing our nation,” said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps. “As they serve others, AmeriCorps members will also expand opportunity for themselves - gaining skills and experience to jumpstart their careers. We congratulate YouthBuild for their strong application, and thank all AmeriCorps members for their service.”

In addition to the grant funding, CNCS will make available $5.5M in education scholarships for the YouthBuild AmeriCorps members funded by these grants to help pay for college, vocational training, or pay back student loans. After completing 450 hours of service, YouthBuild AmeriCorps members earn an education award of $1,527.

AmeriCorps operates as a public-private partnership that leverages significant amounts of outside resources to stretch the federal dollar and increase community impact. This grant will generate an
additional $8.5M in local matching support and other outside resources from businesses, foundations, and other organizations.

More than 140,000 YouthBuild students have produced over 30,000 units of low-income housing and performed over 40 million community service hours since 1993. YouthBuild graduates leave prepared for success in postsecondary education, careers, and registered apprenticeships— and as a part of a strong and supportive community.

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 members in intensive service annually to serve through nonprofit, faith-based, and community organizations at more than 21,000 locations across the country. These members help communities tackle pressing problems while mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

Since 1994, 980,000 AmeriCorps members have given more than 1.3 billion hours of service to their country, earning more than $3 billion in education scholarships. Later this year, the one millionth AmeriCorps member will take the AmeriCorps pledge, committing to "get things done" for America.

About YouthBuild USA, Inc.:
YouthBuild USA, Inc., www.youthbuild.org, based in Somerville, MA, is the non-profit support center for over 260 local YouthBuild programs operating in 45 states and the District of Columbia. In YouthBuild programs, unemployed and undereducated low income out-of-school young people ages 16 to 24 work toward their GED or high school diploma, while learning job skills by building affordable housing and other community assets in their neighborhoods, engaging in community service and leadership training. YouthBuild USA also sponsors the YouthBuild International effort that has generated over 80 local YouthBuild programs in 21 countries worldwide. There are two ways a local program can be authorized to use the YouthBuild brand in the U.S.: either they can directly win a US Department of Labor YouthBuild grant, or they can be licensed by YouthBuild USA to use the name when they demonstrate commitment to the basic philosophy and design.

About AmeriCorps:
AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund, and leads the President’s national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit www.NationalService.gov.

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