



**EMPLOYMENT AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

DEED Youth Programs

House Workforce Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee
March 24, 2026



Youth at Work

Youth at Work Overview

- Provides grants to organizations providing services to youth:
 - Between ages 14-24;
 - Economically disadvantaged; and/or
 - Have at least one at-risk characteristic
- Priority is given to programs that:
 - Provide students with information about education and training requirements for careers in high-growth, in-demand;
 - Serve youth from communities of color who are underrepresented in the workforce; or
 - Serve youth with disabilities

Eligible Activities

- Employment preparation
- Job training activities that support youth in receiving industry-recognized credentials, industry-specific certifications, and digital literacy skills
- Paid internships and work experiences
- Financial literacy trainings
- Academic support activities that prevent youth from dropping out of secondary school
- Post-secondary education support activities

Youth at Work Outcomes (SFY2025)

- 11,799 youth served in SFY2025
- 78% of youth served are from communities of color
- 17% of youth served have a disability

Youth At Work Outcomes	SFY 2025
Total youth served in experiential learning	11,799
Received individualized case-management services, education and job training activities	10,154
Received career planning, job search, college or post-secondary guidance on jobs important to regional economies	3,641
Attained work readiness and/or education goals	73%
Obtained High School Diploma, GED, Remained in School, obtained a Certificate or Degree, or Dropout – Returned to School	50%

Youthbuild

Youthbuild Eligibility

- Eligible participants must be:
 - Between the ages of 16 and 24; and
 - Have not completed a high school diploma or its equivalent or be at risk of dropping out of high school or have dropped out, and
 - Be economically disadvantaged or eligible for the high school Graduation Incentives Program

Program Components

- Each program must include education, work experience, job skills, and leadership training and peer support components
 - Education – requires participants to complete or work toward completing secondary education or literacy advancement
 - Work experience – must provide vocational skills training. Projects must be based around eligible construction activities (next slide)
 - Job readiness skills – at least 20 percent of programming must provide job readiness skills (e.g. job search, placement assistance, etc.) within the building trades, unions, self-employment, or other employment opportunities.
 - Leadership training and peer support – each program must provide meaningful opportunities to develop leadership skills, problem solving, and negotiating.

Eligible Construction Activities

- Eligible construction and rehabilitation projects must include projects that result in the rehabilitation, improvement, or construction of:
 - Residential units for low-income families or individuals, or homeless persons, or
 - Improvements to the energy efficiency and environmental health of residential units, or
 - Facilities and incidental structures which provide education, social services, health services, gardening services, and serve low-income communities, families, or individuals.

Youthbuild Outcomes (SFY2025)

- 597 youth served
 - 75% youth of color and 36% women
- 82% placed in unsubsidized employment at an average wage of \$18.31/hr
- 54% earned occupational credentials
- 80% earned OSHA 10/30 certificates and other health and safety certifications
- 33% enrolled in college or post-secondary degree/certification program
- 71% earned a diploma or GED (22% continued school)
- 65% earned academic credit through the Youthbuild program
- 14% placed in construction employment or high wage career employment at an average of \$22.00/hr

Youth at Work + Youthbuild Funding

- Youth at Work:
 - General Fund - \$750,000/yr
 - Workforce Development Fund - \$4,348,000/yr
- Youthbuild:
 - Workforce Development Fund - \$1,000,000/yr
- Note about RFPs: Competitive RFPs for these programs were release during the winter ahead of a budget year.

Questions?