



## Putting Opportunity Youth Back to Work

With a youth unemployment rate double the national average and nearly 5 million youth 16 to 24 both out of school and work, our nation must prioritize investments in our young people. Federally funded youth-serving programs and activities, including Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I Youth Activities, YouthBuild, and Job Corps, provide disadvantaged youth with the education, training, and first work experiences they need to successfully transition into the labor market.

### WIOA Title I Youth Activities

- WIOA youth funding supports out-of-school youth (aged 16 to 24) and low-income in-school youth (aged 14 to 21) with barriers to employment, including homelessness or involvement in the juvenile or criminal justice system.
- WIOA improves opportunities for disconnected youth by prioritizing services for out-of-school youth, high school dropout recovery efforts, and attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials.
- WIOA supports access to real-world workforce development opportunities by requiring 20 percent of youth formula funds to be used for work experiences, such as summer jobs, pre-apprenticeships, or on-the-job training.

### YouthBuild Program

- YouthBuild provides opportunities for more than 8,000 disadvantaged youth aged 16 to 24 in over 250 communities nationwide.
- All of YouthBuild students are low-income, more than 93 percent enter without a high school diploma, and more than a third are court-involved youth.
- YouthBuild program participants work towards their high school diploma or equivalency while learning valuable skills and building affordable housing in their communities. The evidence-based program has also been found to reduce recidivism rates for students involved in the juvenile or criminal justice system.

### Job Corps Program

- Job Corps is the nation's largest residential education and vocational training program, providing opportunities for up to 60,000 disadvantaged youth aged 16 to 24 annually at nearly 130 centers.
- For its students, Job Corps is often a crucial second chance at overcoming barriers to employment and building a better future. About 60 percent of Job Corps students dropped out or were expelled from school, 56 percent enter the program below the eighth-grade reading level, and 26 percent have a disability (2.5 times the rate for young adults ages 16 to 24 nationally).
- Through intensive training, education, work experience and supportive services, Job Corps' unique residential program helps disadvantaged youth reach their educational goals, obtain a well-paying job, or serve in the military.