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# 1998 MINNESOTA

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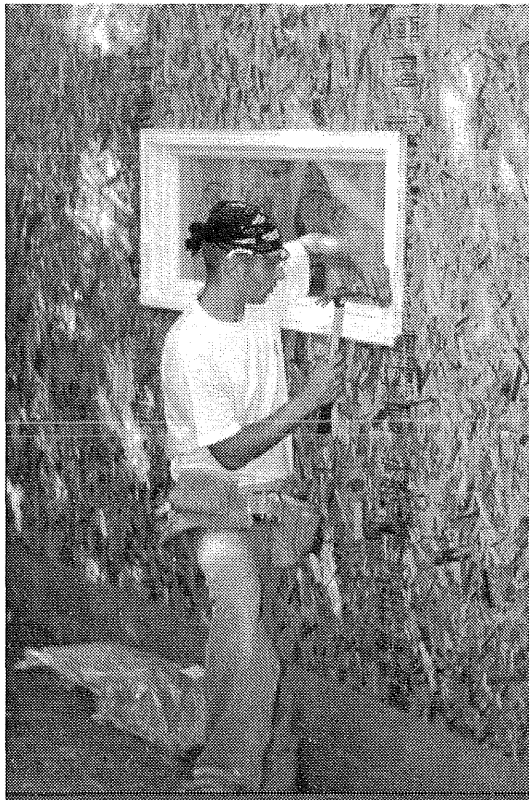
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# YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Prepared by the Minnesota Department of Economic Security  
Workforce Preparation Branch/Office of Youth Development  
January 1999

*In Accordance  
with Minnesota Statutes  
268.362 to 268.367*



**"My goals are to learn all I can from Youthbuild until I graduate and then go to school for a trade. My Mom and Dad think this program is great because I get to learn a great trade and, at the same time, go to school and get an education."**

**- Destri Lustrì**

law enforcement agencies, unions, technical schools, and court services. Matching funds leveraged for the program totalled \$2.78 million in 1998.

To ensure quality standards and compliance with state statutes and labor laws, representatives of the Department of Economic Security make regular site visits to monitor the programs and provide technical assistance.

**T**he Minnesota Youthbuild Program demonstrates a commitment to Minnesota's at-risk youth and their communities by helping young people rebuild their neighborhoods and take charge of their lives.

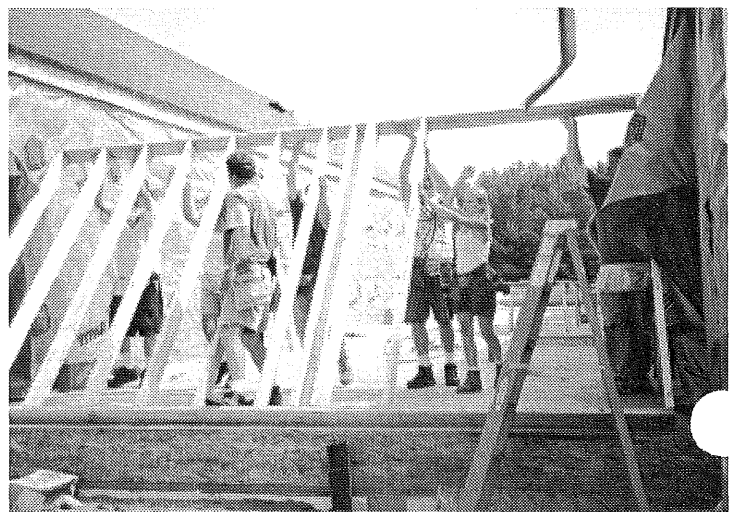
The program enables young people to gain useful job skills while working toward their high school diploma or GED, play a respected role in their communities, and build the most essential commodity needed by their families and neighbors: safe, affordable housing.

#### **Funding and Quality Standards**

At the state level, the Youthbuild Program is an integral part of the employment and training programs in the Workforce Preparation Branch of the Minnesota Department of Economic Security. These programs are specifically designed to reduce unemployment and poverty in Minnesota and promote economic self-sufficiency.

In 1997, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$700,000 a year in Youthbuild funds to the Department of Economic Security which awarded grants to Bi-County CAP (Bemidji), The City, Inc. (Minneapolis), Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative (Chaska), Summit Academy OIC (Minneapolis), City Academy (St. Paul), Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. (Detroit Lakes), Central MN Jobs and Training Services (Willmar), Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (Virginia), and Guadalupe Alternative Programs (St. Paul). Three new programs were funded in 1997: Stearns-Benton Employment and Training Council (St. Cloud), Project for Pride in Living (Minneapolis), and Southeastern Minnesota Private Industry Council (Wabasha).

The program demonstrates substantial leveraging of matching funds through its coordination with local community, housing, and educational agencies,





### **Crime Prevention Focus**

Minnesota Youthbuild is a model program for restorative justice, specifically targeting youth involved with the criminal justice system and those involved in gangs. Over sixty percent of program participants have previously been involved with the criminal justice system or gangs and over 70 Youthbuild participants provided restitution to crime victims through various linkages with local courts and the Department of Corrections. Of the 217 Youthbuilders with juvenile justice involvement, less than 2% have re-offended this year.

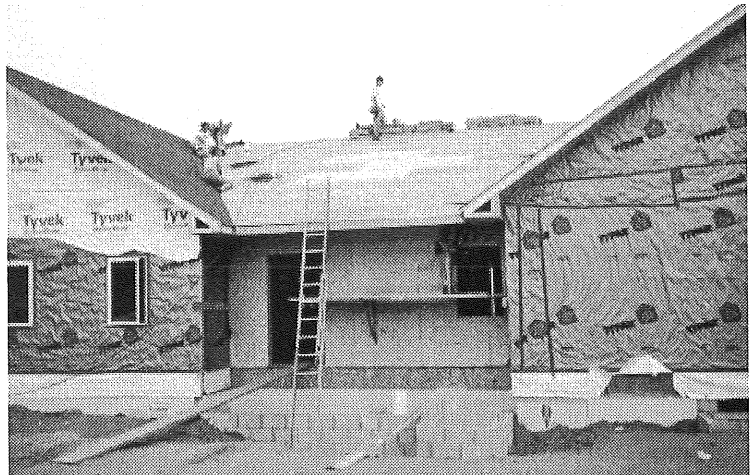
### **School to Work Transition Model**

The Minnesota Youthbuild Program is also an excellent school-to-work transition model. In recent years, the Youthbuild Program has been designated as a model work-based learning program and has been recognized at several state and national training sessions regarding reform of government programs. Moreover, the program targets youth who have the most difficulty in making the transition from school to work, high risk dropouts and youth offenders.

By providing an alternative high school education and technical skills training in the highly skilled field of construction carpentry, participants gain the necessary education and skills to successfully transition from school to a job or advanced post secondary training. In addition, the program provides opportunities in post secondary options, career counseling, job mentoring, and work maturity skills training to assist youth in the transition from school to work.

### **Community Service Focus**

Youth service and community involvement are key components of the Minnesota Youthbuild Program. Community service activities build citizenship skills in youth as well as enhance self esteem and respect, and provide participants with opportunities to give back to their communities. Meaningful and necessary community service is accomplished through various service projects across the state. Projects this year included visiting and giving gifts to children at a battered women's shelter, yard work and snow shoveling for elderly and disabled neighbors, assistance at food shelves, landscaping a community garden, roofing a local church, assisting in a local March for Peace and Social Justice and registering voters.



**"Youthbuild is probably the best decision I've made for myself. I've learned a trade, made new friends, got school credit that was extremely valuable to me, and earned money. Going to Youthbuild has opened up so many doors for me that I didn't know were available." - Dan Strunk**

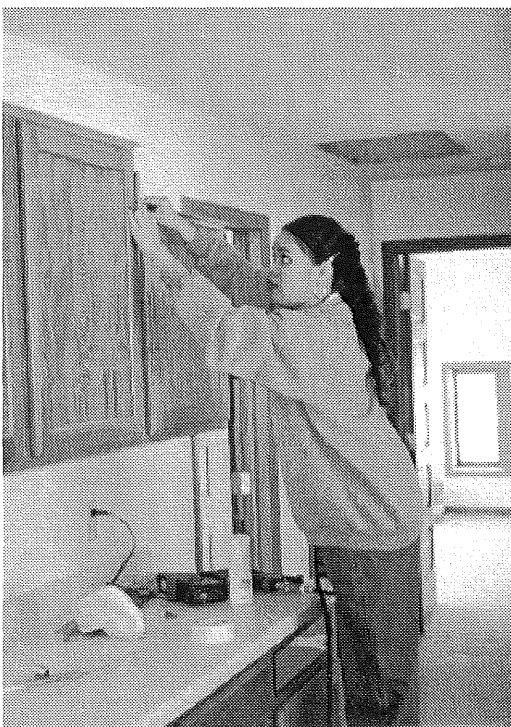
**Program Description**

The Minnesota Youthbuild Program served 334 young people in 1998. One hundred and ninety (190) units of affordable housing were made available to 300 homeless, battered women and children, and low-income persons during the past year. All youth participants were 16 to 24, economically disadvantaged or eligible for the High School Graduation Incentives Program, and had previously dropped out or were at risk of dropping out of school. Over half of the participants were youth of color. Of the youth served in 1998, approximately 90% had left or been expelled from traditional school, 65% have had previous involvement with the juvenile justice system, a third were recovering chemically dependent, about half were emotional/behavioral or learning disabled, half were receiving public assistance, and 90% were economically disadvantaged. The estimated program cost was \$2,000 per participant.

1998 Youthbuild projects included the construction of a Juvenile Alternatives Facility in Jordan, Minnesota to house non-violent juvenile offenders, the renovation of the House of Charity (a substance abuse recovery/self sufficiency facility in Minneapolis), renovation of congregate housing for mentally challenged adults, the new construction of a Sexual Assault Center in St. Cloud, and construction of playground equipment in various towns across Minnesota.



**"I have become a leader in the Youthbuild Policy Council and have really improved my communication skills. I have learned how to get my point across without offending people. I know how to lead people to their goals or show them the path by being an example."**  
- Jewel Walker



**Program Objectives**

**(1) Increase education and basic skills of at-risk youth:**

- Improve basic academic performance and school attendance
- Increase high school and GED graduation rates
- Increase enrollment in post-secondary institutions

**(2) Increase the employability skills of at-risk youth:**

- Increase job readiness and work maturity skills
- Increase construction job skills for hard to employ youth
- Increase job placement in the building trades/related fields

**(3) Provide leadership opportunities for at-risk youth:**

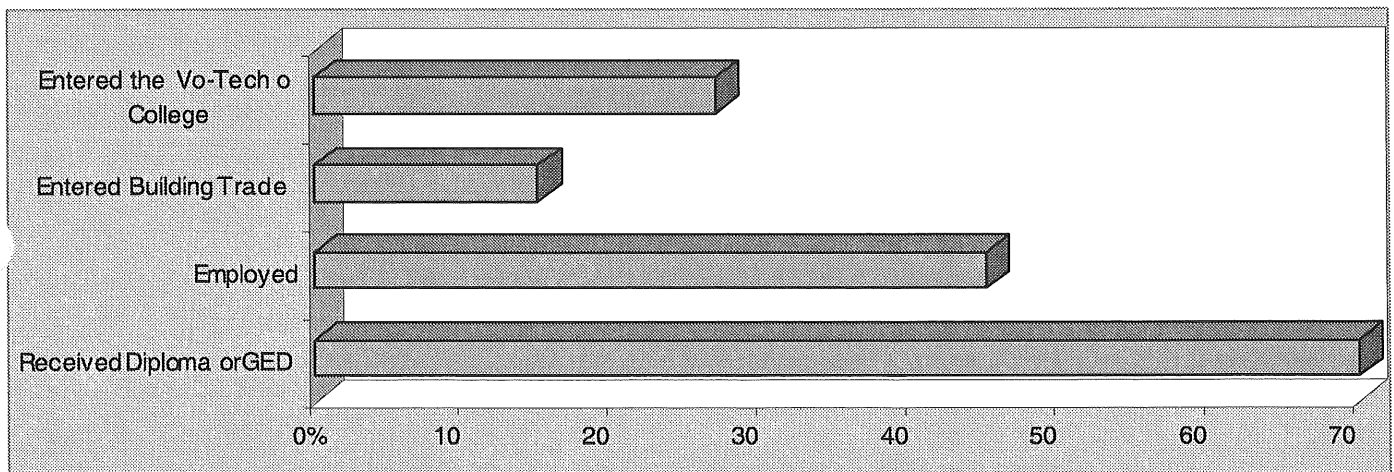
- Develop self-esteem, respect, and personal empowerment
- Enhance citizenship, problem solving, and negotiating skills
- Develop peer mentoring in youth
- Reduce juvenile crime and other negative behaviors

**(4) Increase affordable housing in Minnesota:**

- Increase affordable housing for homeless, battered, and poor families or individuals
- Rebuild deteriorating communities and neighborhoods

**Program Outcomes**

During 1998, 75 percent of all participants successfully completed the program. Follow up data collected over the past five years indicates that 70 percent of the participants went on to obtain their high school diploma or GED. A quarter went on to technical and vocational schools, colleges, and other post secondary institutions. Upon completion of the program, 45 percent of program participants were employed at an average starting wage of \$8.20 an hour. Participants also gained increased skills in leadership development, self-esteem, and reduction in negative behaviors and attitudes regarding work, school, and social interactions. In addition, nearly 40,000 community service hours were logged by Youthbuild participants outside of their work on the construction site during the past year.



**"Youthbuild offers these young adults an opportunity to be independent and self-confident."  
-Bill Hanson**

**BI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS (BI-CAP)  
BEMIDJI, MN**

Bi-County CAP, Inc., a private nonprofit corporation serving Beltrami and Cass counties, operates the Minnesota Youthbuild Program in collaboration with Rural MN CEP and Cass Lake Area Learning Center. In the past, the project has leveraged \$612,600 in private, public, and nonprofit funds to match the \$75,000 one year grant it received from the Department of Economic Security.

**EDUCATION**

Each student spends approximately 32 hours every two weeks in the classroom working toward a diploma and receiving individualized instruction in Math, English, Science, Social Studies, Health/Physical Education, Independent Living, and World of Work Training. This year, students took field trips to area businesses, including the Bemidji Pioneer newspaper, Beltrami County



Government buildings, Bemidji Aviation, Norwest Bank, and Bemidji State University. In addition, workshops on sexual assault, first aid and CPR, chemical dependency, housing, HIV/AIDS, budgeting, legal issues, and independent business ownership were presented, among others.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

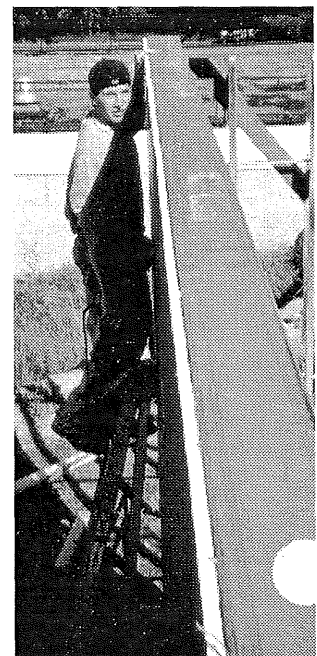
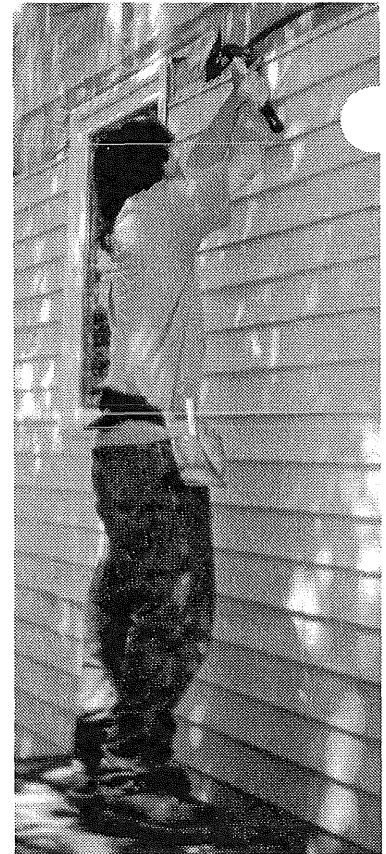
The work experience component is two-tiered. Tier One involves Construction Classroom Training and World of Work seminars emphasizing job readiness skills. Tier Two provides elective credits to work experience in the building trades industry. Two certified instructors supervise crews of youth. Participants are paid \$5.15 an hour for 32 hours a week of on-site work experience, leadership activities, and academic instruction. Youth receive a \$.25/hour raise after six months of participation.

**LEADERSHIP**

During the past year, participants were responsible for a presentation at the MN Association of Alternative Programs Conference in Brainerd and Project 120 at the capitol. Youthbuild participants are also represented on the Youthbuild Policy Committee which reviews and makes decisions on current program issues and problems. Community service projects (Service Learning) this year included highway clean up (Adopt a Highway), snow shoveling and yard work for elderly, disabled, and low income homeowners, and assistance at the food shelf, Headwater Science Center, and Goodwill. Participants were the main presenters at the week long orientation for new Youthbuilders. During the summer, participants completed a ropes challenge course.

**HOUSING**

During 1998, participants completed a duplex for transitional housing. Also in the past year, participants completed rehabilitation on four transitional housing units. A total of 26 homeless adults and 43 homeless children were housed by these and other Youthbuild housing projects.



**THE CITY INC.  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN**

"Pride in the City" Youthbuild Program in Minneapolis is a collaborative effort between The City, Inc., a nonprofit youth service agency, and Project for Pride in Living. The project leveraged approximately \$55,000 of private, public, and in-kind funds to match the \$55,000 one year grant it received from the Department of Economic Security.



**EDUCATION**

Each student enrolled in The City School, an accredited alternative learning center, spends half of each day in classroom instruction. Teacher-student ratios of 1 to 6 allow for individualized instruction year round. The curriculum emphasizes basic skill acquisition in Math and English, problem solving, leadership development and a community building mission. This year, field trips included visits to Dunwoody Institute, St. Paul Technical College, and the American Swedish Institute to view the handcrafted woodwork. In addition, students visited the University of Minnesota-Duluth, Southwest State University, and Bethel College to learn more about post-secondary opportunities.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Under the supervision of a journeyman carpenter, participants spend half of each day gaining a basic understanding of physical structures, housing construction, and skills working with appropriate tools. Participants have the opportunity to acquire experience in a variety of areas relating to carpentry, including demolition, insulation, rough carpentry, sheet rocking, painting, and landscaping. In addition to construction skills, instruction includes job seeking and job keeping skills. Work projects this year included installing windows and doors, installing new kitchen cabinets, installing shingles, sheetrocking, installing siding and painting, among other tasks. Participants are eligible for elective credit and a stipend of up to \$150 every six weeks based on attendance.

**LEADERSHIP**

During the past year, participants made presentations about the Youthbuild program to potential funders. In addition, one Youthbuilder was selected to be a member of the PPL leadership committee which makes policy decisions related to the PPL Youthbuild Programs. Participants are also encouraged to participate on The City's Internal student board.

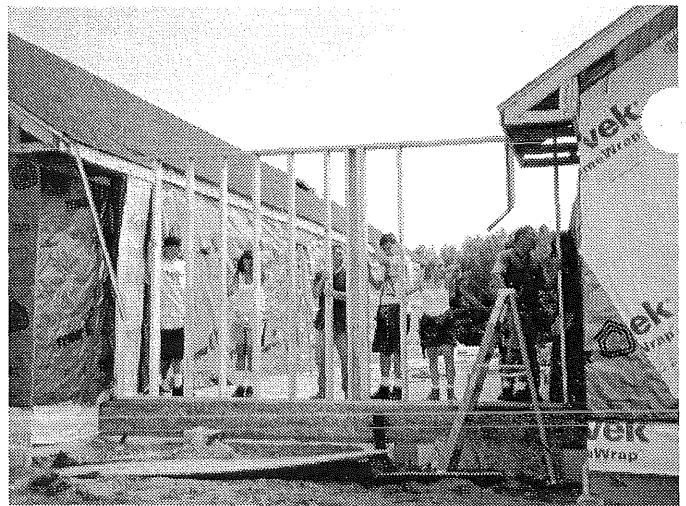
**HOUSING**

In addition to the renovation of transitional housing units at St Joseph's Hope community, Youthbuild participants completed work on the House of Charity, a substance abuse recovery facility.



**CARVER-SCOTT EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
CHASKA, MN**

Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative operates the Minnesota Youthbuild Program in collaboration with Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency, Scott and Carver County Employment and Training, Carver-Scott Affordable Housing Coalition, Carver and Scott County Housing and Redevelopment Authorities, and Carver and Scott County Court Services. The project leveraged over \$400,000 in private, public, and nonprofit funds to match the \$75,000 one year grant it received from the Department of Economic Security. The Carver-Scott Education Cooperative Youthbuild Program has been selected as a star or exemplary program each year for the last four years in the Governor's Youth Services selection process.



**EDUCATION**

The educational curriculum emphasizes applied learning in areas such as math, reading, and writing. In addition, social topics such as citizenship and housing are covered in program activities. In 1998, workshops covered topics such as conflict resolution, homelessness, living on your own, budgeting and life skills. In addition, participants benefitted from field trips to local technical and community colleges for career exploration, the Minnesota History Museum and Basilica of St. Mary for studies in architecture, and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Normandale Community College Japanese Garden for lessons in landscaping. Work is underway to align Minnesota Graduation Standards with the program.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

A certified vocational instructor provides specific construction skills training to youth on the work site. Youth are involved from start to finish on each construction project, enabling them to develop a wide range of skills. Each participant also receives job readiness training covering topics such as interviewing, developing a resume, completing a job application, career opportunities, and the importance of good work behaviors. Participants earn minimum wage during the summer, with the possibility of earning a bonus of up to \$1.00 per hour based on attendance. Participants also may receive post-secondary vocational credit which is accepted at Hennepin Technical College.

**LEADERSHIP**

Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative is one of two schools in Minnesota to be designated a model school for service learning. The program places a strong emphasis on the ways youth can strengthen a community through service. Youthbuild participants assist in the interviewing process for YouthWorks and Youthbuild, and serve as peer mentors during the summer program. Participants have testified at legislative hearings, made presentations to the Carver-Scott School Board, presented the program to the Rotary Club, and visited school classrooms during recruitment activities. Service projects this year included volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, day care at Sharing and Caring Hands, and a project at Murphy's Landing History Museum.

**HOUSING**

During 1998, participants converted an industrial building into a family center serving Carver and Scott counties and constructed transitional housing units for up to sixteen youth located at the Scott County Jail Annex site.

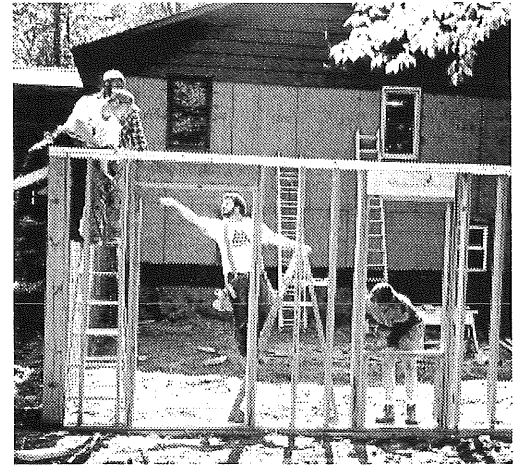


**SUMMIT ACADEMY OIC  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN**

Summit Academy OIC operates the Youthbuild program in Minneapolis in collaboration with Project for Pride in Living, Habitat for Humanity, and Southside Neighborhood Housing Services. The project leveraged approximately \$230,000 of private, public, and foundation funds to match the \$70,000 one year grant it received from the Department of Economic Security.

**EDUCATION**

The educational component is based upon the "Wheels of Learning" carpentry curriculum. This provides an opportunity to connect the basic skills instruction with the work experience. All students spend 40 hours on a bi-weekly basis working toward their high school diploma or GED. In addition, workshops and guest speakers provide instruction in job readiness and life skills. Workshops held this year covered a variety of topics, including: conflict resolution and anger management; financial planning, personal development, health education, and career planning; buying a home; interviewing for job readiness; careers in labor unions; and community service and crime prevention. This year, students took field trips to several local construction companies.



**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Two work groups of twelve participants each spend 40 hours in the work experience component on a bi-weekly basis. Journey level carpenters provide instruction in areas such as masonry, sheet rocking, painting, insulation, roofing, framing, finishing, and rough carpentry. Participants learn teamwork and safety principles. This year, several Youthbuild participants participated in and received certificates of lead abatement training. Participants are paid a stipend of \$600 a month, with possible bonuses for attendance and performance. Collaborations with the carpenters and painters unions allow interested successful graduates to enter apprenticeship programs after program completion.

**LEADERSHIP**

During the past two years, participants have completed service and community projects in the Bryant, Central, and Phillips neighborhoods of south Minneapolis. Participants landscaped a community garden for the Bryant Neighborhood Organization and launched a major community building effort in collaboration with the Central Neighborhood Improvement Association, focusing on comprehensive block development. Youthbuilders organized an anti-crime/clean-up with the People of Phillips and were active in weekly clean-ups in several Minneapolis neighborhoods. Participants have registered voters and flyered neighborhoods. Four Youthbuild participants have served on the Youthbuild Policy Committee, maintaining communication with all participants and volunteers. Through a partnership with the Star Tribune, Summit Academy OIC is a satellite distribution site that allows Youthbuilders to deliver newspapers to citizens in north Minneapolis and earn additional money.

**HOUSING**

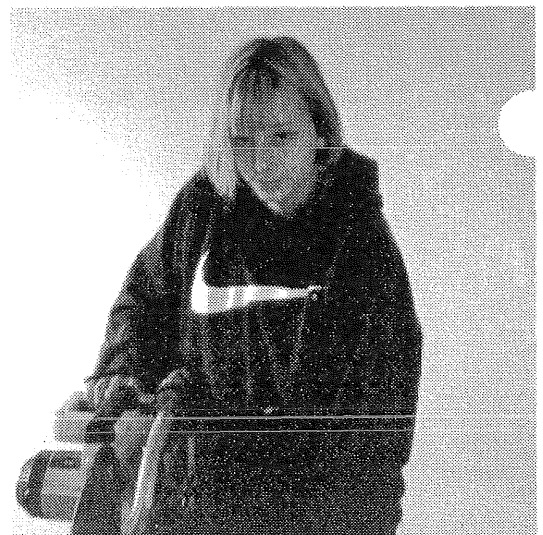
Participants completed several renovation and repair projects this year in the Central, Bryant, and Powderhorn neighborhoods of south Minneapolis. In 1999, Youthbuilders will assist with the construction of a truancy and curfew facility jointly operated by Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis.

**CITY ACADEMY  
SAINT PAUL, MN**

City Academy, the nation's first charter school, operates the Youthbuild Program in collaboration with Northern States Power Company (NSP), the City of St. Paul Planning and Economic Development Agency, the East Side Neighborhood Community Development Corporation (ESNDC), and Habitat for Humanity. The project leveraged approximately \$500,000 of private, public, and in-kind funds to match the \$70,000 one year grant it received from the Department of Economic Security.

**EDUCATION**

City Academy students spend 30 hours a week in the classroom with teacher-student ratios of 1 to 5. Internships with NSP and the City of St. Paul provide students with hands-on learning in the business world. The curriculum includes all facets of the construction industry: market research, site selection, negotiations with city agencies, financing, mortgage underwriting, marketing processes and property management techniques. Four new applied academic courses were incorporated into the curriculum: blue print reading, drafting for the homeowner, Business Law, and Architectural Math.



**WORK EXPERIENCE**

A construction trades specialist provides construction skills training to participants approximately 15 hours a week at the worksite. In addition, participants attend job readiness classes that emphasize work related behaviors such as punctuality, regular attendance, and working cooperatively. City Academy Youthbuild has formed partnerships with McGrass Construction, Sherer Brothers, Bob's Drywall, Vern Craven's Concrete, Gateway Mechanical, and Ries Electric. In the past two years, six Youthbuild participants have been offered employment opportunities in the construction trades by companies sharing Youthbuild work sites. In addition, one participant applied for his General Contractor's license.

**LEADERSHIP**

As advisory board members, students are involved in the actual planning and evaluation of the construction projects, including making public presentations to the city council, selecting project sites, and petitioning city offices to obtain site approval and control. Students also participate in civic, cultural, and community service activities, including yard work and shoveling walks for elderly neighbors.

**HOUSING**

In 1998, Youthbuild participants completed nine new construction single family homes on St. Paul's East Side.

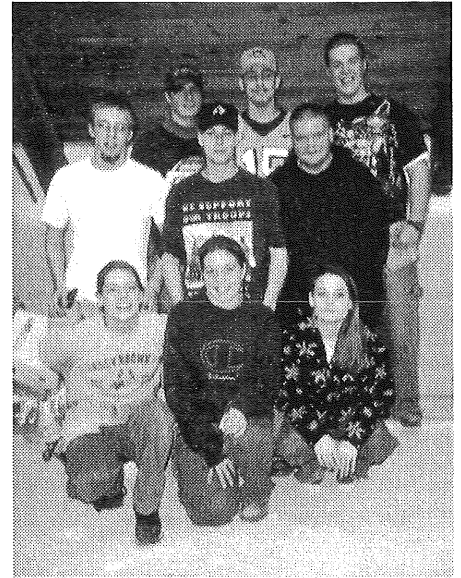


**RURAL MINNESOTA CEP, INC.  
DETROIT LAKES, MN**

Rural MN CEP, Inc. operates the Minnesota Youthbuild Program in collaboration with the Perham-Dent School District, Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council, and the Leaf River Habitat for Humanity Project. The project leveraged \$148,000 of private, public, and nonprofit funds to match the \$55,000 one year grant it received from the Department of Economic Security.

**EDUCATION**

Students work toward a high school diploma through the Perham-Dent Alternative Learning Center. They receive instruction in social studies, English, math, science, health, and computers through an individualized learning plan. Coursework is highly coordinated with the work experience component to provide opportunities for contextual learning. Students must make acceptable progress on their learning plan in order to continue in the program.



**WORK EXPERIENCE**

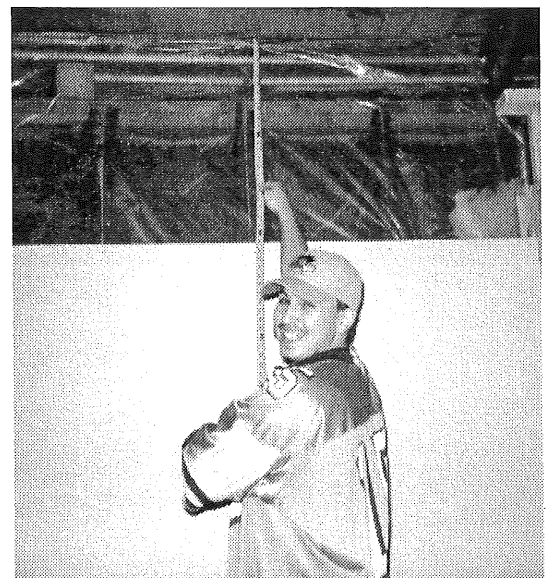
A certified construction trades instructor provides supervision, skill training, and work-based project learning to participants for an average of 15 hours per week during the school year, and 30 to 40 hours per week during the summer months. Instructional and training experiences are provided in all major phases of residential construction, including planning, site development, masonry, carpentry, mechanical trades, pipe trades, remodeling, and finishing. This year's project, building to meet codes required by the Family Services Center, have introduced a new level of inspection and compliance to the learning experience. Participants earn minimum wage, with the opportunity for hourly bonuses based on attendance, academic progress, and adherence to safety, productivity, and teamwork values. Overall attendance rate for participants on the construction site this year was 90 percent.

**LEADERSHIP**

Participants serve as crew leaders under the supervision of the construction instructor, and have responsibilities that include tracking breaks, reviewing time cards, and assigning immediate tasks to other participants. Youth participants on the advisory committee have input into project decisions. They are also involved in evaluating program outcomes. This year, the youth planned and prepared a barbecue and reception honoring their instructor who received a state award for his outstanding work with this project. Former participants, our state representative, and representatives of collaborating agencies were present. Several youth have shown leadership by providing peer counseling in areas of worker safety and responsibility.

**HOUSING**

This year the Youthbuild crew has worked on the remodeling of an old building on the fairgrounds to convert it into a Head Start, ECFE, Alternative Education and Family Services Center. The project is scheduled for partial completion January 1, 1999 and total completion by March of 1999. In addition, the crew has started another Habitat for Humanity home, bringing the total of eight family homes created by Perham Youthbuild to nine.



**GUADALUPE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS  
ST. PAUL, MN**

Guadalupe Alternative Programs (GAP) operates the Minnesota Youthbuild Program on the West Side of St. Paul in collaboration with Project for Pride in Living. The project leveraged \$150,000 of private, public, and nonprofit funds to match the \$55,000 one year grant it received from the Department of Economic Security.



**EDUCATION**

Students spend between 10 to 20 hours a week in academic classes. The curriculum focuses on the acquisition of basic skills and also provides enrichment opportunities such as studio arts, physical education, and cultural activities. Youthbuild participants receive job readiness skills training in areas such as career awareness, interviewing, developing a resume, organizing a job search, and post-secondary planning. Field trips this year included a visit to the American Swedish Institute to study the building's architecture, the Home and Garden and Patio Shows, Dunwoody Technical College, and an apprenticeship training center.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

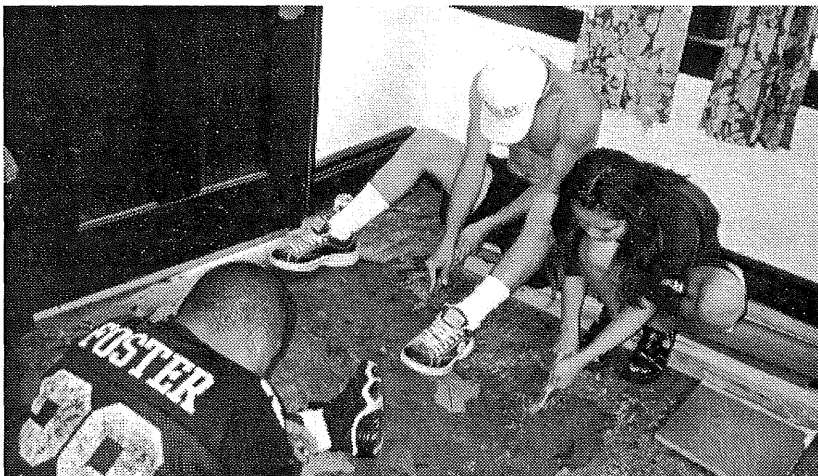
A journeyman carpenter provides specific construction skills training to two crews of four youth each on the work site. Participants spend approximately 15 hours a week in work experience training which includes work maturity skills, safety training, teamwork development, and carpentry skills. Specific skills gained this year include framing, sheet rocking, roofing, painting, and installation of fencing and cedar shingles. During the school year, participants may earn a stipend of \$100 each school quarter if attendance and performance are satisfactory. During the summer, participants earn between \$5.00 and \$7.00 per hour for up to 40 hours of work each week.

**LEADERSHIP**

This year, four Youthbuild participants were elected to GAP's Student Board and traveled to Kansas City to learn how students in other alternative schools are involved in governance of their schools. Also, Youthbuild participants were involved in food drives and various community events such as West Side Pride Day and Chico De Mayo.

**HOUSING**

During the past year, participants have been completely responsible for the renovation of a single dwelling home in their community. They have been involved in all aspects of this project, including architectural design, demolition, ordering materials, and all facets of remodeling.



**CENTRAL MINNESOTA JOBS AND TRAINING SERVICES  
(formerly Private Industry Workforce Council 5)  
WILLMAR, MN**

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services operates the Minnesota Youthbuild program in the city of Willmar in collaboration with the Willmar Area Learning Center and West Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity. The project leveraged approximately \$100,000 in private, public, and in-kind contributions to match the \$55,000 one year grant it received from the Department of Economic Security.



**EDUCATION**

Academic activities are integrated with work experience, job readiness, and leadership activities. The Willmar Area Learning Center provides courses in vocational math, applied English, vocational social studies, communication, English as a second language, and Work Readiness. Most classes at the ALC are small with individualized learning. Students attended field trips to area businesses, such as North Star Modular Homes in Marshall, and Hoffco (a cabinet manufacturing company) in Woodlake, MN, Schillers Custom Cabinetry in Willmar, and Bayer Built Woodwork in Belgrade.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

A certified vocational instructor provides skill training within a classroom/ shop setting and a certified carpenter supervises participants on the work site. Participants spend approximately two hours a day at the job site learning specific carpentry skills, including the use of power and hand tools, interpreting floor plans, removing and installing siding, layout of interior and exterior walls, and installation of doors, jambs, windows, insulation, and gypsum wallboard. In addition, punctuality, safety, work quality, conflict resolution, and team work principles are taught on the job. Participants are paid for both on-site work experience and classroom learning.

**LEADERSHIP**

In the classroom and on the job site, participants are taught a set of basic goals, team work principles, awareness of local social issues, problem solving skills and civic responsibility. Over the past year, participants were involved in various projects for the City of Willmar, and Prairie Woods Environmental Center, and the Willmar Regional Treatment Center, Habitat for Humanity and Heartland Community Action Agency.

**HOUSING**

This year, participants worked on the construction of three homes for Habitat for Humanity, and also painted the interior of a transitional home for the Community Action Agency.



**ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY  
VIRGINIA, MN**

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc. operates the Arrowhead Youthbuild Program based in the city of Virginia. The Northland Educational Cooperative, Adult Basic Education Program, and AEOA Housing Services are collaborative partners. The Arrowhead Youthbuild Program leveraged approximately \$95,000 in private, public, and in-kind contributions to match the \$55,000 one year grant it received from the Department of Economic Security.



**EDUCATION**

Academic activities are integrated with work experience, job readiness, and leadership activities. Each student spends approximately 16 hours a week working towards the attainment of a High School Diploma or General Education Degree (GED). The curriculum emphasizes applied math and reading skills, in addition to life and coping skills training. Field trips attended by participants included: **Minntac Tour** - a tour of an iron mining operation including a seminar on job opportunities in the mining industry; **Job Fair** - 37 local businesses provided information on a variety of careers; **Gooseberry Falls Nature Tour** - Youthbuild participants were treated to trail hiking and panoramic sights along the shore of Lake Superior.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

A journeyman carpenter provides specific construction skills training to youth at the work site. The instructor to student ratio is set at a maximum of 1:7. Participants are taught skills in the areas of painting (including prep work), framing, sheet rocking, demolition, landscaping, siding, layout procedures, and blue print reading. Participants also "job shadow" construction trades. Youth receive minimum wage upon entry into the program, but may receive merit wage increases based upon factors such as attendance, attitude, performance, and assumed responsibility.

**LEADERSHIP**

Youthbuild participants attended the Youth Leadership Conference held at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. The conference was a three day affair dedicated to enhancing leadership qualities through seminars and a wide-range of participative activities. The youth provided a slide-show presentation of work activities at a Youthbuild Coalition meeting. Participants also clean carpets at the Richelieu Senior Citizens Apartment complex on an ongoing basis. Other leadership activities included building storage pallets at several senior citizen dining centers, delivering goods to families from the local food shelf, and hanging decorations at the 16th Annual All County Senior Citizens Picnic.

**HOUSING**

During the past year, two congregate houses for mentally challenged adults were renovated in Chisholm and Virginia and two houses for very low-income families were renovated in Eveleth. A 20' by 24' garage was built from the "floor-up" for a very low-income family in Eveleth. In addition, play ground equipment was constructed for Head Start sites in Ely, Virginia, Chisholm, Aurora, Babbitt, and Silver Bay. A future project involves the complete renovation of a two story house in West Eveleth.



**PROJECT FOR PRIDE IN LIVING  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN**

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) operates the Minnesota Youthbuild Program in collaboration with five alternative schools in Minneapolis. These schools include Skills for Tomorrow, Minnesota Transitions, Heart of the Earth Survival School, Guadalupe Alternative School, and The City, Inc. The project has leveraged a 30 month \$315,000 federal Youthbuild grant (approximately \$120,000 a year) to supplement the \$45,900 one year grant it received from the Minnesota Department of Economic Security.

**EDUCATION**

Students attend their respective schools for half of each day. Academic course work varies for each student, depending upon individual needs. All students are required to enroll in reading and math and must meet the graduation requirements of the Minneapolis Public Schools. Basic skills are applied to the construction industry both in the classroom and on the job site. Students are required to read blueprints for specific buildings and landscape layouts, in addition to reading safety labels and data sheets on the use of materials. Students also are required to apply math skills by using a tape measure and adding and subtracting fractions to ensure materials will fit in allotted spaces. Students are given information on post-secondary enrollment options, and field trips to Dunwoody Institute and St. Paul Technical College provide opportunities to explore further educational opportunities.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Participants are enrolled in a three hour per day work experience component supervised by a journey level carpenter. Two crews of 3 to 4 participants each gain work experience in a variety of areas relating to building renovation, including demolition, insulation, rough carpentry, sheet rocking, painting, and landscaping. In addition, participants have the opportunity to observe the work of a variety of building trades professionals including plumbers, electricians, masons, and roofers, and may shadow one of these professionals for a day.

**LEADERSHIP**

Students are encouraged to assume leadership roles both in school and on the job site. On the construction site, experienced Youthbuilders teach new participants how to measure, cut, and use tools. Occasionally a very experienced Youthbuilder will be given the responsibility for two or three other participants. Crew leaders are selected based on their longevity in the program, their carpentry skills and qualities of maturity and responsibility. In addition, a leadership committee composed of one youth from each school was developed this year. The committee meets every two weeks to discuss and make decisions relating to the PPL Youthbuild Programs. Participants also have opportunities to speak at legislative sessions regarding state funding of the Youthbuild Program, which enables them to see themselves as an important and integral part of making laws.

**HOUSING**

In May, participants completed the renovation of a 100-year-old three story, 5 unit building at the St. Joseph's HOPE community in south Minneapolis. Earlier in the spring, Youthbuilders completed their portion of work on the House of Charity, an 80 bed substance abuse recovery/self sufficiency facility.

**STEARNS-BENTON EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COUNCIL  
ST. CLOUD, MN**

The Stearns-Benton Employment and Training Council operates the Minnesota Youthbuild Program in the St. Cloud metropolitan area in collaboration with the Housing Coalition of the St. Cloud Area, Habitat for Humanity, Sexual Assault Center, and the St. Cloud Building & Construction Trades Council. The project leveraged \$125,000 in private, public, and non-profit funds in addition to the \$50,000 one year grant awarded by the Minnesota Department of Economic Security.

**EDUCATION**

Students attend Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes or High School Diploma classes up to 14 hours per week to work toward obtaining a High School Diploma or GED. Some of the curriculum emphasizes basic skills taught in the context of carpentry. For example, skills in measurement and calculation are connected to calculating lengths and weights needed for the specific construction projects on which the students are working. In addition, educational curriculum from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America addresses specific skills needed in the construction industry. In cooperation with the St. Cloud Building & Construction Trades Council, skilled trades representatives in the construction industry present their fields to participants. Participants have the opportunity to learn of the many apprenticeship programs offered through the St. Cloud Building & Construction Trades Council and learn how to apply for these programs. Participants also receive pre-employment and work maturity skills training which covers skills needed to obtain and be successful at a job.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

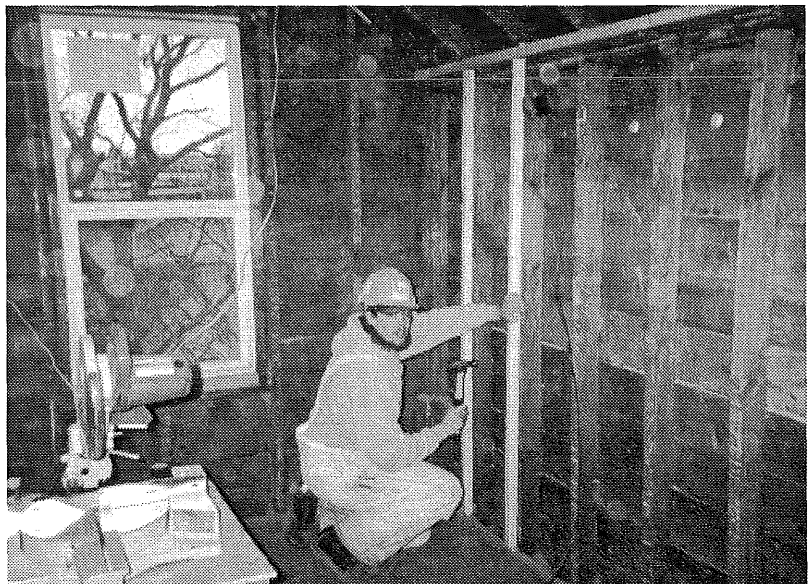
A Journey Level carpenter supervises a crew of eight Youthbuild participants as they learn job specific skills on the worksite. In addition to spending time on job tasks, participants learn the technical skills involved in the construction project including blueprint reading. Participants develop work plans and time lines for the projects to be completed, and determine the materials and supplies needed for the job. Youth receive a living stipend during their participation.

**LEADERSHIP**

Opportunities to build leadership skills are built into the program throughout the year. Crew participants attend activities such as team building challenge courses, mentoring, and workshops. Participants reflect daily on their individual accomplishments and have a weekly reflection time with the team. The crew members receive training and become certified in Basic CPR and Basic First Aid. Additional training is provided in individual budgeting and dealing with and resolving conflict.

**HOUSING**

The Youthbuild crew assisted with the renovation of a 106 year old house which is being used as a Community Shelter in St. Cloud. They also renovated and assisted with new construction of a Sexual Assault Center. In addition, they have remodeled an apartment for very low income families in St. Cloud and will be assisting Habitat for Humanity in building homes for very low income families over the next year.



**SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL  
WABASHA, MN**

outheastern Minnesota Private Industry Council (SEMNPIC) operates the Wabasha County Youthbuild program in collaboration with Southeastern Minnesota Multi- County HRA, Wabasha County ALC, Red Wing Technical College, Local Carpenters Union 1382, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc., and Wabasha County Court Services. The project leveraged \$99,618 in private, public, and nonprofit funds to match the \$4,100 one year grant awarded by the Minnesota Department of Economic Security. The youth enrolled in this project are all juvenile offenders who are currently on probation or have just been released from incarceration.

**EDUCATION**

Students work toward successful completion of their high school diploma or general equivalency exam. Basic academic skills are taught in an applied manner, integrating carpentry skills building. The curriculum covers topics such as math skills for measuring and cutting wood, and reading skills for interpreting written instructions and manuals. All youth enrolled in the program received credit towards their High School diploma.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

A Licensed Vocational Instructor coordinates the work experience component and supervises participants on the work site, aided by a staff Team Leader. The job site provides an environment in which youth can see the application of skills they are learning in the classroom. Youth receive a training stipend of \$5.00 per hour and may also receive up to \$200 in bonuses and scholarships based upon performance and attendance. Students earn credit toward high school graduation for the time spent working on the job sites, and may also earn post-secondary credit for attaining specified skill levels.

**LEADERSHIP**

he goal of this Youthbuild project is to assist juvenile offenders in becoming productive citizens of Wabasha County. To achieve this goal, job readiness and leadership skills are embedded in activities throughout the project. Participants build teamwork skills through activities such as high ropes challenge courses, and learn the skills necessary to become a valued employee who can assume leadership roles.

**HOUSING**

During the past year, youth in the Wabasha County Youthbuild program renovated a house that was sold to a low income family. Currently, they are working on renovating a second house including building a new garage on the property.

**YOUTHBUILD PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS and OUTCOMES**

**Total Number of Participants ..... 33<sup>A</sup>**

**Gender**

Male ..... 73%  
 Female ..... 27%

**Age**

16-17 ..... 55%  
 18-19 ..... 29%  
 20-24 ..... 16%

**Race/Ethnicity**

African American ..... 32%  
 Native American ..... 10%  
 Hispanic ..... 8%  
 Asian American ..... 5%  
 White ..... 45%

**At-Risk Indicators**

Left School or Expelled ..... 92%  
 Adult or Juvenile Offender ..... 65%  
 Pregnant or Parenting Teen ..... 20%  
 Recovering Chemically Dependent.....37  
 Emotionally/Behaviorally or Learning Disabled ..... 46%  
 Foster Child ..... 5%  
 Homeless ..... 7%  
 Receiving Public Assistance ..... 52%  
 Economically Disadvantaged ..... 90%

**Program Outcomes**

Successfully Completed the Youthbuild Program ..... 75%  
 Completed a Major Grade Level ..... 73%  
 Completed High School or Obtained GED ..... 70%  
 Enrolled in Post-Secondary Institution or Vo-Tech ..... 27%  
 Entered Employment ..... 45%  
 Entered the Building Trades Profession or Related Field ..... 15%  
 Average Wage of Unsubsidized Employment ..... \$8.20  
 Average Attendance Rate of Participants ..... 90%

**Housing Outcomes**

Total Number of Units Constructed and Renovated ..... 190  
 Total Number of Low Income Tenants Housed ..... 301  
 Total Number of Homeless Tenants Housed ..... 134

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MINNESOTA  
YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM CONTACT:**

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*Upon request, this report is available in alternate formats  
such as audio, braille or computer disk.*

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In accordance with M.S.  
3.197, the cost of preparing  
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