

For Immediate Release:

OIC of South Florida Awarded Department of Labor YouthBuild Grant

Fort Lauderdale, Florida: In a United States Department of Labor announcement made on September 16, 2015, OIC of South Florida (OIC-SFL) was one of 22 new YouthBuild programs funded nationwide in the first round under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The law, which became effective on July 1, 2015, led to several changes to YouthBuild. These changes include putting greater focus on improving the quality and energy efficiency of buildings, serving low-income and homeless individuals and families; expanding the eligibility to include youth who have dropped out of high school but subsequently re-enrolled; and supporting further program alignment with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

OIC- SFL was awarded \$1.1 million to execute a second program in South Florida. Currently, OIC-SFL operates a YouthBuild program that serves 62 trainees through 2017, and this new program will serve 65 additional trainees through 2018.

Upon notification of the new award, OIC-SFL's President/CEO Newton Sanon said, "We are honored to partner with the Obama Administration on this timely initiative. There are many young people that have simply lost their way and are earnestly yearning for interventions such as the YouthBuild opportunity to get back on track in order to live a purposeful life. OIC of South Florida stands poised to respond in being a change agent for such young adults and look forward to doing so with the U.S. Department of Labor and many other community stakeholders"

YouthBuild is a non-residential, community-based alternative education program that provides classroom instruction and occupational skills training to youth ages 16 to 24 who have been in the juvenile justice system, are aging out of foster care, have dropped out of high school, may have completed high school but are impacted by academic and employability deficits or are otherwise at-risk of failing to reach key educational and career milestones.



The classroom training component leads to a high school diploma, general education development or other state-recognized equivalency diploma. The occupational skills training component provides YouthBuild participants with industry-recognized certifications in construction or other in-demand occupations, such as health care and information technology. Leadership development, entrepreneurship training and community service are also key elements of the YouthBuild program, helping to ensure that participants maintain a connection to their communities through public service and volunteerism.

The YouthBuild program nationally, and the OIC-SFL YouthBuild Program Model implemented with its South Florida collaborative partners aligns with President Obama's My Brother's Keeper initiative and job-driven training agenda by promoting a "stepping stone" approach that provides a seamless progression from education to work-based training that results in good paying jobs for young adults. OIC-SFL is also strategically aligned to target its efforts on the inclusion of young women introducing them to non-traditional work opportunities through the YouthBuild program. The community-based nature of these grants ensures that

services are provided where they are needed most and are intended to reach the hardest to serve young adults.

[To learn more about OIC-SFL's YouthBuild Program, click HERE](#)

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[To learn about this YouthBuild award, click HERE.](#)

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