

# Federal Youthbuild FOA-ETA 26-38

**due date: March 2, 2026**

**GRANT AMOUNT:** A total of \$98 million is available. DOL expects to fund approximately 57 grants, ranging from \$1 to \$2 million with a required 25% non-federal match of cash or in-kind contributions. At least 50% of funds are intended for previously funded applicants. (Category B applicants).

**DEADLINE and SUBMITTAL PROCESS:** 11:59 pm EST on **March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**. All applicants must be registered with System for Award Management (SAM) at: <https://www.sam.gov> prior to submittal. All applications must be submitted electronically through grants.gov. Instructions can be found at <https://www.grants.gov/register>.

**WEBSITE:** To view and apply for a grant under FOA 26-38, click here: [grant opportunities](#) or go to: ([https://files.simpler.grants.gov/opportunities/e1f118fb-8e9d-4c86-b0c3-e9e5c5e0b59d/attachments/939d5bbe-33df-49e9-85b9-a9252b8ae9bb/YouthBuild\\_2025\\_FOA-ETA-26-38.pdf](https://files.simpler.grants.gov/opportunities/e1f118fb-8e9d-4c86-b0c3-e9e5c5e0b59d/attachments/939d5bbe-33df-49e9-85b9-a9252b8ae9bb/YouthBuild_2025_FOA-ETA-26-38.pdf))

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW:** YouthBuild is a pre-apprenticeship program that supports education, occupational skills training, leadership development, and employment placement services to participants while performing meaningful work and service to their communities. The program model prepares participants for careers in a variety of careers, in diverse industry sectors, particularly in infrastructure sectors, and includes wrap-around services such as mentoring, trauma-informed care, personal counseling, transportation supports, and employment preparation- all key strategies for addressing gun violence in high-poverty communities. DOL encourages the use of sustainable construction and building practices and clean energy technologies for the required construction training, in addition to other career pathways such as advanced manufacturing in the Construction Plus program model. Meaningful partnerships are key to the YouthBuild model, particularly with local workforce development agencies, education and human services, and labor and industry partners. These partnerships are expected to be well-established prior to funding and provide letters of commitment to providing job opportunities. Applicants must also develop program models that align with pre-apprenticeship as defined in 20 CFR 681.480 of the Final Rule, including partnering with one or more registered apprenticeship programs and opportunities for youth to earn at least one industry-recognized credential.

**CONSTRUCTION PLUS EXPECTATIONS:** All applicants are eligible to apply as a Construction Plus program. In doing so, they must include a Construction Plus Field Proposal attachment to the project narrative. Category B applicants may only expend into one Construction Plus filed.

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: :**

1. State, city/township, county, and special district governments
2. Independent School Districts
3. Public, non-profit, and private higher education institutions
4. Public and/or Indian Housing Authorities
5. Native American Tribal Organizations
6. Non-profit organizations (with or without 501c status)

Applicants must maintain a local presence or have a key partner local presence in all identified target communities they propose to serve. All applicants for Federal grant funding must have a Unique Entity Identifier and be registered in the System for Award Management.

**ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS:** The program is targeted to youth who are:

1. Between the ages of 16 and 24 on the date of enrollment; **and**
2. A member of a low-income family (including youth experiencing housing instability), and/or a youth in foster care (including youth aging out of foster care), and/or a youth involved in the justice system and/or a youth who is an individual with a disability, and/or a child of an incarcerated parent, and/or a migrant youth; **and**
3. Left high school prior to graduation or left high school prior to graduation and have subsequently reenrolled (as provided in WIOA Sec. 171(e)(1) Eligible Participants).

Up to, but not more than, 25 percent of the participants in the program may be youth who do not meet criteria 2 or 3 above, but they must meet the following:

- Be basic skills deficient, despite attainment of a high school diploma or its state-recognized equivalent; or
- Have been referred by a local secondary school for participation in a YouthBuild or similar program leading to the attainment of a high school diploma.

**TARGET SERVICE AREA:** DOL evaluates applications on the need for program services and the need for affordable housing in the proposed service area, as determined by poverty and youth labor force participation rates across identified zip codes.

DOL expects grantees to recruit and enroll participants who reside within the service area, but up to 20 percent of enrolled participants may reside elsewhere. Work sites should be within the service area and must be within a reasonable commuting distance of the service area.

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** The grant award is over a 40-month period which includes: 1) a planning period of up to four months; 2) two years of active program services for one or more cohorts of youth; and 3) an additional twelve months of follow-up services and tracking of participant outcomes for each cohort. The expected start date for programs is June of 2024.

**COST-PER-PARTICIPANT:** is limited to \$23,000 or less (total DOL grant award divided by the total number of enrollees over the 40-month period). For example, applicants requesting \$1.5 million must enroll no fewer than 66 participants. Applicants may enroll more than the minimum number of participants.

**BUDGET and MATCH REQUIREMENTS:**

**Budget Narrative Description:** consists of costs associated with each line item on the SF-424A, including match narrative, a description of leveraged funds, costs supporting the Construction Plus component, and an explanation of how indirect costs are calculated as their cost allocation base.

**Administrative Costs (Indirect Costs):** Grantees are limited to 10% of the total grant amount.

**Required 25% Match** must identify whether match is in-kind or cash. All matching funds must be non-federal funds/resources which are allowable federal grant costs and verifiable through a letter of commitment from the source entity. Match must be necessary to accomplish program

objectives and must be fully expended on the YouthBuild program. For a worksite or value of the property or house to count as in-kind match, only the portion of match that involves direct training of YouthBuild participants can be applied toward match—not the full value of the house.

### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

DOL expects grantees to track and report on the following indicators of performance. Goals for successful applicants are as follows:

1. Education and Employment Rate (Second Quarter After Exit) – 75%
2. Education and Employment Rate (Fourth Quarter After Exit) – 70%
3. Median Earnings (Second Quarter After Exit) – \$6,000
4. Credential Attainment – 80%
5. Measurable Skill Gains – 70%
6. Effectiveness in Serving Employers – 50%
7. Percentage of Participants that enter a Registered Apprenticeship within one year of exit – 10%

### **EVALUATION and SCREENING CRITERIA:**

1. Deadline\_submission requirement is met.
2. Grant amount requested is within the range of requirements for Category A – new applicants (\$1 to \$1.5 million) and Category B – previously funded applicants (\$1 to \$2 million).
3. Cost per participant at or under \$23,000.
4. **Signed SF-424** with applicant’s UEI, Employer Identification Number (EIN), and 25% match amount on line 18b-f.
5. **SF-424A Budget Information Form** is accurately completed.
6. **Budget Narrative** including leveraged funds/resources description, and costs supporting Construction Plus.
7. **Match Narrative** including leveraged funds/resources description, and costs supporting Construction Plus.
8. **Project Narrative:** limited to 25 double-spaced, single-sided, numbered pages using Times New Roman 12-point font and 1-inch margins.
9. **Work Site Description(s) (ETA-9143):** Up to three (3) signed work site description forms including all required attachments may be submitted per applicant.
10. **Required Attachments** to Project Narrative (specifically labeled)
  - a) **Abstract** – must include up to a 2-page summary of the proposed project, scope, and outcomes which lists several pieces of information listed in the FOA.
  - b) **Work Site Form**
11. **Requested Attachments** to Project Narrative (specifically labeled)
  - a) **Past Performance Documentation** – must include Chart of Past Performance and the Grantor Verification Letter. The chart must list grantor name, project title, description,

grant number, period of performance; and name, title, organization, e-mail address, and phone number of previous grantor staff who have oversight.

- b) **Letters of Commitment or MOUs** - signed letters of commitment or Memorandum of Understanding.
- c) **Indirect Cost Rate Agreement** (if applicable), labeled NICRA.
- d) **Financial System Risk Assessment Information** (see Section V.B.2)
- e) **Source Documentation of Service Area Data**, providing printouts of sources of all data.
- f) **Proof of 501(c)3 or other Non-Profit Status**
- g) **Construction Plus Description** (Attachment C template or similar) – Category B applicants may propose only one Construction Plus industry (in addition to construction).
- h) **Zip Code Map**- as produced by <https://www.unitedstateszipcodes.org/> or a similar website.
- i) **Proof of Local Presence for Non-Contiguous Service Areas** (if applicable).

<b>Evaluation Criterion</b>	<b>Category A</b>
<b>a. Service Area</b> (Section IV.B.3.a) 1. Youth Labor Force Participation Rate 2. Poverty Rate	<b>12 Points Total</b> 6 6
<b>b. Education</b> (Section IV.B.3.b)	<b>14 Points Total</b>
<b>c. Construction and Other Occupational Skills</b> (Section IV.B.3.c) 1. Hands-On Meaningful Learning Activities 2. Connected to Education and Training	<b>10 Points Total</b> 6 4
<b>d. Leadership Development and Community Service</b> (Section IV.B.3.d)	<b>4 Points Total</b>
<b>e. Program Planning</b> (Section IV.B.3.e) 1. Staffing Strategy 2. Program Implementation	<b>8 Points Total</b> 4 4
<b>f. Supportive Services and Post-Program Follow-Up</b> (Section IV.B.3.f)	<b>8 Points Total</b>
<b>g. Partners</b> (Section IV.B.3.g) 1. Partnerships 2. Employer Engagement Strategies 3. Apprenticeship Connections	<b>16 Points Total</b> 6 6 4
<b>h. Budget, Budget Narrative and Match Narrative</b> (Section IV.B.3.h)	<b>4 Points Total</b>
<b>i. Past Performance –Category A</b> (Section IV.B.3.i) 1. Performance Outcomes 2. Spending Rate Analysis 3. Proof of Completed Unit of Housing	<b>24 Points Total</b> 21 2 1
<b>j. Past Performance – Category B</b> (Section IV.B.3.j) 1. Size and Scope 2. Performance Outcomes	<b>34 Points Total</b> 3 21
<b>j. Priority Consideration:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Educational Freedom (a charter school)</b></li> <li>• <b>Artificial Intelligence Literacy</b></li> <li>• <b>Shipbuilding</b></li> </ul>	<b>4 Points Total</b> 2 1 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>