

B. YouthBuild FAQ: Grant Application

1. Who is eligible to apply?

An organization is an eligible applicant for these grants if it is a public or private nonprofit agency or organization (including a consortium of such agencies or organizations with a designated lead applicant), including:

- Community-based organizations;
- Faith-based organizations;
- An entity carrying out activities under this WIA, such as a local workforce investment board or One-Stop Career Center;
- A community action agency;
- A state or local housing development agency;
- An Indian tribe or other agency primarily serving Indians;
- A community development corporation;
- A state or local youth service conservation corps; or
- Any other relevant public or private non-profit entity that provides education or employment training and can meet the required elements of the grant.

2. Can a state agency administering WIA apply for a YouthBuild grant?

Yes, any relevant Public entity that provides education or employment training that meet the required elements of the grant may apply. See question one of this section of these FAQs for more detail as to who is eligible to apply.

3. Can a postsecondary institution be the lead agency for a grant proposal?

Yes. See the list of eligible applicants in question one of these FAQs.

4. How long do applicants have to respond to the Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA)?

The closing date for receipt of applications under announcement SGA/DFA PY 06-08 is July 3, 2007.

5. When will YouthBuild awards be announced?

DOL anticipates making awards in Fall 2007.

6. Will applicants be required to use the electronic grants system for submitting grant applications?

Yes. Applications must be successfully submitted through www.grants.gov no later than 5 p.m. (Eastern Time). Paper applications will not be accepted. Any application received after the deadline will not be accepted.

7. If an organization registered [at grants.gov] under the old U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rules, would we have to reregister under the Department of Labor?

If you have an active account with www.grants.gov, we anticipate that the account can be used to apply for grants at the Department of Labor. However, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that it has an active, functioning account. It is strongly recommended that before the applicant begins to write the proposal, applicants immediately initiate and complete the "Get Started" steps to register at <http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted>. These steps may take several days to complete and should be factored into the plans for electronic application submission in order to avoid facing unexpected delays that could result in the rejection of the application. To ensure that the application is submitted on time, it is recommended that it is submitted multiple days before the due date in order to address any technical difficulties that may be encountered. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure timely submission. Applications should be submitted as a .doc or .pdf file.

8. Will local workforce investment boards have an advantage over other applicants?

No. All applicants will be evaluated under the same criteria.

9. Will there be a required percentage of match or leveraging?

Applicants must provide cash or in-kind resources equivalent to at least 25 percent of the grant award amount as matching funds. Please note that neither prior investments nor Federal resources may be counted as match.

10. Will technical assistance be available after the grants are awarded?

Yes.

11. If the application is not funded in this competition, can we resubmit the application for the next term?

If a grant application is not selected, some portions may be applicable to a future competition depending on the requirements of the future SGA. It cannot be resubmitted in the same competition for which it was already reviewed.

12. How can applicants obtain a sample SGA and/or further instructions on preparing an SGA for DOL programs?

ETA maintains a number of web-based resources that may be of assistance to applicants:

- The Web site for the Employment and Training Administration (<http://www.doleta.gov>) is a valuable source for background information on the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative.
- The Workforce3 One Web site (<http://www.workforce3one.org>) is a valuable resource for information about demand driven projects of the workforce investment system, educators, employers, and economic development representatives.
- America's Service Locator (www.servicelocator.org) provides a directory of the nation's One-Stop Career Centers.
- Career Voyages (www.careervoyages.com), a Web site targeted at youth, parents, counselors, and career changers, provides information about career opportunities in high-growth/high-demand industries.
- Applicants are encouraged to review "Help with Solicitation for Grant Applications" (<http://www.dol.gov/cfbc/sgabrochure.htm>).
- For a basic understanding of the grants process and basic responsibilities of receiving Federal grant support, please see "Guidance for Faith-Based and Community Organizations on Partnering with the Federal Government" (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/guidance/index.html>).

13. What documentation will DOL require for arrangements with faith-based and community agencies?

Faith-based and community organizations can be valuable partners in the YouthBuild program. These organizations may provide a variety of grant services, such as case management, mentoring, and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, and other comprehensive supportive services, when appropriate, for YouthBuild participants.

In situations where these partnerships are not supported with letters of commitment, the applicants should, at a minimum, demonstrate that the potential partner was contacted and provided a sufficient opportunity for response. It is suggested that applicants use registered mail to demonstrate such efforts.

14. It is unclear if a fully and locally financed housing site will continue to be a priority and earn 10 points, as with HUD. Will this be the case?

The YouthBuild Transfer legislation eliminates the priority for applicants who obtain housing money from other sources.

15. How are final awards made? Is geographic location considered when making awards?

The ranked scores will serve as the primary basis for selection of applications for funding, in conjunction with other factors such as urban, rural, and geographic balance; whether the areas to be served have previously received grants for YouthBuild programs; the availability of funds; and which proposals are most advantageous to the Government. The panel results are advisory in nature and not binding on the Grant Officer, and the Grant Officer may consider any information that comes to his/her attention.

16. How important will it be to have the participation of the local trade unions and apprenticeship programs?

Part of the rationale of moving the YouthBuild program to DOL is to strengthen partnerships between program operators and local workforce investment system resources, which include trade unions and entities carrying out registered apprenticeship programs, as well as other kinds of organizations. Trade unions and apprenticeship programs are strongly associated with the construction industry. Applicants will be asked to fully describe the program's relationship with local building trade unions and their role in training, the relationship of the proposed program to established registered apprenticeship programs and employers, and the ability of the applicant to grant industry recognized skills certifications through the program.