



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Amy Kapp, Public Relations Coordinator
YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School
(215) 627-8671x39 (office) or (703) 946-0041 (cell)
akapp@youthbuildphilly.org

YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School Awarded \$700,000 HUD Grant

Philadelphia, Nov. 30, 2006 – Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School as the recipient of a \$700,000 grant as part of its fiscal year 2006 funding. The grant is part of HUD's \$45,460,000 YouthBuild program intended to offer job training and leadership skills to an estimated 3,075 young people across the country. YouthBuild Philadelphia is the only program in Pennsylvania to receive HUD YouthBuild funding in 2006.

YouthBuild provides out-of-school youth a chance to earn their high school diplomas while learning vital job skills through hands-on training. Participants in YouthBuild Philadelphia's Construction Training Program learn skills as they rehabilitate housing for low-income families. YouthBuild Philadelphia rehabilitated four houses during the 2005-06 year, and has plans to rehabilitate four more houses during 2006-07.

By drawing strength from a broad base of local funding such as the Philadelphia School District and the Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD), YouthBuild Philadelphia can leverage support from governmental organizations like HUD.

The announcement of the 2006 HUD grant recipients marks a transition of the Youthbuild program from HUD to the Department of Labor (DOL). The transfer represents the fulfillment of a 2003 White House Task Force Report on Disadvantaged Youth and resulted in the passage of *The Youthbuild Transfer Act*, signed by President Bush in September.

###

YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School is a not-for-profit organization that provides out-of-school youth in Philadelphia the broadest range of tools, supports and opportunities available to become self-sufficient, responsible and productive citizens. YouthBuild Philadelphia offers an innovative 10-month program, which blends a rigorous academic curriculum with valuable community service experience and on-the-job training in construction or technology.

Students at YouthBuild Philadelphia can earn their high school diplomas and make successful transitions to full-time jobs, post-secondary educations, or further service with AmeriCorps. For more information, visit www.youthbuildphilly.org.