

21st Century Scholars Certificate



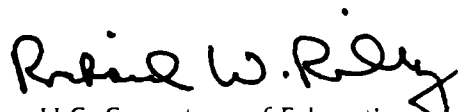
Presented to

Congratulations on the progress you are making in preparing for college.

If you work hard, take challenging courses, and plan, you can go to college and realize your dreams.

If you were a high school senior today, you could expect to receive more than \$22,000 in Federal support for college over 4 years. Learn about the many other ways to help pay for college. You can do it.
To make college a reality for you, start now.

Never have any doubt that if you do your part, you can, in fact, go to college.


U.S. Secretary of Education

1999-2000


President of the United States

Go to college. Make a better living. Make a better world.

Federal Resources Available for Students Whose Family Income is \$25,000 or Lower

Maximum and average amounts for school year 1999-2000*

Help each year from the U.S. Department of Education:

AWARD	MAXIMUM	AVERAGE
Pell Grant (not to be repaid)	\$3,125	\$2,540

Some students are eligible for additional assistance each year from one or more of these sources from the U.S. Department of Education:

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (not to be repaid)	\$4,000	\$1,090
Work-Study	Varies with college	\$1,040
Perkins Loan	\$4,000	\$1,540
Stafford Loan	\$2,625 (for 1 st year of college/university)	\$2,575 (for 1 st year of college/university)

Today's high school seniors can expect to receive more than \$22,000 in Federal support over 4 years to help pay for college. Help can come from many sources and in different combinations: grants (which you do not pay back), work-study (which you earn by working part-time), and low-interest student loans (which you must pay back). Additional money could come from scholarships, from your State, from various organizations, and from the college or university you will attend.

* For students attending a four-year public or private college/university or two-year community college full-time.

(This certificate is intended to provide information only; it is not a guarantee of any Federal or other funding. For more information to help you plan for college, see your school guidance counselor, visit your local library, call 1-800-4FED-AID, or visit the U.S. Department of Education web site at www.ed.gov/thinkcollege.)

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Rhine W. Riley
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William J. Clinton
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\$45 million

Memo to Nancy Hoit
From Dorothy Stoneman
Re: Status of YouthBuild appropriation
10/24/99

Last week the President signed the HUD, VA and Independent Agencies appropriations bill, in which the funding for HUD's YouthBuild program was level-funded at \$42.5 million for FY2000.

The Administration's original budget request was \$75 million for YouthBuild. Fifty (50) Senators and one hundred thirteen (113) Representatives signed letters that had bi-partisan sponsorship in both the House and the Senate, supporting the President's request of \$75 million for YouthBuild.

Level funding only supports about one half of the 129 existing YouthBuild programs.

There is still one chance to correct the damage in the next few days. If Vice President Al Gore tells John Podesta that he wants YouthBuild to receive \$32.5 M in the omnibus bill this could be done.

More Background About YouthBuild's Funding

This will be the fourth year that HUD will be able to fund less than half of the existing YouthBuild programs. HUD holds a YouthBuild competition each year, no program can predict its funding for more than one year. This creates constant uncertainty and flux in the field.

While YouthBuild directors have been resourceful at preserving their programs with local funds during the years they do not win HUD funding, the continuous underfunding and fluctuation in funding of existing programs is undermining both their reach and quality. More and more directors are giving up and closing their doors. Last week YouthBuilds in Kennebec Valley (ME) and Lane County (OR) closed permanently. They were both excellent programs, serving rural poor white students.

Outcomes for YouthBuild programs continue to show that 60% of enrollees complete the 11 month full-time program and 84% enter college or gain jobs with an average wage of \$7.57/hour. 42% also obtain their GED or diploma. These are unusually good results for programs working with the youth who have previously dropped out of school. Seventy percent of the students are young men; 65% Black, 12% Latino, 1% Native American, 21% White.

While most policy-makers urge funding programs that work, and replicating them to scale, the Congress is doing the opposite. Shrinking and starving the YouthBuild network is extremely poor public policy when the need for out-of-school youth to find a path back into productive education and employment is urgent not only for them and their communities but for the economy.

There is, for example, a current shortage of 200,000 construction workers. Employers in numerous other industries are knocking on YouthBuild's doors seeking graduates. Meanwhile over 4 million youth are on the streets with no employment prospects because they have no path to these opportunities.

The twin facts that there is a budget surplus and a widening gap between rich and poor should propel policymakers to fund initiatives like YouthBuild that have bi-partisan support and that can enable poor people to be productively employed.

Political Background

YouthBuild was originally passed under Jack Kemp and George Bush. It was embraced by Henry Cisneros and funded at the highest levels authorized in 1994 and 1995. In 1996 the Administration zeroed it out as did the House of Representatives. John Kerry and Kit Bond saved it. John Kerry was its author and has been its consistent champion. He is beloved in the YouthBuild network and had he run for president there would have been eager volunteers in 49 States grateful to him for his consistent, unselfish, and reliable support. Andrew Cuomo understands and praises YouthBuild; but has not been known to fight for it in the clutch compared to other priorities.

YouthBuild has enormous support in the African American community because it addresses the issues of young African American men better than any other program. Major Owens, John Lewis, Charles Rangel, and Kweisi Mfume have actively supported it. The Urban League is a member of the YouthBuild Coalition. Kit Bond's support for YouthBuild, and lots of publicity for this support, helped gain him the African American acceptance that helped him win re-election. Similarly, people in Massachusetts YouthBuild programs came out for John Kerry on their own time during his tight re-election.

Senator Bradley was a supporter of YouthBuild as Senator of New Jersey, and visited the New Hampshire YouthBuild program in January, 1999. His photograph hugging a YouthBuild student was publicized widely that week. But he has made no public recommendations about its future so far and has not yet been approached by the YouthBuild Coalition for his support.

Representative Bill Goodling and Senator Mike DeWine are the leading Republican champions of YouthBuild. It has no enemies or detractors. It is widely respected in the non-profit and social services communities, having been named in a dozen recent books as a program that works and having been selected by the President's Commission on Race as a Best Practice. The President of YouthBuild USA was given a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship in 1996 for her work with YouthBuild. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation gave YouthBuild USA \$4 million last week; the Ford Foundation sponsored a YouthBuild Policy Forum last week at which Harris Wofford and Eli Segal spoke. Marion Wright Edelman and General Colin Powell both spoke at the YouthBuild 20th Anniversary last week; the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation just gave YouthBuild USA \$250,000 to plan how it would bring this program to a much larger number of students in more locations. The Vice President included a YouthBuild student and a director as speakers at the Family Reunion this past April.

Both Eli Segal and Harris Wofford have visited several YouthBuild programs and could provide additional information if needed. About 40 YouthBuild programs receive funds or education awards from AmeriCorps. The backbone funding, however, goes through HUD.

The YouthBuild Coalition has 650 member organizations in 49 states. YouthBuild programs have graduated about 20,000 students. The YouthBuild newsletter has a mailing list of 15,000. YouthBuild USA organizes regular voter registration campaigns, and has an alumni association. There are YouthBuild Coalitions in 14 States and YouthBuild legislation has already been passed in Massachusetts, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Texas, California, Minnesota, and Washington. Both Republican and Democratic Governors have supported it.

The Vice President has nothing to lose and a lot to gain from stepping in on behalf of this proven and widely respected program that has bi-partisan support and addresses cutting edge problems of low income community development, education, and workforce development. The amount of money at stake is trivial - \$32.5 million - but the visibility, credibility, and energy tied up in this is surprisingly large. The YouthBuild Coalition has worked hard to get Administration and bi-partisan support, and to get the 50 Senators and 113 Representatives signed on this year. They will be extremely disappointed if the program is not fully funded, and extremely grateful if it is.

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