

YouthBuild Convening Agenda

March 10–12, 2026 • 1–4:30 p.m. ET • Virtual

The Convening will be hosted on the Zoom meetings platform. Please plan to [join](#) by 12:45 p.m. ET so we can begin promptly at 1 p.m. ET with opening remarks from Marek Laco, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor.

Below, you can view all the session details we're offering over the next few days.

At-A-Glance Agenda

Day One, March 10, 2026	Day Two, March 11, 2026	Day Three, March 12, 2026
1 – 1:20 p.m. Welcome & Opening Remarks 1:20 – 2:30 p.m. From Pre-Apprenticeship to Career: Strategic YouthBuild Partnership Opportunities 2:45 – 4:15 p.m. DOL Grant Compliance Checkpoint 4:15 – 4:30 p.m. Wrap-up and Day Two Reminders	1 – 1:20 p.m. Welcome & Reflections 1:20 – 2:30 p.m. Establishing Data Management Strategies 2:45 – 4:15 p.m. Workshops ➤ Math and Reading Strategies to Improve Credential Attainment ➤ Building Competencies, Powering Career Readiness ➤ Assessing Workforce Readiness 4:15 – 4:30 p.m. Wrap-up and Day Three Reminders	1 – 1:20 p.m. Welcome & Reflections 1:20 – 2:30 p.m. A.I. Literacy Education for YouthBuild 2:45 – 4:15 p.m. Workshops ➤ Math and Reading Strategies to Improve Credential Attainment ➤ Building Competencies, Powering Career Readiness ➤ Assessing Workforce Readiness 4:15 – 4:30 p.m. Evaluation and Closing Remarks

Detailed Agenda

Day One — March 10, 2026

1 – 1:20 p.m. | Welcome & Opening Remarks

Marek Laco, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

1:20 – 2:30 p.m. | From Pre-Apprenticeship to Career: Strategic YouthBuild Partnership Opportunities

This session equips YouthBuild programs with practical strategies to build, sustain, and strengthen programmatic partnerships that connect participants to high-quality training, employment, and Registered Apprenticeship (RA) opportunities. Attendees will explore the value in maintaining strong partnerships with employers, workforce systems, and education partners for successful career preparation. A discussion focused on partnership sustainability will highlight how intentional interactions with key stakeholders can create clear, attainable opportunities for youth while deepening long-term collaboration. Programs with strong pre-apprenticeship pipelines and well-established partnerships will share concrete practices and lessons learned that other programs could adapt locally.

The session will also feature U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) guidance on Section 3, with a focus on how YouthBuild programs might leverage the requirements to expand training and employment opportunities for participants. Attendees will gain practical insights, peer examples, and steps they can take to connect to RA opportunities. This is designed to help programs become local workforce champions in building stronger connections between youth, employers, and community partners.

Antonio L. McKoy, Senior Director, Workforce Development, YouthBuild Global

Jasmy Methipara, Section 3 Program Manager, Office of Field Policy and Management, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. | Break

2:45 – 4:15 p.m. | DOL Grant Compliance Checkpoint

DOL YouthBuild program office staff will review agency priorities, check in on grant timelines and upcoming milestones, refresh your knowledge of performance indicators, and highlight useful resources to help attendees finish their grant strong.

Amanda Brenner, Workforce Analyst —YouthBuild, Division of Youth Services, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

Jeff Hunt, Director—YouthBuild, Division of Youth Services, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

Barbara Poindexter Webb, Workforce Development Specialist —YouthBuild, Division of Youth Services, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

4:15 – 4:30 p.m. | Wrap-up and Day Two Reminders

Day Two — March 11, 2026

1 – 1:20 p.m. | Welcome & Reflections

Tiffany Murphy, Vice President, DOL YouthBuild Program Impact, YouthBuild Global

1:20 – 2:30 p.m. | Establishing Data Management Strategies

Data isn't just for reporting performance measures. Strengthening a data mindset can support the short and long-term impact programs have on participants. Reaching these goals starts with good data tracking habits. Understanding the participants you serve, how you serve them, and their performance are all valuable insights. In this session, we will talk about what type of information is most helpful to monitor, low-tech ways to keep track of program data not captured in the Grantee Performance Management System (GPMS), and how to make strategic decisions based on patterns, successes, and challenges. Being able to access real-time program data is a habit that makes it easier to stay on track with performance outcomes, make informed decisions to improve program effectiveness, and demonstrate impact for optimal fundraising and sustainability efforts.

Antoinette Delmonico, Vice President, Impact and Learning, YouthBuild Global

Kurt Von Stetten, Director, Data Services, YouthBuild Global

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. | Break and Transition

2:45 – 4:15 p.m. | Workshops

► Math and Reading Strategies to Improve Credential Attainment

This session will focus on sharing effective instructional strategies for math and reading that can positively improve participants' basic skills, engagement, and credential attainment. Lessons that integrate academics, construction, C+ training tracks, and other program components will be included. All activities and lessons will be participant-centered and designed to better engage youth in their own learning. Attendees will discover ways to involve all staff members in educational instruction. Attendees will review the benefits of Project Based Learning (PBL) and contribute to a PBL unit framework relevant to their programs by sharing and reflecting on promising practices.

Mendy Poole, Senior Research Project Manager, YouthBuild Global

► Building Competencies, Powering Career Readiness

This session will explore how competency-based education (CBE) can serve as a practical framework to prepare participants for successful career entry. By focusing on demonstrated skills, CBE helps youth translate classroom learning and job training into skills-based resumes, stronger interviews, and clearer alignment with employer expectations. This session will also highlight how project-based learning, digital skill-building, and thoughtful use of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) support job readiness while reinforcing youth confidence and agency. Programs will examine how CBE helps integrate hands-on training and leadership development into a more cohesive program design. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to better align instruction, training, and career readiness in ways that strengthen placement, retention, and long-term career growth.

Antonio L. McKoy, Senior Director, Workforce Development, YouthBuild Global

► Assessing Workforce Readiness

This session will focus on a collaborative, whole-staff approach to supporting participants preparing for sustainable placements in their career pathways. Grantees will learn practical strategies for engaging all staff members in a process that positively influences and assesses participants' readiness for placement. The session will also build effective skills in using structured evaluation tools, observation, and informed professional judgement to assess readiness, while gaining a clearer understanding of how these indicators align with appropriate placement decisions.

Additionally, attendees will explore the wide range of available placement options, from opportunities for youth who are navigating challenges and may not be ready for placement, to entry-level and more advanced apprenticeship placements. Grantees will learn how to match these various placements to individual career pathways in a way that supports progression and long-term outcomes. Programs will be equipped to implement a participant-centered placement process in which all staff contribute to the outcomes.

Jeaneen West, DOL YouthBuild TA Coach

4:15 – 4:30 p.m. | Wrap-up and Day Three Reminders

Day Three — March 12, 2026

1 – 1:20 p.m. | Welcome & Reflections

Jeff Hunt, Director—YouthBuild, Division of Youth Services, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

1:20 – 2:30 p.m. | A.I. Literacy Education for YouthBuild

DOL program office staff will share resources for timely and responsible implementation of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) literacy education in YouthBuild programs. Using a skills-based job readiness lens, attendees will learn ways to integrate A.I. literacy education in the classroom, vocational labs, and on work sites, as well as labor market information on automation and industry outlook in construction and beyond. Attendees will receive sample documents, free curricula options, lesson plans, and online learning resources.

Amanda Brenner, Workforce Analyst —YouthBuild, Division of Youth Services, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

Jeff Hunt, Director—YouthBuild, Division of Youth Services, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

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Jeanene West, DOL YouthBuild TA Coach

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