To: DOL YouthBuild Grantees, Recipients of HUD Funding, Contractors, and Registered Apprenticeship Sponsors

The purpose of this joint letter is to alert you to important information regarding the YouthBuild Program stemming from a partnership between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). The goals of this partnership are to: 1) strengthen local registered apprenticeship opportunities for graduates from DOL's YouthBuild Program, and 2) connect contractors working on the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Section 3-covered HUD-funded projects with Registered Apprenticeship sponsors and local YouthBuild programs.

DOL's YouthBuild Program provides employment and training opportunities for disadvantaged or at-risk youth[1] by utilizing a variety of pre-apprenticeship curriculums that support the achievement of industry-recognized credentials upon the completion of training. In addition, the YouthBuild Program provides a menu of work readiness skills for all of its participants through occupational skills training in construction or other in-demand occupations. As a program that helps to place more disadvantaged young people on the path to successful careers, YouthBuild is also an important part of the Department's efforts to support the President's My Brother's Keeper Initiative which creates partnerships with local businesses and foundations to connect boys and young men of color to mentoring, support networks, and skills they need to find a good job or continue on to post-secondary education.

Section 3 requires recipients of certain HUD funding to direct jobs, training and contracting opportunities to local low income persons and business that substantially employ those persons. YouthBuild participants are identified as a priority category of persons to receive opportunities under Section 3 in addition to other local low- and very low-income persons who receive federal assistance for housing. This natural alignment of programmatic goals led to the HUD-DOL partnership to coordinate efforts to better serve YouthBuild participants. Contractors and registered apprenticeship sponsors that hire YouthBuild graduates will increase the competitiveness of their proposals when bidding on HUD-funded construction projects.

We strongly encourage registered apprenticeship sponsors, contractors, and YouthBuild program administrators to work together to create local registered apprenticeship opportunities for

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[1] The primary target populations for YouthBuild are adjudicated youth, youth aging out of foster care, out-of-school youth, and other at-risk youth populations.

YouthBuild participants upon graduation on HUD-funded construction projects. YouthBuild program administrators are prepared to market the availability of training opportunities to Section 3 residents located in their immediate area, particularly those who reside in HUD-assisted public housing.

Collaboration with the Registered Apprenticeship community is a proven way for contractors to enhance placements for YouthBuild graduates seeking sustainable careers, and an effective strategy to enable public housing agencies and other HUD grantees to fulfill their Section 3 obligations. We look forward to a long-standing partnership aimed at the training and placement of YouthBuild graduates on HUD-funded construction projects and ask for your support in meeting this goal.

Sincerely,

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