

NEWS ...

from the Illinois House of Representatives

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Rep. Luis Arroyo
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ARROYO PASSES BILL TO FUND YOUTHBUILD

Bill heads to the Senate in hopes of providing Illinois youth more positive alternatives

SPRINGFIELD – State Rep. Luis Arroyo (D-Chicago) on Wednesday passed House Bill 13 out of the House that appropriates \$5,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for YouthBuild Programs for Fiscal Year 2010.

“I am very happy to pass legislation which prepares our state’s young adults for training in a whole array of areas: green jobs, in partnership with unions, business and communities” Arroyo said. “I am a strong supporter of this initiative and hope to bring this program to my district. YouthBuild saves the state a lot of money when compared to incarceration. YouthBuild has proven results teaching at-risk youth the concepts of responsibility, leadership and much needed business skills as they rehab homes and then in turn sells low-cost housing on the market.”

YouthBuild Illinois programs are administered by local communities and it prepares youth aged 16-24 for real world challenges by focusing on achieving academic goals while also helping them to develop job skills necessary to build homes for low-income families. YouthBuild Illinois is a rigorous, year-long program which brings much needed hope to adolescents who dropped out of school, are unemployed and/or have limited job skills.

“We are grateful for the support of the General Assembly and the sponsors of HB013, authorizing additional funding for YouthBuild in Illinois,” said Kerry Knodle, Founder and Executive Director. He added, “Especially in times of economic distress, it makes sense to invest funds in programs like YouthBuild which offer significant return on that investment. In addition to the costs not incurred in the form of incarceration, welfare and unemployment, YouthBuild programs actually generate income in communities in the form of increased property value and taxes, jobs for local young people and wages for construction workers, and significant long term earnings improvement.”

House Bill 13 passed the House chamber on an 81-32-0 vote and will now be considered by the Illinois Senate. For more information on House Bill 13, please call Arroyo’s constituent service office at (773) 637-2000 or visit www.ilga.gov.

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