



Coconino County News Release—For Immediate Release

From: Coconino County Board of Supervisors
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Coconino YouthBuild—*Building Youth, Homes & Community*

Flagstaff, Az. – At their December 18 meeting, the Coconino County Board of Supervisors will accept a \$1.1 million dollar award from the U.S. Department of Labor to operate a YouthBuild



project in the Sunnyside and Southside communities of Flagstaff. Accepting this award allows the County to provide solutions to compelling community issues such as affordable workforce housing, training youth for high wage construction jobs and in green construction techniques, and reversing the trend of local youth who leave town to pursue education or employment.

“YouthBuild allows the County to fill the gap in “green collar” construction jobs while promoting a sustainable community through energy efficient housing,” said Carl Taylor, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Coconino YouthBuild provides job training and educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth. Over a two year period, students ages 17-24 will receive education and job training while building or repairing housing for low income families in their own neighborhood. Participants will divide their time between the construction site and the classroom, where they will earn their GED or high school diploma and an Alternative Energy Technical Certificate from the Community College. They will also learn to become community leaders and prepare for post-secondary education and/or training opportunities. The program also includes additional support systems, such as mentoring, child care and personal counseling services.

Coconino YouthBuild will provide job training via three inter-related activities—workplace skills classes; a Coconino Community College construction skills certificate program; and a construction internship made possible through collaboration with BOTHANDS Inc.

Key partners include the Coconino Career Center, Coconino Community College, BOTHANDS, Inc., Southside/Sunnyside Weed & Seed Coalition, NAU Learn Center, Northern Arizona Builders Association, NACA, City of Flagstaff, FUSD and the Carpenter’s Union.

Community benefits from YouthBuild include the construction of two new homes, which will be sold at a reduced price to low income families, and weatherizing eight homes for low income residents. Outcomes for the youth depend upon their needs and goals, and will include a high school diploma or GED, a construction certificate from the Community College, local employment, and access to additional training, education or the military.

For more information, please contact Career Center Director Carol Curtis at (928) 522-7900; toll-free (877) 358-6714; email ccurtis@coconino.az.gov;##