

Education and Employment for Young Adults

YouthBuild

isles

Self-Reliant Communities

Institute

Trenton, New Jersey

February 28, 2011

Isles YouthBuild Institute (IYI)

- **Mission: Build self-reliance and healthy neighborhoods through education, vocational training and life skills**
- Started in 1995, target underserved, mostly out-of-school youth (ages 16-24).



Why IYI?

- Failing school system
 - 50% of 9th graders in Trenton will not graduate
- 38% of Trenton residents lack a high school diploma
- Gap between education system and justice system – who is responsible?
- Incarceration - multiple costs
- Needed workforce
- Focus is on charters, early intervention – these are role models, parents, worth investing in!

4 Essential Components

- Academics
- Life Skills & Leadership Training
- Vocational training
- Transition Services



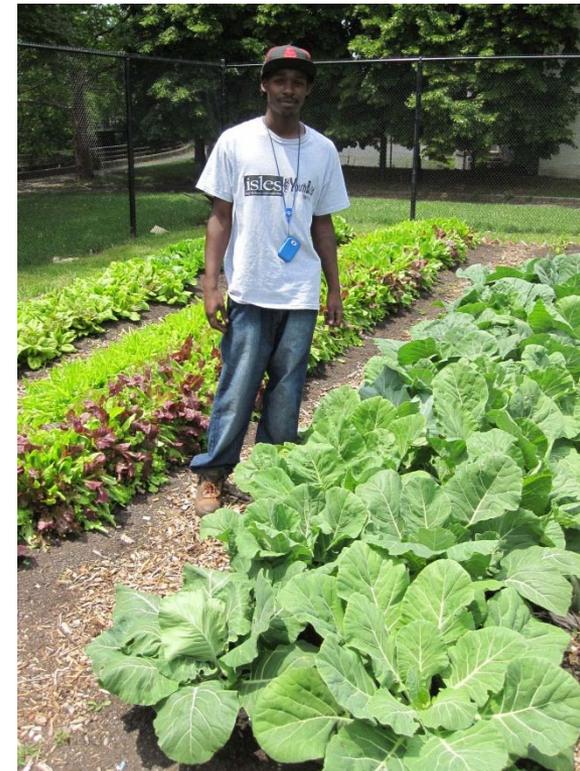
Academics



- High School Diploma Cohort
- Daytime and Evening GED
- S.A.T Preparation
- Summer School and Enrichment
- Tutoring Services

Life Skills & Leadership Training

- Mentoring
- Evening Program
- YouthGrow
- Project EXSEL
- Americorps
- Partnerships



Vocational Training

Construction

- PACT Curriculum
- Home Renovations
- Trenton Housing Authority
- Morven



Transition Support Services

- College Counseling
- Career Interest Exploration
- Job Development and Coaching
- Internships
- Job Placement
- Alumni Services



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Return on Investment

- Academic Impact
 - 75% in college or employed at an average wage of \$10.00 per hour – up to 7yrs
- Economic Impact
 - A minimum of \$10.80 and up to \$43.90 for every dollar spent on a court-involved youth

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Return on Investment

- For each group of YouthBuild graduates, the state receives:
 - \$350,000/year in additional state tax revenues.
 - \$1.2 million in reduction of state prison costs
- Resulting in \$1.5 million in direct benefits to the state

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A Formative Evaluation of YouthBuild Demonstration

YouthBuild had
the highest level
of GED
achievement
when compared
to other nationally
recognized youth
programs.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Demand for Services

In 2009 18,600 students were turned away for lack of funds for YouthBuild.



Additional Supports



- Case Management
- Counseling
- Food Pantry
- Referral Services
- Childcare Resources

Recent Successes

College enrollment:

- Cheney University
- Bloomfield College
- Mercer County Community College

Internships:

- Water's Edge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center
- Marriot Hotels & Resorts
- Trenton Thunder
- TD Bank
- Johnson & Jones Architects
- Rider University
- Scozzari General Contractors