



Employment Resources Incorporated

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ERI Partners with Local Agencies on Federal YouthBuild Project

(Fredericksburg, VA) – Employment Resources Incorporated (ERI) in Fredericksburg, Virginia in partnership with the Bay Consortium Workforce Invest Board (WIB) in Area XIII, Job Assistance Center, and the National Home Builders Association has been funded to operate a proven construction training and education program called Youthbuild. The program will be operated out of Tappahannock and serve the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula regions of Virginia.

The partners will serve disadvantaged high school dropouts between the ages of 18-24 years old who reside in the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck regions. “Youthbuild is a federally funded program that provides high school diploma preparation, construction trade skills and prepares the youth for employment in the construction industry,” said Joan McLaughlin, President of Employment Resources Incorporated. The agencies will operate the program under a new federal grant of \$1,069,000.00 from the Department of Labor (DOL).

ERI and Job Assistance Center partnered in 2004 and 2006 for two grants and

provided Youthbuild program services as funded by The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the counties of the Northern Neck. This new partnership will work closely with Northern Neck-Middle Peninsula Community Services Board and The Bay Area Agency on Aging (Bay Aging) to help disabled, as well as elderly and disadvantaged seniors in need of housing repairs. Students in the Youthbuild program will be instructed and supervised by staff employed by the National Home Builders Association. The students will complete their training courses and be awarded national certifications.

In October 2007, ERI was highlighted as a Best Practice program by Heartlands International and received a written accolade from the Director of HUD's Richmond, Virginia office for excellent performance in the areas of academic and occupational skills attainment, job placement and job retention. ERI is now in the final stages of becoming an Accredited Affiliate through YouthBuild USA which is awarded to programs who meet rigorous standards. Job Assistance Center has provided workforce services in the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck regions for the past twenty years and operates a One-Stop Workforce Center in Shaklesfords. Located in Warsaw VA, The Bay Consortium Workforce Board provides supervision and fiscal oversight for numerous federally funded workforce programs throughout the Fredericksburg, Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and Eastern Shore Counties.

Employment Resources Incorporated (ERI) is a private not-for-profit organization with offices located in Fredericksburg, Virginia that serves the city of Fredericksburg and multiple cities and counties in the region. ERI operates the Gladys H. Oberle School in Fredericksburg, a licensed and fully-accredited private, special education alternative day school for middle and high age children. Its mission is to provide youth with the education and skills they need to become successfully employed, self-sufficient and contributing members of their community. ERI also provides employment training programs and services

to the adult workforce and employers in their service region. ERI is a partner in the Fredericksburg Workforce Center. Applications will be available after April 1, 2001 by contacting ERI at 540-372-6710; Job Assistance Center at 804-785-2470; or the Bay WIB at 800582-7292.

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