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**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**  
Office of Community Planning and Development

Andrew Cuomo, Secretary

Cardell Cooper, Assistant Secretary

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# **EZ/EC News Flash**

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**Flash #52**

**November 1, 2000**

## **EZ/ECs ARE WINNERS IN YOUTHBUILD COMPETITION**

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2000, \$40 million in Youthbuild Program Grants were awarded to 78 of the 234 organizations that applied for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding. Youthbuild provides grants to non-profit organizations on a competitive basis in order to assist high-risk youth between the ages of 16-24 to learn housing construction job skills and to complete their high school education. The participating youth enhance their skills as they construct and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for low- and moderate-income persons.

This type of program is very important to EZ/ECs for a couple of key reasons. First, when a Youthbuild program is implemented in an EZ/EC, value is added to that community through the enrichment and training of youth residents and through the creation and/or rehabilitation of affordable housing. Another key reason Youthbuild is relevant to the EZ/ECs is that any organization within an EZ/EC is automatically awarded 2 bonus points when applying for the Youthbuild Grant. Similarly, many federal grant competitions award EZ/ECs or organizations within EZ/ECs preferential consideration.

Of the 78 organizations that were awarded Youthbuild funds, 24 are located within an EZ/EC - a full 30%! Their combined awarded funds for this year's Youthbuild Competition comes to an impressive 12.5 million dollars. For more information on previous competitions or the Youthbuild 2001 competition, please contact Jackie W. Mitchell in the HUD Office of Community Planning and Development at (202)708-2290, or check the website at <http://www.youthbuild.org>. We hope that next year's competition proves to be as beneficial to the EZ/ECs as this year's, so don't forget to get the word out!

Once again, congratulations to the 24 Youthbuild 2000 winner organizations within the following EZ/ECs states or communities:

Los Angeles, CA; Washington, D.C.; Chicago, Illinois; Gary, IN; Lowell, MA; Detroit, MI; Minneapolis, MN; St. Louis, MO; Portland, OR; Providence, RI; Sumter, SC; Memphis, TN; Houston, TX; Norfolk, VA; Burlington, VT; and Seattle, WA.

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