

**SB0821**



**99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**State of Illinois**

**2015 and 2016**

**SB0821**

Introduced 2/5/2015, by Sen. Terry Link

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

20 ILCS 1315/15

Amends the Illinois Youthbuild Act. Directs the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Human Services (instead of only the Secretary of Human Services) to make grants to applicants for the purpose of carrying out Youthbuild programs. Effective immediately.

LRB099 03541 KTG 23549 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

**A BILL FOR**

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Youthbuild Act is amended by  
5 changing Section 15 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 1315/15)

7 Sec. 15. Program requirements. The Department of Juvenile  
8 Justice, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity,  
9 the Department of Corrections, the Department of  
10 Transportation, and the Department of Human Services Secretary  
11 shall, subject to appropriation, make grants to applicants for  
12 the purpose of carrying out Youthbuild programs as approved  
13 under this Section. All programs funded pursuant to the  
14 provisions of this Section shall reflect strong youth and  
15 community involvement. In addition, funding provided under  
16 this Section shall be used by each Youthbuild program to  
17 provide, at a minimum, the following services:

18 (a) Acquisition, rehabilitation, acquisition and  
19 rehabilitation, or construction of housing and related  
20 facilities to be used for the purpose of providing home  
21 ownership for disadvantaged persons, residential housing  
22 for homeless individuals, and low-income and very  
23 low-income families, or transitional housing for persons

1 who are homeless, have disabilities, are ill, are  
2 deinstitutionalized, or have special needs, and  
3 rehabilitation or construction of community facilities  
4 owned by not-for-profit or public agencies.

5 (b) Integrated education and job skills training  
6 services and activities which are evenly divided within the  
7 program, with 50% of students' time spent in  
8 classroom-based instruction, counseling, and leadership  
9 development instruction and 50% of their time spent in  
10 experiential training on the construction site. The  
11 programs shall include, at a minimum, the following  
12 elements:

13 (1) An education component which includes basic  
14 skills instruction, secondary education services, and  
15 other activities designed to lead to the attainment of  
16 a high school diploma or its equivalent. The curriculum  
17 for this component shall include math, language arts,  
18 vocational education, life skills training, social  
19 studies related to the cultural and community history  
20 of the students, leadership skills, and other topics at  
21 the discretion of the programs. Bilingual services  
22 shall be available for individuals with  
23 limited-English proficiency. The desired minimum  
24 teacher to student ratio shall be one teacher for every  
25 18 students.

26 (2) A work experience and skills training

1 component program that includes the construction and  
2 rehabilitation activities described in subsection (a).  
3 The process of construction must be coupled with skills  
4 training and with close on-site supervision by  
5 experienced trainers. The curriculum for this  
6 component shall contain a set of locally agreed upon  
7 skills and competencies that are systematically  
8 taught, with a student's mastery assessed individually  
9 on a regular, ongoing basis. Safety skills shall be  
10 taught at the outset. The desired trainer to student  
11 ratio shall be one trainer for every 7 students. The  
12 work experience and skills training component shall be  
13 coordinated to the maximum extent feasible with  
14 preapprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.

15 (3) Assistance in attaining post secondary  
16 education and required financial aid shall be made  
17 available to participants prior to graduation.

18 (c) Counseling services designed to assist  
19 participants to positively participate in society, which  
20 should include all of the following if necessary: outreach,  
21 assessment, and orientation; individual and peer  
22 counseling; life skills training, drug and alcohol abuse  
23 education and prevention; and referral to appropriate drug  
24 rehabilitation, medical, mental health, legal, housing,  
25 and other services and resources in the community. The  
26 desired counselor to participant ratio shall be one

1 counselor for every 28 students.

2 (d) Leadership development training that provides  
3 participants with meaningful opportunities to develop  
4 leadership skills such as decision making, problem  
5 solving, and negotiating. The program must also encourage  
6 participants to develop strong peer group ties that support  
7 their mutual pursuit of skills and values.

8 All programs must establish a youth council in which  
9 participants are afforded opportunities to develop public  
10 speaking and negotiating skills, and management and policy  
11 making participation in specific aspects of the program.

12 (e) Stipends and wages. A training subsidy, living  
13 allowance, or stipend that will be no less than minimum  
14 wage must be provided to program participants for the time  
15 spent at the worksite in construction training. For those  
16 participants who receive public assistance, this training  
17 subsidy, living allowance, or stipend will not affect their  
18 housing benefits, medical benefits, child care benefits or  
19 food stamp benefits. Stipends and wages may be distributed  
20 in a manner that offers incentives for good performance.

21 (f) Full time participation in a Youthbuild program  
22 shall be offered for a period of not less than 6 months and  
23 not more than 24 months.

24 (g) A concentrated effort shall be made to find  
25 construction, construction-related, and nonconstruction  
26 jobs for all graduates of the program who have performed

1 well. The skills training curriculum shall provide  
2 participants with basic preparation for seeking and  
3 maintaining a job. Follow-up counseling and assistance in  
4 job-seeking shall also be provided to participants for at  
5 least 12 months following graduation from the program.

6 (h) All programs serving 28 trainees or more are  
7 required to have a full-time director responsible for the  
8 coordination of all aspects of the Youthbuild program.

9 (Source: P.A. 95-524, eff. 8-28-07.)

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
11 becoming law.