



# Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc.

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**John David Arnold, Ph.D.**  
Chief Executive Officer & Founder

**“Si Se Puede”**

**Gertha Brown-Hurd**  
President

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February 28, 2019

To: Mayor, Council & City Administrator:

Mayor, Council Members, and City Administrator, I would first like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your continued support of the PPEP YouthBuild Program. We are now in our 18<sup>th</sup> year of operation and could not have accomplished what we have done without your commitment and partnership in YouthBuild.

Over the years, we have made a difference in the lives of hundreds of almost 300 youth in the South County area and specifically San Luis. In previous years we have only been able to serve 10 -15 youth per cohort, but because of continued funding and an increase in funding last year from the City to Match AmeriCorps and DOL NFJP funding we we are able to increase that to 20 youth per cohort.

This past year, the city was very generous and increased the match amount to 30,000; therefore, we would like to request that same amount for the coming year to match the AmeriCorps program, which allows each youth participant to leave the program with a 1600.00 college scholarship. With the AmeriCorps program there is a 50% match required in order to apply for these funds and the City of San Luis grant each year has covered these costs, as well as the ability to pay for other youth training that the grant does not allow and is important for certifications and skill development. San Luis grants have also allowed youth to go on several trips to visit the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and other community colleges for youth leadership seminars.

Over the past 18 years, PPEP has graduated approximate 216 youth with an 80% completion rate and the attendance rate is at a consistent 94%. The GED completion rate is consistently 78% and an 82% placement rate for students working or going to full time college. With all things considered, PPEP has stayed within the common measures put in place by its funding sources. We continue to strive to increase these percentages and provide leadership development for youth in the San Luis area. Over the past 18 years we have completed over 150 housing rehab projects, and constructed 54 new homes for low income residents of the San Luis community.

We continue to partner with many community organizations to provide community services activities that are worthwhile and give a wide variety of positive experiences for youth and of course we continue to build low income affordable housing and rehabilitation projects for those in need.

**Program benefits:** Through this program agencies work together in partnership for a common good. Youth have the ability to become productive citizens within their community and each partner plays a part in

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this transformation. The program truly brings affordability to low income affordable housing projects and to rehab projects with a reduction in labor costs to the partners and the ability to do more with current funding, as it leverages costs.

We believe that together through the YouthBuild program, we can help to instill value, promote partners efforts with a Return on Investment (ROI) in the housing, and rehab industry and community participation. It takes a village to make positive change, and we cannot do it alone. Together we make a difference in the lives of young people.

If you have any questions or need further documentation, please feel free to contact me at any time. We believe in this program and guarantee a Return on Investment to everyone who collaborates with this worthwhile program. My information is below.

Sincerely,

*Kari Hogan*

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