



## Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc.

Multi Service Center

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**John David Arnold, Ph.D.**

Chief Executive Officer & Founder

**“Si Se Puede”**

**Gertha Brown-Hurd**

President

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November 8, 2021

Dear Mayor, Council & City Administrator:

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you again for your continued support of the PPEP YouthBuild Program. We are now heading into our 20<sup>th</sup> year of operation and could not have accomplished what we have done without the commitment of our community and the partnership with the City of San Luis

In these past years, we have worked to impact the lives of at-risk youth in a positive way, bringing education, training, job placement and college opportunity to those living in the South County area and specifically San Luis. **Looking to program year 2022-2023 we are looking to enroll a total of 30 youth, and 80% of youth will reside in the San Luis area** and be served under the YouthBuild/AmeriCorps program located in San Luis, Arizona. Now that the Pandemic seems to be behind us, we are hoping to see an increase in our enrollments.

This past year, the city was very generous with a funding amount of **\$30,000; therefore, we would like to request the same amount of funding (30,000) for the coming year to match the AmeriCorps program**, which allows each youth participant to leave the program with a 1600.00 college scholarship. This funding by the city, in conjunction with other fundraising efforts, helps the program to meet our Match requirement of **\$50,000**. With these funds, we can provide for additional youth training and program services by leveraging other grant funds and fundraising for certification and skill development. The City of San Luis funding helps to defray uniform costs, boots, training tools, transportation, education materials, testing costs, certification courses, and staffing, as each student enrolled in the program, costs on average 14,315 to educate and participate in skill development training.

### **Program Description: Education and Training Services for 2022-2023**

Over the past 20 years, PPEP has served over 300 youth with an 80% completion rate and an attendance rate consistent at 92%. The GED completion rate is consistently between 78% and 80% and an 80% placement rate for students working or going to full time college. **Although in 2020, it left us with reduced numbers due to the Pandemic, a total of 14 student completed the program and in our current program (2021) we have 21 youth enrolled and are still enrolling through December.** With all things considered, PPEP has stayed on course, even in the midst of a pandemic; put in place funding sources and continued to meet critical outcomes per their larger grant requirements under USDOL. We continue to strive to increase these percentages and provide leadership development for youth in the San Luis area. **Over the past 20 years we have completed over 160 housing rehab projects, constructed 60 new homes for low-income residents**

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of the San Luis community and provided over 128,000 hours of community service, with the bulk of service done in the City of San Luis.

We continue to partner with many community organizations to provide community service activities that are worthwhile and give a wide variety of positive experiences for youth and community members. We continue to build low-income affordable housing and assist in rehab projects for those in need.

The YouthBuild program is designed to alleviate and minimize the common obstacles to a student's success through bilingual services, flexible and convenient times of services, transportation to both direct and linked services, and supportive services for a student and their family members. Through a multi-service approach, we can provide additional employment opportunities, job-training and even housing opportunities that can augment students' chances of successfully completing the training program and continue to improve their situations after leaving the program. Individuals enrolling in PPEP's YouthBuild program also co-enroll in programs like the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP), YPIC WIOA Youth Programs, and Community Service Block Grant program for extensive wrap around services in the support to youth and their families. We maintain a network of partnerships within the communities to provide other services and **this coming year we have added Healthcare training tracks to the YouthBuild program. Through this new initiative, we have partnered with Regional Center for Border Health to offer YouthBuild students training opportunities in Medical Office Assistant and Nutrition, along with Construction and Community Service Activities.**

We believe together through the YouthBuild program, we can help to instill value, promote partners, promote community efforts, increase the Return on Investment (ROI) and offer career pathways in construction and healthcare through constructive programming and civic engagement in the building of low-income housing and home rehab and now training in healthcare fields. It continues to take a village to make positive change, and we cannot do it alone. Together, with the City of San Luis, we can make a difference in the lives of young people and their families and our community. It is because of the past investment by the City of San Luis, that we can leverage additional funding sources, add career pathways, increase enrollments, and provide a stipend of 650.00 per month to youth participating in the program so they stay on track with education and training goals, without worrying where their next meal will come from.

The program continues to be challenging and rigorous, enabling students to draw on their experiences (Experiential Learning Model), and reinforcing the learning process. The following activities will continue to enhance our ability to meet the established performance goals of the YouthBuild program:

- Study and earn GED Certificate through approved educational curriculum and approved state testing
- NCCER industry recognized certification for required certification (received at the end of the program)
- OSHA certification training (industry recognized certificate)
- First Aid/CPR certification
- Healthcare certifications (for those who enter this training component)
- Individual Employment Plan development and intensive case management for job placement in education or a job upon program completion
- Tours of local Universities and Community Colleges that include information on


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FAFSA applications and Pell Grant information

- Testing throughout the program to document literacy/numeracy gains
- Student workshops on resiliency and other work-related topics
- Mock interviewing and interview techniques
- Follow up every 30 days upon program completion for documented retention in job placement, educational placement, and reduced recidivism

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,



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