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John David Arnold, Ph.D.

“Si Se Puede”

Gertha Brown-Hurd

Chief Executive Officer & Founder

President

May 8, 2023

Dear Mayor and Council,

On March 9, 2023 information was sent to the City of San Luis providing information on the YouthBuild funding and how City of San Luis grant money, in the amount of 30,000, was spent in support of the PPEP YouthBuild Program. In the past, the funding request of 30,000 was made to support the Match request for the YouthBuild AmeriCorps grant. Each year, the program is required to come up with approximately 60,000 in MATCH funding to support the continuation of AmeriCorps funding for the San Luis YouthBuild Students and to provide a 1600 Post-Secondary Education Scholarship for the 9,000 hours and more the YouthBuild students provide to the City of San Luis in building low income affordable housing, Park care, volunteering at the Community Food Bank, collecting and donating more than 18,000 pounds of food each year. and more. Therefore, you can see the importance of this funding and how it leverages funds to provide so much more to the community and its individuals and families.

This year, we understand the City needs to make cuts for sustainability; therefore, we are prepared to help in this situation and reduce our ask for the 2023 Program and request only 20,000 in MATCH funding for the YouthBuild AmeriCorps program. This is a 10,000 dollar reduction. We will continue to go after additional funding through other funding opportunities and grant applications to replace the loss and cut to potential San Luis funding, but it is equally important **important to note again, the City of San Luis funding is used for a REQUIRED MATCH commitment, to qualify for and receive AmeriCorps funding for the San Luis Youth Program.**

Based on reports, you can see match funding from San Luis helps to pay a percentage of Staff Salaries, Youth Training Stipends, Youth training and Wrap around support services, necessary program supplies and other required classroom training, which consists of first aid/CPR, and OSHA 10 Safety. Because we are able to leverage AmeriCorps funding and Match dollars received, we are able to also offer and pay for NCCER National Construction credential, Job readiness classes and hands on Construction of low-income affordable housing, which is considered a pre-apprenticeship program.

This funding also leverages additional funding to offset costs for GED testing and study materials needed, so youth can focus on their studies, training, and graduate instead of leaving the program to work in the fields. As you have seen in the budget reports, it gives a clear picture of how City of San Luis grant funds are used to leverage more and provide youth an opportunity to not only to gain their GED, but to attend college through an AmeriCorps scholarship gained through participation in this program through active Community Service activities.

In this current program year, we have 24 students enrolled in the YouthBuild program. These 24 students are learning a trade in the field of construction and gaining certification in four different areas, and receive Job Readiness training to prepare them when it is time to fill out applications, write a resumes and interview for a job. Next year (July 2023), we are hoping to enroll 30 students.

Currently, we have eleven (11) students from our last graduating class who are now attending AWC to obtain a post-secondary education degree made available through San Luis Match Funding. We cannot express enough how important the City of San Luis funding has been to provide needed match funds to leverage funding in support of education and training for youth living in the San Luis area.

Through our AmeriCorps grant and MATCH funding, students can earn a 1600.00 Post-Secondary College Scholarship that is good for 7 years, once completing their required service hours in the program. This equates to a 48,000-dollar ROI in scholarships for San Luis Youth to continue with their career pathway goals. It also provides a return on investment though services to the community, as students give back by providing over 9,000 hours of service annually to projects within San Luis and some of the neighboring communities in South County.

It is important to note, the PPEP YouthBuild program continues to grow because of the City of San Luis. We have gone from 10 enrollments when first starting the program to 24, and looking to fund 30 students next year. The funds you provide this program, also leverage other funding sources to provide the needed resources in support of Youth. Funding sources, such as the National Farmworker Jobs program, state discretionary money, and regular AmeriCorps funding cannot do this work alone; therefore, by leveraging all of these funds we are able to offer the youth of San Luis and extraordinary opportunity. Because of the City of San Luis funding, we can make the case for additional funds from the state each year to meet Required Match for AmeriCorps and it enables us to grow and serve more youth in the San Luis area in the future.

To date, have served approximately 350 youth living in the San Luis area and have built and rehabbed over 200 units of housing for low income families. Because of YouthBuild, low-income families get the cost savings due to labor costs of building affordable housing are cut by 30%, which in turn makes homes even more affordable and youth are leaning skills and a trade.

Thank you again for your continued support and we hope we can continue to count on you in the future,

Sincerely Regards,


Kari Hogan
Chief Administrative Officer
PPEP, Inc.

PPEP YouthBuild Participate in the Cesar Chavez Parade San Luis



PPEP YouthBuild Builds low-income affordable housing in San Luis, Arizona. Students learn about team work, how to use tools and develop lifelong skills



YouthBuild students provide community service and help restore the Historic Cesar Chavez Museum



San Luis YouthBuild Students collect and package food for the local community food bank to help those in need.



This is a small display of what the program Does and the events we participate in.