



**Summary:** The National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) represents more than 140 organizations that provide direct services to opportunity youth, defined as young people ages 14-26 who are out of school and out of work. Our members include community-based organizations, state and local workforce development boards, intermediaries and research organizations. NYEC's mission is to reconnect the nearly 5 million opportunity youth in the U.S. to high-quality education, training opportunities or employment through advocacy, convenings, research and professional development.

***NYEC recommends Congress invest at the funding levels in the following federal programs for Fiscal Year 2025 and include the following report language to tap the full potential of opportunity youth and empower them to achieve their professional and academic goals.***

### **Department of Labor**

**Report Language:** *"The Committee directs the Secretary of Labor, under its demonstration authority under section 169 of WIOA, to make competitive grants for the provision of subsidized summer and year-round employment opportunities as described in section 129 of WIOA. Such grants shall target opportunity youth or justice involved youth and serve high poverty areas."*

**\$1.14 billion for WIOA Youth Training:** The WIOA Youth Training program provides young people who are out of school and face barriers to employment with industry-relevant skills, education and training.

**\$342 million for Apprenticeship:** Apprenticeships combine paid on-the-job training with classroom instruction to prepare workers for highly skilled careers, while also helping employers recruit, build and retain a highly skilled workforce.

**\$126 million for YouthBuild:** YouthBuild is a community-based pre-apprenticeship program that provides job training and educational services for opportunity youth ages 16-24 who left school without a secondary diploma. Participants learn vocational skills in construction and in other in-demand industries including healthcare, information technology and hospitality.

**\$2.11 billion for Job Corps:** Job Corps provides free residential career training and educational programs, along with crucial basic needs such as housing, food and medical care to low-income young adults, giving them the skills and supportive services they need to attain good-paying jobs.

**\$138 million for Reentry Employment Opportunities:** An increase in these funds will continue to provide funding towards community-based re-entry programs for justice-involved young adults who are currently or formerly incarcerated. These highly effective programs will continue to help more individuals overcome systemic barriers that formerly incarcerated young people face.

### **Department of Education**

**\$810 million for Adult Education State Grants:** Adult education programs provide learners with crucial life and work skills, including literacy, numeracy, digital literacy and soft skills, to get them into well-paying jobs or on to postsecondary education.

**\$155 million for Education for Homeless Children and Youth:** Continued investment in this program is necessary to ensure homeless youth have access to high-quality education.

### **AmeriCorps**

**\$668 million for AmeriCorps State and National:** An increase in these funds will allow AmeriCorps to continue its effective service models that respond to local and state needs across the country.

**\$45 million for National Civilian Community Corps:** The NCCC provides participants team-building and professional experience while supporting crucial natural disaster response and prevention, building affordable housing and supporting communities that are vulnerable to natural disasters.

### **Department of Justice**

**\$407 million for the Juvenile Justice Program:** Increasing investment in juvenile justice will aid in youth reentry, reduce youth violence and protect communities.

Our recommended report language and investment levels for the select programs for FY2025 will reconnect the nearly 5 million opportunity youth in the United States to high-quality education and training opportunities, bolstering local economies and strengthening our workforce. We look forward to working with Congress to improve the lives of the young people in our communities.

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