

EMERGE YouthBuild FAQ

What is EMERGE YouthBuild?

EMERGE YouthBuild is a Department of Labor funded program that works with disadvantaged youth in the city of New Haven to prepare them for success as adults by significantly improving their basic academic skills and preparing them for career path employment or training.

EMERGE YouthBuild crew members participate in:

- Mental Toughness: A three-week pre-acceptance course focused on delivering employment, education, and life skills training while assessing the applicant's dedication to his/her own personal and professional development and ability to adhere to the EYB code of conduct.
- Pre-Construction Training: A four-week course that teaches topics like workplace safety, proper and skilled use of manual and power tools, material and tool identification and construction terminology.
- Integrated Core Training: A 20-week integrated core training curriculum that provides a rotating schedule of educational activities, occupational skills training, leadership development, counseling and project-based community service learning.
- Career & College Coaching: A 12-week post-program support during which all EYB crew members receive counseling and information needed to make informed decisions about whether to pursue a career in construction or another sector, to enter an occupational skills training offered through the American Job Corps (WIOA), or enroll in community college for a degree or industry-recognized credential.

Why is there a need for the EMERGE YouthBuild program?

The city of New Haven demonstrates a clear and specific need for EMERGE YouthBuild as evidenced by poverty, a shortage of affordable housing, low graduation and educational attainment rates, and high unemployment. Low literacy and numeracy skills are a significant barrier to employment among New Haven youth. Increasingly, the available jobs require higher reading and math skills, cognitive skills, and some level of post-secondary education. Creating different pathways to 12th grade literacy opens employment options for New Haven youth and is a much-needed pathway to become competitive jobseekers.

What are the requirements to enroll at EMERGE YouthBuild?

Eligible applicants must:

- Be a New Haven resident
- Between the ages of 17-24 on date of enrollment
- A documented high school drop-out
- Willing and able to make a long-term commitment to their involvement in the EYB program
- Provide documentation proving **one** of the following criteria:
 - A youth offender
 - A current or former foster youth
 - An adult offender
 - A youth who is an individual with a disability
 - A migrant farm worker youth
 - A child of an incarcerated parent
 - A low-income youth

*Preference given to those residing in the following zip codes: 06510, 06511, 06513, 06519

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How is EMERGE YouthBuild different from other Adult Education or GED programs?

EYB uses a career pathways approach taught by state-certified adult education instructors to improve EYB crew members' basic educational and occupational skills while they earn high school and technical credentials as well as post-secondary certifications or degrees. This evidence-based approach connects progressive levels of education, training, credentials, and support services in a way that maximizes the progress of individuals with varying abilities and needs.

How long will it take me to graduate from EMERGE YouthBuild?

It depends how many credits you come in with, and it's different for everyone. On average, it takes an EYB crew member 10 months to earn their high school diploma and graduate the EMERGE YouthBuild training program.

What is YouthBuild USA?

The mission of YouthBuild USA and YouthBuild International is to unleash the intelligence and positive energy of low-income young people to rebuild their communities and their lives. To join with others to help build a movement toward a more just society in which respect, love, responsibility, and cooperation are the dominant unifying values, and sufficient opportunities are available for all people in all communities to fulfill their own potential and contribute to the well-being of others.

YouthBuild has been replicated by non-government organizations (NGOs), government agencies, international development institutions, and global companies in 15 countries, where the model has been adapted for implementation in rural and urban settings, located in developing countries, emerging economies, and industrialized nations. YouthBuild USA has built a robust network of 260 urban and rural YouthBuild programs in 46 states. Each program is sponsored and managed by local non-profits, community colleges, and public agencies. The primary funding source is the US Department of Labor (DOL) through the authorized federal YouthBuild program administered by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) at DOL.

What is EMERGE Connecticut, Inc.?

EMERGE Connecticut, Inc. is a social enterprise that helps the formerly incarcerated make a successful return to their communities by providing employment services, literacy and numeracy tutoring, counseling, a support system, and other services. EMERGE's goal is to help the individual build a new life by achieving financial stability through successful, sustained employment.

Do I have to pay to attend EMERGE YouthBuild?

There is absolutely no cost associated with participating in the EMERGE YouthBuild program. In fact, upon acceptance EMERGE crew members become eligible to earn a weekly stipend based on their performance and participation.

I'm over 18 and aged out of high school. How can I still earn a diploma?

EMERGE YouthBuild is able to enroll and offer a high school diploma to EYB crew members between the ages of 17 to 24. This means that even if you turned 18 and were too old to remain at your old high school, you can apply to the EMERGE YouthBuild program.