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Media Contact: Elizabeth Pierre, Just A Start
617-918-7522 / elizabethpierre@justastart.org

YOUTHBUILD JUST A START RECEIVES $1 MILLION GRANT FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Supporting the Administration’s Commitment to Strengthening the Nation’s Workforce

Cambridge, MA – May 6, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Labor has announced a significant investment of $1,030,776 in grant funding to YouthBuild Just A Start. This funding is part of a larger grant initiative, totaling $98 million, administered by the Department’s Employment and Training Administration and supported by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The grants aim to expand access to apprenticeship opportunities, prepare young workers for quality jobs, and address industry demands across 30 states and Guam.

“We are so thrilled to be a recipient of a U.S. DOL YouthBuild grant,” expressed Nate Bae Kupel, Just A Start Director of Youth Programs. “The funds from this grant will strengthen our existing programs and services, and deepen our workforce development training offerings.

YouthBuild USA operates on a pre-apprenticeship model, providing students aged 16-24 who are neither in school nor employed with occupational skills training such as construction (with a focus on green building techniques), employment services, and educational guidance. The program’s vision is to create a world where all young people are recognized for their potential and ability to transform themselves and their communities. As a proud affiliate of the global YouthBuild movement, YouthBuild Just A Start is a full-time comprehensive youth development program serving Boston’s Metro North region. The program offers youth the opportunity to earn their high school credential (HiSET) and develop employment skills in the construction or retail fields.

The DOL YouthBuild grant was designed to provide program support that is tailored for affiliated YouthBuild programs. In addition to staffing and overall program operations, the grant provides programmatic support across four critical YouthBuild components: Education, Construction and Other Career Pathways; Support Services, Counseling and Case Management; Leadership Development, and Transition Services for Graduate Success.

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About Just A Start
Just A Start believes that access to stable housing and sustainable careers are the essential building blocks of equitable communities. For more than 50 years, we have focused on meeting the fundamental needs of individuals and families who have been systemically denied opportunities to realize their full potential. Our programs include affordable housing, education and job training, and comprehensive support services, spanning Cambridge and beyond. We have developed and currently maintain 600 affordable apartments. To keep community members housed, we also offer financial and technical assistance to prevent evictions, and support low- and moderate-income homeowners. Finally, we prepare individuals of all ages and circumstances with the skills and knowledge they need to secure fulfilling careers, leveraging their talents to achieve economic mobility and strengthen the region’s workforce. For more information, please visit www.justastart.org.