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**PRESS RELEASE
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**\$437,500 GRANT FROM the U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT TO HELP SONOMA COUNTY YOUTH
with EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis has announced the award of approximately \$114 million to 183 community groups to provide education and training to young people across the United States. This amount is an initial increment for two years of grant operations.

Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County, which administers YouthBuild Santa Rosa and is the county's official anti-poverty agency, is one of only 183 grantees.

YouthBuild Santa Rosa offers young adults the opportunity to earn their high school diploma while gaining job skills, leadership development and tools to aid them in overcoming barriers to self-sufficiency through employment. YouthBuild Santa Rosa has been in operation since 1995 and is an innovative, holistic, comprehensive, effective program approach, which is focused on high-risk, out-of-school youth.

Community Action Partnership of Sonoma's YouthBuild program will utilize these funds to prepare high-risk, gang-involved, ex-offender youth for the Green Jobs of the new economy. Through pre-apprenticeships, training for photovoltaic panel installation, retrofitting of existing facilities, increased educational skills, job attainment, and job retention services. YouthBuild readies youth participants to be productive members of the community. Community Action's Executive Director, Oscar Chavez said this regarding this grant award, "This program is truly recovery in action. It provides a hopeful beginning for a group that had little to be hopeful for and delivers a work-ready workforce of young people who will be integral to jumpstarting our economy."

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embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.
We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.**