



## Venice Community Housing Corporation

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For Immediate Release:

### U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Awards Venice Community Housing Corporation's YouthBuild Program \$1.1 Million Over Three Years.

Highly successful program sponsored by Venice Community Housing Corporation (VCHC) provides job training in construction and "green" industry skills, as well as academic opportunities. More than 250 youth have participated in past 8 years.

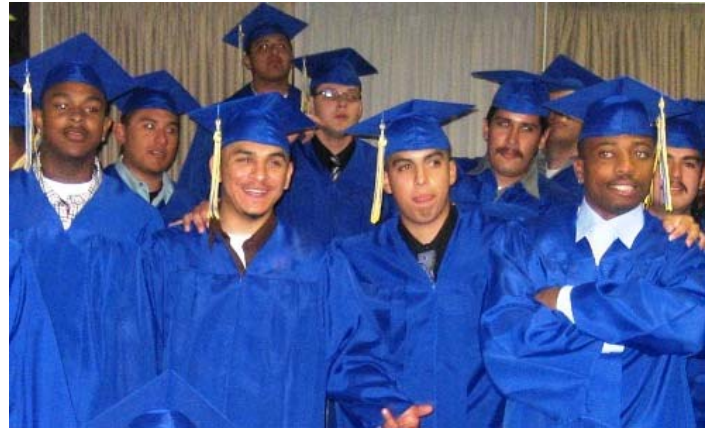
**March 2, 2011**—U.S. Dept. of Labor announced yesterday that VCHC's YouthBuild Program was one of only five programs in California and thirty-one (31) programs nationwide to receive funding through a competitive bidding process.

The YouthBuild program *provides at risk youth in Los Angeles with vital education and employment services to help them overcome significant barriers to self-sufficiency*, such as gang involvement, criminal records, high school dropout, substance abuse, and teen parenthood. VCHC has completed eight YouthBuild cycles and are currently nearing the end of its ninth. DOL funding will support Cycles 10 and 11, through 2014.

Venice YouthBuild has a long, proven track record of helping at risk youth transition to productive adulthoods.

Over 250 youth have enrolled in the program, and 179 youth have remained in the program for six months or longer. Of those who participated beyond the six month period, 93% graduated from the program and 82% of those graduates began employment/post-secondary education/training within the first quarter after graduation. Since the program began, 105 students have received their high school diploma or GED through Venice YouthBuild.

For more than 22 years, VCHC has been developing neighborhood-based solutions for low-income families and individuals. Tenants of VCHC's nearly 200 units of affordable housing and other low income community members are supported by a comprehensive range of life skills coaching, job training and youth development. Formerly homeless and low-income participants are able to transform their lives and achieve economic stability, making our communities stronger, safer and more inclusive for everyone. More information about VCHC is available at [www.vchcorp.org](http://www.vchcorp.org).



Venice YouthBuild graduates from Cycle 8 celebrate their accomplishments at graduation at ceremony in March, 2010. Venice Community Housing Corporation, sponsor of the program, promotes affordable housing, education, and vocational training.

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