Venice YouthBuild is a 10-month, comprehensive leadership program for young adults 18 – 24 y/o, providing hands-on construction training, high school diploma prep, counseling, and pathways into careers. Within the Venice YouthBuild program, youth participants gain the skills and confidence needed to be competitive within today’s job market as well as become empowered to take on future life challenges and reach their full potential.

The program offers the following resources to guide participants towards personal success and community improvement:

- **High School Diploma/GED Prep** – through an onsite partnership with John Muir Charter School, participants earn their high school diplomas or GEDs through group & individual instruction

- **Construction/Vocational Instruction** – in the classroom/construction shop participants learn basic construction skills & safety and work towards an industry-recognized PACT certification, as well as get hands-on construction training by building affordable housing

- **Life Skills/Case Management** – participants receive life skills classes and individual case management & counseling to identify obstacles and overcome barriers in areas such as transportation, housing, (mental) health, legal, substance dependency, and healthy relationships

- **Career Counseling/Placement/Graduate Services** – participants receive individualized career counseling, prepare to enter career paths, and upon graduation are provided one year of follow-up services

- **Leadership Development** – at the core of the YouthBuild experience participants engage within local/national politics, leadership activities/workshops, and perform extensive community service

To apply or for more information please go to [www.vchcorp.org](http://www.vchcorp.org) or contact Administrative Coordinator, Marisol Perez at (310) 573 – 8415

**Urgent Need for Education and Workforce Training:** Throughout California, youth ages 16 – 24 are neither in school nor employed, and as of 2009, the Los Angeles Unified School District had a graduation rate of only 45.6%. Over 90% of the youth chosen to participate in Venice YouthBuild did not finish high school; 20% are court-involved; and many struggle with substance dependency amongst other obstacles. Venice YouthBuild helps opportunity youth reconnect to gainful futures by assisting them to earn high school diplomas, work experience, and advancing them into career pathways.