

LARSON ANNOUNCES \$500,000 FEDERAL GRANT FOR HARTFORD YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

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WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) today announced that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded \$499,995 “Youthbuild Implementation Grant” to Co-Opportunity, Inc. of Hartford. The funding will be used by Co-Opportunity to teach about 40 to 48 young people in Hartford on-site construction skills to working to build five new homes. The program will provide a comprehensive and integrated effort to increase the academic, leadership and vocation skills of those involved.

Larson stated: “This program gives a number of young people in Hartford the necessary leadership and life skills that they can apply in the construction field to be successful as they enter the job market. As a result of what they learn in this program, they will gain the training and skills that will allow them to compete economically and become self-sufficient.”

Current student Uriah Lewis said: “Youthbuild is a great program for people who have taken the wrong turn in life to get back on track. I look at this program as a confidence builder.”

In cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, the participants will work on five housing units being built on what was Rice Heights public housing. The 21 youths currently involved in the program are between 17 and 24 years old, and in the past have completed substantial work on Stowe Village in Hartford. Thus far, those involved in the program have built 48 units of affordable housing throughout the city.