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RENEWED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM EQUIPS YOUNG PEOPLE WITH EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING SKILLS AND JOB PLACEMENT

BIRMINGHAM, AL March 27, 2025 – A workforce development program that assists teenagers and young adults receive a fresh start in life is once again accepting applications. Magic City YouthBuild’s first cohort of the year is set to begin in August 2025. The Housing Authority of the Birmingham District (HABD) was awarded \$1.5M in December 2024 by the U.S. Department of Labor to continue the program, which received its first grant in 2022. YouthBuild is a six to nine-month initiative that provides job training and educational opportunities to young people between the ages of 16-24 who are looking to earn their GED and want to pursue careers in construction and healthcare. Participants will receive a biweekly stipend over the duration of the program.

“We are excited to continue this program,” said D’Aviance Harris, YouthBuild Program Manager. “YouthBuild transforms lives, and for young people in our community who need it, it also gives them an opportunity at a second chance.”

“The type of programming that YouthBuild provides is at the core of HABD’s mission,” said Larry Williams, Chief Housing/Programs Officer. “Not only do we provide affordable housing, but we strive to offer programming that allows our residents to thrive and ultimately become self-sufficient.”

YouthBuild is not exclusive to HABD residents, but those interested must meet specific eligibility requirements, including a commitment to education and career development. Participants will meet Monday through Thursday. During the program, members will alternate between the classroom, service site, and leadership projects to achieve job readiness and leadership skills. Additionally, they will visit potential colleges/universities and job sites. The goal is to achieve job placement upon graduation. **Applications will be accepted through July 15. Interested applicants should email youthbuild@habd.net or call (205) 983-7550.**

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***Housing Authority of the Birmingham District (HABD)** is the state’s largest provider of public housing serving over 23,000 residents including its Section 8 program. Its mission is to provide the highest standard of affordable housing while fostering vibrant, inclusive communities and serving as a catalyst for opportunity. To learn more about HABD, visit www.habd.org.*