

YouthBuild Evaluation

You may be invited to be part of the YouthBuild Evaluation. This page explains what it means to be part of the study.

What is the YouthBuild Evaluation?

It is a study to learn how and whether the YouthBuild program helps the young people it serves. The study is run by three organizations: MDRC, Mathematica Policy Research, and Social Policy Research Associates. The U.S. Department of Labor and the Corporation for National and Community Service is sponsoring the study.

Who can be in the study?

Every volunteer who is eligible and appropriate for the YouthBuild program can be in the study.

What does it mean to be in the study?

You have a chance to get into the YouthBuild program. YouthBuild does not have enough funding to help everyone who may want services. Thus, **the program will select randomly who gets invited to the YouthBuild program.** The selection is like a lottery; it has nothing to do with your age, race, gender or anything else about you. If you do not get an invite, you will not be able to be in the YouthBuild program for 2 years. However, you will continue to be part of the study and you will be given a list of other services in the community that may be helpful.

The study team will collect information on you for up to ten years.

- **Background information.** Some information will come from your YouthBuild application.
- **Interviews.** Some information will come from you. The study team will interview you up to three times. You will receive a payment for each interview you do. You do not have to do the interview or answer any questions that make you uncomfortable.
- **Program and government records.** Other information will come from records about you. These records may include information from YouthBuild and the U.S. Department of Labor about your program activities. They may also include information at state and federal agencies about your employment and earnings and information from the criminal justice system. In addition, the study team may collect information about your education from the National Student Clearinghouse.

How will the study use your information?

The study team will use your information for research purposes only. The team will follow strict rules to protect your privacy. Your information will be kept private and confidential. **Your name will never be used in any report written for the project.** To help protect your privacy, the study has a Confidentiality Certificate from the U.S. government. It says we do not have to identify you, even under a court order or subpoena. Please keep in mind: This certificate does not mean the government approves or disapproves of the study. Also, the study team will have to report your information if you tell us that you or someone else is in danger. The government may see your information if it audits us, but it, too, will protect your privacy.

What are the benefits and risks of participating in the study?

You will help YouthBuild and other programs learn how to provide better services for young people like you. The risks are small. Even if you are not selected for the YouthBuild program, you will still be part of the study and have access to other services in your community. The study team will follow strict rules to keep your data private.

Do I have to be in the study?

No. The decision to be in the study is your choice. However, **only people who are in the study will have a chance to be in the YouthBuild program.** You may drop out of the study at any time by contacting MDRC (see below). If you drop out, the study team may use the information collected while you were in the study.

Questions about the YouthBuild Evaluation? Please contact youthbuild@mdrc.org or call 1-866-907-1936.