

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

4TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS:

1540 Kuser Road, Suite A9
Hamilton, NJ 08619-3828
(609) 585-7878
TTY (609) 585-3650

108 Lacey Road, Suite 38A
Whiting, NJ 08759-1331
(732) 350-2300

2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3004
(202) 225-3765

<http://chrissmith.house.gov>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 15, 2013

Ms. Jane Oates
Assistant Secretary
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Ms Oates:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the grant application submitted by Isles Youthbuild Institute (IYI) which requests \$1,099,643 in Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) funding to provide educational, vocational, and leadership skills for 70 highly at-risk youth over a 40-month period. Specifically, the IYI proposal includes a 4-month planning period, followed by 24-months of educational, vocational construction training, and life skills services; and then a full year of follow-up services.

The IYI plan, which offers a dual academic track of a high school diploma or GED, includes job readiness and placement training and it allows students hands-on opportunities to participate in neighborhood construction projects. The IYI's parent organization, Isles, Inc. has been providing self-help services in the community that can benefit Youthbuild students such as first time homebuyer education, financial capability counseling, weatherization services, and green job training. Original with this program, IYI will offer instruction in the growing field of healthcare services with training and internships at Isles' partner, the Water's Edge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center.

Additional Isles' partners that will prove helpful for Youthbuild students include the College of New Jersey, Mercer County Community College, the Trenton Board of Education, Habitat for Humanity, the Mercer County Workforce Investment Board, and many other nonprofit organizations.

Having worked closely with Isles for over 30-years on numerous projects, including its effective Youthbuild program in Trenton, which has graduated over 700 students since its inception nearly 20 years ago, I am confident funds expended on this project by Isles will be used wisely and in a cost-effective and efficient manner. Notably, to improve its ability to track and report on data and performance, IYI has improved its intake, contact, and data management system which will expand success measures for the grant to include self-sufficiency indicators in addition to more typical

Co-Chairman of: Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease • Bi-Partisan Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism • Lyme Disease Caucus
Coalition for Autism Research and Education • Global Internet Freedom Caucus • Bi-Partisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus
Spina Bifida Caucus • Vietnam Caucus • Poland Caucus • Bosnia Caucus
Ad Hoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs • Congressional Caucus on Human Trafficking

COMMITTEES:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH,
GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**
CHAIRMAN

**WESTERN HEMISPHERE
SUBCOMMITTEE**

**COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE**
CO-CHAIRMAN

**CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE
COMMISSION ON CHINA**
CO-CHAIRMAN

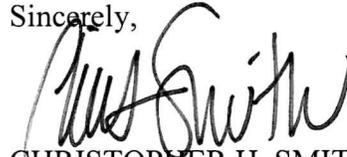
DEAN, NEW JERSEY DELEGATION

Youthbuild success indicators.

Clearly, IYI and its parent organization Isles, Inc are well prepared to offer an exceptional Youthbuild program that can turn around the lives of many young people who are now at risk. I sincerely hope IYI's DOL grant request is approved.

Please feel free to contact me directly or David Kush in my Washington office at 202-225-3765, if you have any questions or would like further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Smith", written in a cursive style.

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress