



## **Tree Trust YouthBuild Receives \$1.5 Million Grant from U.S. Department of Labor**

*Twin Cities Nonprofit Sole Recipient in State of Minnesota*

**MINNEAPOLIS (June 21, 2021)** – Tree Trust, a Minnesota-based nonprofit, today announced they have been awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. Tree Trust YouthBuild is one of 68 organizations nationwide to be awarded a grant this cycle and the only YouthBuild grant recipient in Minnesota.

Tree Trust YouthBuild, a pre-apprenticeship program, offers young people, ages 16-21, the opportunity to gain hands-on training and earn a paycheck, all while working towards earning a high school diploma. Participants alternate between an employment training week at Tree Trust and attending high school. Alongside the carpentry track, where youth construct affordable housing to learn employment skills and transform the community, Tree Trust offers an innovative tree care track introduced in 2019, allowing YouthBuild participants the opportunity to train for jobs in the high demand green industry.

"Tree Trust is thrilled to receive this funding award from the U.S. Department of Labor. Our YouthBuild program has served promising young people since 2006 in the Twin Cities, focusing on areas of greatest need in Minneapolis such as low-income neighborhoods with low graduation rates. This grant continues the critical funding that creates the opportunity for young people to develop valuable career and leadership skills, while helping the community through home construction and tree care, ultimately supporting participants in reaching their career goals and achieving their academic aspirations," stated Jared Smith, Tree Trust Executive Director and CEO.

Tree Trust YouthBuild is now accepting participant applications, available online at [www.treetrust.org/youthbuild](http://www.treetrust.org/youthbuild) and due by October 4<sup>th</sup>.

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### **About Tree Trust**

Tree Trust, a nonprofit founded in 1976 and based in St. Paul, Minnesota, focuses on transforming lives and landscapes. Tree Trust accomplishes this mission by providing meaningful opportunities for greening local communities through tree planting and offering youth valuable work skills and experience through practical job training, creating a brighter future of self-sufficiency. Learn more at [www.treetrust.org](http://www.treetrust.org).