

YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School

Philadelphia County, PA | July 2026



YouthBuild Philly Charter School is part of the national YouthBuild network, a program focused on helping young people (ages 17-20) work toward their education while learning trade and job skills. Students split their time between developing job skills through hands-on training, academics, and community service. YouthBuild offers students the opportunity to learn vocational skills in construction, healthcare, information technology, and hospitality.

In 2024, YouthBuild was awarded \$250,000 to support their Construction Training and Housing Rehabilitation Program. The award is helping to fund the student-led rehabilitation of a three-bedroom home, which will serve as transitional housing for local families. The project also gives students the opportunity to build practical construction skills while working on a real home that will make a difference in the community.

YouthBuild's second PHARE award for \$100,000 to support the Workforce Equity and Housing Stability Initiative. The initiative helps students in the construction program by providing building materials, tools, transportation assistance, and other supports that remove barriers to completing their training. These investments allow students to stay focused on earning credentials and preparing for careers in the skilled trades.

During PHFA's recent visit, staff had the opportunity to speak with recent alumni and tour the construction skills program.

THE PHARE PROGRAM: AT A GLANCE

The PHARE Act was established in 2010 to provide funding throughout the Commonwealth to assist with the creation, rehabilitation, and support of affordable housing. Currently, the program is funded by two funding sources, the Realty Transfer Tax Fund and the Marcellus Shale Fund.



The 2026/2027 Request for proposals for PHARE will open on September 14th, 2026, and will close on November 19th, 2026 at 2pm.

‘PHARE has been an extraordinary partner in helping YouthBuild Philadelphia turn opportunity into lasting impact. Their investment allows our students to gain real-world construction experience while creating safe, affordable housing that strengthens neighborhoods across Philadelphia. Just as importantly, PHARE has helped us remove barriers that too often stand between talented young people and economic mobility, from transportation and tools to housing stability. This partnership is about far more than funding a program. Together, we are investing in future homeowners, skilled trades professionals, community leaders, and a stronger, more equitable Philadelphia,” said Preference Butler, YouthBuild’s Chief Advancement Officer.

Together, these projects reflect the innovative approaches PHARE grantees are taking to increase housing opportunities in Philadelphia. For YouthBuild Philadelphia, they also demonstrate how investments in housing and workforce development can work hand in hand to strengthen communities while creating new opportunities for young adults.



Pictured are YouthBuild staff, students, and alumni on location for the Construction Training and Housing Rehabilitation Program awarded in 2024.
