



Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

We help make things happen

1740 Langdon Farm Road

Cincinnati, OH 45237

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CONTACT: Tonya Pate
Office: 513.569.1856
Cell: 513.476.7888
tpate@cincy-caa.org

Twenty-Seven At-Risk Youth Graduate to a Brighter Future *CAA honors its second class of YouthBuild Academy graduates*

(Cincinnati, OH) – Over 100 friends and family members attended the commencement of the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency's (CAA) second YouthBuild Academy class on June 3. For many of the twenty-seven graduating youth, this was their first time donning a cap and gown. Serving Cincinnati's at-risk young men and women from low-income communities, CAA's YouthBuild Academy is a construction training program for youth who have dropped out of high school or are unemployed.

YouthBuild recruits at-risk youth between the ages of 16 and 24 who are interested in gaining the tools necessary to build a promising future. Students undergo rigorous training and development through the nine-month program. CAA's staff work with students, challenging them to rise above their current situation and overcome negative attitudes that have prevented them from meeting their full potential. The students work side-by-side with construction industry professionals, gaining hands-on experience building affordable housing. In addition, staff provide leadership development, life and job skills training, and assist youth in earning their GED.

The second class of YouthBuild Academy graduates are leaving the program on a promising note: eighteen of the graduates earned national construction certifications, eight landed employment with local construction companies, twelve earned their GED, and one individual has enrolled in classes at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. CAA will continue to work with the graduates, assisting them in earning their GED and finding employment.

The Community Action Agency is a nonprofit organization that strives to meet the needs of Hamilton County's low-income residents, as well as confront the challenges that impede self-sufficiency. For over 46 years, the community has turned to CAA for utility bill assistance, youth development programs, employment needs, job skills development, home weatherization, and the Head Start preschool program.

To learn more about CAA, call (513) 569-1840 or visit www.cincy-caa.org.

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