

*May 18, 2011*

Stockton, CA – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) today announced that YouthBuild San Joaquin will receive a \$1,100,000 grant from the Department of Labor. The funds will be used to expand YouthBuild San Joaquin and will help enroll 80 more students in the program. YouthBuild San Joaquin currently has a waiting list of over 250 young people interested in joining the program.

“I’m thrilled that YouthBuild San Joaquin will receive a \$1.1 million grant,” said Rep. McNerney. “The work that YouthBuild San Joaquin is doing to help young people get training and find jobs is much needed. I’m particularly glad that this grant will allow YouthBuild to enroll more young people in the program. With hundreds waiting for a chance to become a part of YouthBuild, it is clear there’s a need for the good work they are doing.”

Mick Founts, San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools and Sheilah Goulart, Coordinator of YouthBuild San Joaquin both joined the Congressman in recognizing the importance of this grant.

“YouthBuild San Joaquin prepares at-risk youth for a bright future, and this funding will allow the program to continue its important work in our community,” said Superintendent of Schools Mick Founts.

“We were very excited and relieved to hear that we received this grant from Department of Labor,” said Ms. Goulart. “These funds were necessary to continue YouthBuild San Joaquin and meet the demand of young adults in our county that deserve a second chance to be successful. Our thanks go to Congressman McNerney for his continual support of Department of Labor funding for YouthBuild.”

The San Joaquin County Office of Education's YouthBuild program assists out-of-school youth in obtaining their diplomas or GEDs while providing occupational training in the construction industry. YouthBuild places an emphasis on leadership skills through community service and helps its participants to find apprenticeships and jobs after graduating from the program.