

# WHIPtown news

**THE BUZZ**  
...Around West Hartford



## CRT receives \$1 million grant for YouthBuild jobs training program

Community Renewal Team was awarded a \$1 million YouthBuild grant from the Department of Labor to continue operating the program that helps out-of-school youth earn a high school or General Educational Development diploma while learning critical occupational skills in the construction, hospitality and health care fields.

A total of 74 YouthBuild programs in 28 states and the District of Columbia received grant awards ranging from \$700,000 to \$1.1 million each.

“Continuing our YouthBuild program for disadvantaged Hartford youth makes us proud to help prepare these young people – both mentally and physically – for productive careers,” said CRT’s President and CEO Lena Rodriguez.

CRT has seen great success in its



**A photo from last year’s CRT YouthBuild program**

*Courtesy photo*

Capital City YouthBuild program since the inaugural class of 2009-10. Despite being one of the few programs in the nation to welcome those who have been incarcerated or have substance abuse issues, 87 percent of the participants have graduated from the program – while the national completion average is just 59 percent.

CRT’s program this year will employ up to 60 out-of-work and out-of-school city youth ages 16-24 in construction, food preparation and health care, while receiving remedial education. Participants also engage in one-on-one case management with CRT staff to monitor and enhance their progress through the program.