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Headlines

Ozone House gets \$400,000 grant for youth construction training

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By DeAnna Belger

Ann-Arbor-based **Ozone House Inc.** received a \$400,000 Youthbuild grant from the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** to help 24 homeless youth.

The grant is part of \$54 million HUD is awarding through its Youthbuild program.

The money will help 24 homeless men and women, ages 16 to 24, build four homes in Ypsilanti. Participants will get carpentry, electrical, mechanical and plumbing experience. After the construction is complete, the homes will be sold at affordable prices to low-income persons as well as to homeless families.

Ozone House has several partners in the project. **Washtenaw Community College Adult Transitions** in Ypsilanti will provide GED, employability skill development and job-search workshops, among other services.

Gateway Community and Economic Development Corp. in Ypsilanti will provide materials, land and additional laborers to help with construction training.

The **Washtenaw County Employment, Training, and Community Services Group Workforce Development Board** in Ypsilanti will support the program with stipends through the **Michigan Works!** one-stop service center. With scholarship support from the board, some in the program will be able to enroll in college courses in the trades.

Food Gatherers, the county's food rescue and food bank, will provide meals to youth during their leadership development and classroom time.

Ozone House will provide case management, housing support, leadership development, mental health services, crisis intervention and recreational activities to participants.

In a 2004 countywide survey about homeless adults, 38 percent of the adults attributed their homeless directly to unemployment.

Ozone House is a nonprofit crisis, support and housing agency for youth and families. For more information, call (734) 662-2222 or visit www.ozonehouse.org.

HUD is the nation's housing agency. More information about HUD is available at www.hud.gov.

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