

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico’s Third District announced today that Youth Shelters and Family Services in Santa Fe has received a \$560,000 grant through the Department of Labor. The Civic Justice Corps Grant will help Youth Shelters and Family Services implement its “Earn and Learn” program and continue its efforts as the primary organization in New Mexico serving runaway, homeless, and other youth in crisis along with their families.

“Youth Shelters and Family Services provides an invaluable resource to our community as it helps young adults who are driven to not give up and make something of themselves,” Congressman Luján said. “By giving them an opportunity to learn in the classroom while giving back to their community through service oriented work, this program, with the help of federal funds, gives these young people the knowledge and confidence they need to achieve their goals.”

The “Learn” portion of its “Earn and Learn” programming will consist of the formation of individually customized educational plans that include GED preparation courses, remedial education programming, individual tutoring, and self-paced computer learning. English as a Second Language (ESL) will be offered at Santa Fe Community College along with vocational training. The “Earn” portion of the programming will involve stipends for participants engaged in public and community-based service and service learning opportunities. Such programming may include providing service to the homeless and disadvantaged, working in historic preservation projects, working in the National Forest, and doing maintenance at a local youth emergency shelter and transitional living facility.

The Department of Labor is providing a total of \$20 million to Civic Justice Corps projects that provide meaningful service opportunities to young people ages 18 to 24 returning from juvenile justice facilities.

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