

CARMEL J. ANGELO
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**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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June 21, 2016

The U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration, Office of Grants Management
Attention: Eric D. Luetkenhaus, Grant Officer
Reference FOA-ETA-16-10
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N4716
Washington, DC 20210

Mr. Luetkenhaus:

This letter is to support the Pinoleville Pomo Nation in obtaining the YouthBuild Grant through the Department of Labor. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors strongly supports the YouthBuild program and the efforts of the Pinoleville Pomo Nation to encourage low income and at risk youth of our community to obtain a high school diploma and job skills that will be necessary to be successful in life.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has previously collaborated with and supported the Pinoleville Pomo Nation in other community grants and programs. In 2012 the Pinoleville Pomo Nation was awarded the YouthBuild grant and served low income youth who were in need of education and job skills. Despite the many challenges faced by the participants, including homelessness, lack of transportation and other critical issues, 46 out of 58 participants graduated from the YouthBuild program and 23 participants successfully completed their high school education.

Mendocino County is geographically expansive, but with a relatively small population and depressed economic conditions that are still slowly recovering from the last economic collapse. Mendocino County ranks high in several negative quality of life indicators. Underlying the statistics is the reality that these are the conditions that many of our young people must cope with on a daily basis. The result is that many of our youth live in poverty and struggle to complete their high school education or obtain job skills.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors applauds and strongly supports the Pinoleville Pomo Nation for their leadership in applying for, and hopefully obtaining this grant which will promote education, employment and reentry to society for qualifying individuals. For many of our low income and at risk youth, the Pinoleville Pomo Nation YouthBuild grant represents a last chance opportunity to avoid being locked into a lifelong cycle of poverty, with high rates of substance abuse, unemployment, domestic violence and incarceration. We strongly urge your favorable consideration of this critically needed grant request.

Sincerely,

Dan Gjerde, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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