



Home Builders Institute

The Workforce Development Arm of the National Association of Home Builders



Project HOPE (Homebuilding – Opportunities for Positive Employment)

Home Builders Institute's Project HOPE (Homebuilding - Opportunities for Positive Employment) has trained and/or placed people with disabilities in employment positions within the home building industry.

Pre-Apprenticeship Training and Job Placement

Eligible customers explore the residential construction industry as a career option through training and hands-on projects. Pre-apprenticeship training includes 12 weeks of instruction in safety, tool identification and use, theory, math, plan reading, and basic carpentry, plumbing, and electrical skills. Twenty percent of the training takes place in the classroom while 80 percent is hands-on, on community service projects.

Industry Involvement and Employer Support

“Labor availability” is a major concern in nationwide surveys of NAHB members. Project HOPE helps meet this labor demand by connecting people with disabilities with careers and job opportunities in residential construction. Home builders associations and their members partner to provide:

- Mentors and job shadowing
- Graduation speakers
- Job opportunities
- Job exploration opportunities
- Workplace skill assessment
- Mock interviews
- Career exploration seminars

Outcomes and Results

Between 1997 and 2003, Project HOPE placed more than 500 people in full time jobs in the industry through programs in Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus and Denver. More than 80 percent of those jobs had benefits and averaged \$10.80/hr.

Community Service and Linkages

Community service is a critical part of Project HOPE as students learn and practice valuable construction skills working on local projects. To ensure a candidate's success on the job, Project HOPE links with transportation service providers, community colleges, rehabilitation service providers and literacy teachers.

