We’re investing in our students and in return they’re helping to rebuild our communities! I’m excited to share with you that the City’s Office of Economic Opportunity is leading the PCTA Home Build Program in partnership with the Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA), Casa Buena Builders, and state partners. Through this innovative program, youth helping to build a bungalow from the ground up on Blackstone Street in South Providence have gained practical, hands-on experience.

Best of all, when the 770-square-foot home is completed and sold, the proceeds generated will support another home construction project for students to work on.

At the South Providence site approximately 150 juniors and seniors will gain valuable trade skills by assisting with the pouring of the foundation, framing, electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning, roofing, drywall and finishing. Additionally, 100 ninth- and tenth-graders will have shadowing opportunities and observe their handiwork. Students will work on a new home every year and each new project will be scheduled to align with the curriculum of career and technical education (CTE) programs.

We want our young people to be on paths to success. To support the learning that occurs during school, Providence is prioritizing summer and year-round learning and employment opportunities for youth. This will help to prevent summer learning loss so that our children never stop growing – both inside the classroom and beyond. Last year we offered over 1,300 summer and year-round employment and advanced internship opportunities for youth ages 14-22. We are also making strategic investments in innovative technologies to level the playing field by providing resources that enable our youth to succeed at every level in their education.

We look forward to sharing an update when the home is completed.