



Contractor Guardians Tradeschool Program (CGTP)

A Non-Profit Division of Contractor Guardians

Building Trades. Building Homes. Building Futures.

Program & Business Plan Overview

CGTP is a non-profit, construction-based tradeschool that trains the next generation of skilled workers by having them build real homes and community projects—especially housing for veterans, people experiencing homelessness, and vulnerable families. This document summarizes the mission, model, financials, and expansion vision for the Colorado flagship campus and the broader national network.

Primary Contact

Name: John Kennedy
Email: j.kennedy@contractorguardians.com
Phone: +1 (720) 416-7917
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Executive Summary

Contractor Guardians Tradeschool Program (CGTP) is a non-profit, project-based tradeschool that uses real construction projects to train the next generation of licensed contractors, electricians, plumbers, and trades professionals. Students learn by building actual homes and community facilities—especially housing for veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, and low-income families.

Launching first in Colorado and scaling to one school per state across at least fifteen states, CGTP will:

- Provide hands-on training in construction trades (carpentry, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, site safety).
- Require each student to complete a real build project as a graduation requirement.
- Place graduates into internships and apprenticeships that lead toward licensing and long-term careers.
- Use completed projects to support housing for those in need and help fund the school through earned revenue and partnerships.

CGTP directly addresses three interconnected challenges: the skilled trades labor shortage, barriers to high-quality training for underserved populations, and the lack of affordable housing. By combining education, workforce development, and housing production in a single model, CGTP creates a sustainable, scalable pathway to impact.

Mission, Vision & Values

Mission

To provide hands-on, affordable trades education that builds stable careers for students while building safe, dignified housing for communities in need.

Vision

A national network of Contractor Guardians Tradeschools where every new class of skilled tradespeople helps create new homes, new community spaces, and new opportunities.

Core Values

- Service – Every project gives back to the community.
- Excellence – High standards aligned with licensing and industry expectations.
- Opportunity – Accessible to people who are low-income, under-employed, or changing careers.
- Accountability – Clear metrics on job placement, wages, and housing units created.
- Safety – OSHA-aligned training and a culture of safety on every job site.

Problem & Opportunity

Workforce Gap

Construction industries across the United States face a significant shortage of skilled workers as older tradespeople retire and fewer young people enter the trades. Many young adults are not well-served by traditional four-year college paths but lack accessible, practical training pathways into high-demand trades.

Housing & Homelessness

Communities across the country are struggling with affordable housing shortages and rising homelessness. Non-profits, ministries, and municipalities need cost-effective ways to build or rehabilitate housing and community facilities, particularly for veterans and vulnerable families.

The Opportunity

CGTP sits at the intersection of these needs by creating high-quality, hands-on learning through real construction projects, lowering the cost of building housing via supervised student labor, and providing a direct pipeline of trained workers to local contractors, ministries, and employers.

Program Model – Colorado Flagship Campus

Program Type

Non-profit tradeschool with project-based learning in real construction environments.

Target Students

- Ages 17+ with high school diploma, GED, or equivalent.
- Veterans transitioning to civilian careers.
- Justice-impacted individuals seeking a fresh start.
- Career changers and under-employed adults.
- Individuals from low-income or marginalized communities.

Program Structure

The core program is a 9–12 month intensive combining classroom instruction, lab/shop practice, and supervised on-site construction hours. Students enroll in a primary trade track while receiving core instruction in safety, math, blueprint reading, and basic codes.

Core Trades Tracks (Phase 1)

- General Construction & Carpentry
- Electrical (residential/light commercial – apprentice level)
- Plumbing (residential/light commercial – apprentice level)
- HVAC / Mechanical
- Construction Management & Site Supervision (advanced track)

Curriculum & Learning Experience

Core Foundations (All Students)

- Construction math and measurements
- Blueprint reading and basic design literacy
- Tools and materials: safe use, maintenance, and selection
- OSHA 10/30 and jobsite safety culture
- Basic building codes and inspections
- Soft skills: teamwork, communication, punctuality, professionalism

Trade-Specific Modules

- *Electrical*: circuits, wiring methods, NEC basics, panels, troubleshooting.
- *Plumbing*: DWV systems, water supply, fixtures, code basics.
- *Carpentry*: framing, sheathing, roofing, doors/windows, finishes.
- *HVAC*: ductwork fundamentals, system components, maintenance and diagnostics.

Capstone Build Project (Graduation Requirement)

Each student must contribute a minimum number of documented, supervised hours to at least one real build project—new or tiny home construction, rehabilitation of existing housing, or community facility upgrades. These hours are tied directly to graduation and to internship and apprenticeship placement.

Community Build Projects & Funding Loop

CGTP operates on a “build to learn, build to fund” model. Each cohort participates in construction projects that both serve the community and contribute to the financial sustainability of the program.

Project Types

- Small homes or accessory dwelling units (ADUs) that can be sold or rented.
- Tiny homes and modular units for veterans and people experiencing homelessness.
- Rehabilitation of existing housing stock for partner non-profits.
- Upgrades and repairs for shelters, ministries, and community centers.

Benefits

- Students gain real-world experience on active job sites under licensed supervision.
- Communities receive new or improved housing and community assets.
- CGTP receives earned revenue, developer fees, and in-kind support that offset training costs.

Locations & Scaling Plan

Phase 1: Colorado Pilot (Years 1–2)

- Lease a 10,000–25,000 square-foot commercial or light industrial facility in the Denver area.
- Build out classrooms, computer lab, indoor shop/lab space, and storage.
- Serve approximately 60–100 students per year across multiple cohorts.

Phase 2: Regional Expansion (Years 3–5)

- Identify 4–5 additional states with strong construction job demand and significant housing needs.
- Replicate the Colorado model with local adaptations to licensing, partners, and housing strategies.

Phase 3: National Network (Years 5–10)

- Grow to at least 15 states, one CGTP site per state.
- Develop a centralized curriculum and operations hub to support all sites.
- Standardize data collection on student outcomes, housing units produced, and community impact.

Business & Financial Model

CGTP functions as a non-profit division of Contractor Guardians, with governance from a board that includes construction industry leaders, workforce experts, and community representatives.

Revenue Streams

- *Grants & Public Funding:* Workforce development grants, housing and community development funds, and education and training grants.
- *Private Funding:* Foundation support, corporate philanthropy, faith-based partners, and individual donors.
- *Earned Revenue:* Contracts to construct or rehabilitate housing, sale or lease of completed units, sliding-scale tuition where appropriate, and employer sponsorships in exchange for a trained labor pipeline.

Major Cost Categories

- Facility lease and build-out.
- Tools, machinery, vehicles, and IT infrastructure.
- Instructor and staff salaries and benefits.
- Materials for build projects (partially offset by donated or discounted materials).
- Student support services, including PPE, transportation assistance, and exam fees.
- Insurance, compliance, and administrative overhead.

Revenue & Funding Mix

Grant & Public Funding

- Workforce development grants
- Housing and community development funding
- Education and training grants

Private & Philanthropic

- Foundations and corporate giving (construction, tools, materials)
- Faith-based partners and ministries
- Individual donors and sponsorships

Earned Revenue

- Contracts to build or rehabilitate housing for partner nonprofits and municipalities
- Sale or lease of completed units (tiny homes, ADUs, small homes)
- Sliding-scale tuition for students who can pay
- Employer sponsorships in exchange for guaranteed hiring pipelines

Financial Snapshot – Colorado Flagship Campus (Illustrative)

One-Time Start-Up Costs

Facility & Build-Out

- Leasehold improvements (classrooms, labs, safety upgrades): ≈ \$525,000
 - Furniture, fixtures & equipment (desks, lockers, storage, safety): ≈ \$75,000
- Subtotal facility start-up:** ≈ \$600,000

Tools, Labs & Tech

- Construction & carpentry shop equipment: ≈ \$120,000
 - Electrical & plumbing lab setups: ≈ \$80,000
 - HVAC training units & tools: ≈ \$50,000
 - Student starter kits (PPE + basic tools, initial cohort): ≈ \$90,000
 - Classroom IT (computers, screens, Wi-Fi, LMS setup): ≈ \$50,000
 - Vehicle (van or truck for materials & transport): ≈ \$40,000
- Subtotal equipment & tech:** ≈ \$430,000

Launch & Compliance

- Legal, licensing, nonprofit and education approvals, accounting setup: ≈ \$25,000
 - Curriculum development and instructor training: ≈ \$25,000
 - Initial marketing and outreach: ≈ \$15,000
 - Insurance deposits and start-up costs: ≈ \$20,000
- Subtotal launch & compliance:** ≈ \$85,000

Estimated Total Start-Up (Colorado Campus): ≈ \$1.1–1.2 million.

Annual Operating Budget (Steady State)

Staffing (Example)

Program Director; Operations / Student Services Manager; four full-time Trade Instructors; Admin / Front Desk; part-time Case Manager / Student Support.

Estimated salaries plus benefits and payroll costs: ≈ \$730,000 per year.

Facilities & Operating

- Rent, NNN, and utilities: ≈ \$240,000
- Insurance (general liability, professional, workers comp, vehicle): ≈ \$40,000
- Facility maintenance and repairs: ≈ \$40,000
- Program materials and consumables: ≈ \$75,000
- Transportation (fuel, vehicle maintenance): ≈ \$20,000
- Marketing and outreach: ≈ \$25,000
- Student support (scholarships, transit passes, exam fees, PPE refresh): ≈ \$75,000
- IT, software, LMS, and accounting systems: ≈ \$30,000

Subtotal non-staff operating: ≈ \$545,000 per year.

Baseline Annual Operating Total: ≈ \$1.28 million.

With a 10% contingency for growth and inflation: ≈ \$1.4 million per year.

Capacity & Cost Per Student (Example)

At 80 students per year, the all-in operating cost is approximately \$17,500 per student annually, including instruction, safety and licensing preparation, tools/PPE starter kits, on-site build experience producing real housing units, and robust career and support services.

Student Support & Outcomes

Student Support Services

- Intake and career counseling to identify goals and remove barriers.
- Case management for students dealing with transportation, childcare, or housing instability.
- Provision of PPE and basic tools, and where possible, small stipends or transit support.
- Financial literacy education and referrals to community resources.

Internships, Apprenticeships & Licensing Pathways

CGTP builds strong relationships with local contractors, ministries, and employers who agree to host interns and apprentices, recognize CGTP training where possible toward licensing requirements, and offer starting wages at or above local entry-level averages.

Sample Annual Outcome Targets (Per Site)

- 60–100 students enrolled.
- 80% completion/graduation rate.
- 75–85% job or apprenticeship placement within six months of program completion.
- Students achieving a living wage in their region within 12–18 months.
- 5–20 completed or rehabilitated housing units or significant community facility upgrades per year.

About Contractor Guardians

Contractor Guardians is a faith-based construction and technology network focused on protecting homeowners, empowering contractors, and strengthening communities. We connect vetted, values-driven builders with mission-aligned projects—prioritizing veterans, vulnerable families, and those rebuilding after hardship—while using transparent processes, modern tools, and education to keep every project accountable from the first estimate to the final inspection.

In collaboration with ministries, non-profits, and impact-driven partners, Contractor Guardians helps build, repair, and provide homes—including traditional houses, mobile homes, and tiny homes—for veterans and families in need. Our goal is to facilitate 2,000+ home projects each year, ensuring those who served and those in crisis have a safe, dignified place to call home.

Through CGTP, we are developing trade schools and training programs across the U.S. to give young men and women—especially those who cannot afford college—access to skilled-trades education, mentorship, and meaningful careers in the building industry.

Primary Contact

John Kennedy – Contractor Guardians Tradeschool Program (CGTP)
Email: j.kennedy@contractorguardians.com
Phone: +1 (720) 416-7917