



SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The CT Workforce Development Council urges the Governor and the legislature to increase state funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program from \$4.5M to \$5M for this and future fiscal years. This increase will represent an impactful and stable investment in creating job readiness for Connecticut's youth and in developing a talent pipeline of individuals who are prepared to enter the workforce and make meaningful contributions to the state's economy.

Youth Unemployment

- Connecticut youth employment significantly declined during and in the aftermath of the Great Recession.
 - 17% of those aged 16-24 in Connecticut were officially unemployed in the spring of 2012
- A well-funded Summer Youth Employment Program in Connecticut can help youth employment rebound from the detrimental effects of the economic downturn.

2012 Summer Youth Employment Program

- Connecticut's five regional Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) which coordinate and administer the Summer Youth Employment Program report that without state funds and other leveraged resources, there would have been no program in 2012.
- Even with \$4.5M in state funding, far fewer youth were provided with work opportunities in 2012 than in 2010.
 - 4,945 youths worked during the summer of 2012 in over 900 private, non-profit and municipal worksites. For many of these youth, it this was their first work experience.
 - Over 6,600 or 57% of applicants were not able to participate in the program due to insufficient funding.
 - In comparison, 5,982 and 7,397 youth participated in the program in 2009 and 2010 respectively.
- 42% of participants were Black/African-American, 25% were Hispanic and 20% were White. This is a particularly important demographic because by 2030, minorities will account for 42% of Connecticut's working age population.
- In addition to the \$4.5M in state funds, \$554,982 in DCF funding and \$2,770,528 in private, municipal and philanthropic dollars were leveraged by the WIBs to expand the number of youth served in the program.

Summer Youth Employment – Benefits

- Research from various sources tells us that teens who work during the summer are more likely to:
 - Return to school in the fall and advance to the next grade.
 - Graduate from high school.
 - Experience a smoother transition to the labor market and higher weekly and yearly earnings for up to 15 years after high school graduation.
 - Benefit from an opportunity to apply classroom learning to workplace scenarios while building skills not taught in school.

Employer Feedback

- *"Our candidate has been with us 2 years and we look forward to continuing to be an influence in his professional growth." J.B.-Fandotech*
- *"Our intern was professional, reliable, quick to learn and a pleasure to be with. Overall our experience was excellent and not only would I recommend the intern program to other business owners, but I would be interested in participating again next year."-B.D. Web Savvy Marketers*
- *"Our firm had a great experience with our intern this summer. She was able to rotate through several administrative groups to truly gain an inside view of what it's like to work in the business world." H.N. Blum Shapiro*

On behalf of the CT Workforce Development Council,
contact William Villano, Director of the Workforce Alliance at 203-624-4030 or wvillano@workforcealliance.biz