

Annapolis Youth Summer Jobs Program

Background

The Pew Center for the States estimates that by 2018, employment growth and retiring baby-boomers will create more than 900,000 job vacancies in Maryland. People with a foundation of skills learned from early work experiences will be needed to fill those vacancies.

Today, youth ages 16-24 are experiencing unemployment rates at least twice the national average. In the year 2000, 45 percent of teens ages 16-19 were employed. By 2011, just 26 percent of teens were employed. Rates for young adults ages 20-24 also plummeted during this time frame, from 72 to 60 percent.

According to the Opportunity Index, there are significant hidden costs of youth unemployment:

- Persistent high unemployment among young people adds up to \$25 billion a year in uncollected taxes and, to a much smaller degree, increased safety net expenditures, like social services and public safety.
- One unemployed 18-24 year old costs federal and state governments more than \$4,100 a year in forgone tax venue and benefits received.
- If youth unemployment were reduced to its pre-recession rate, the federal government would recoup \$8.7 billion, or \$53 per taxpayer, and state and local governments would recoup \$1.1 billion.

In Maryland, the Youth unemployment rate is :

- For 16-24 year olds 13.4%
- For 16-19 year olds 21.8%
- For 20-24 year olds 10.5%

If young adults are on a career path, the overall community is more likely to achieve economic mobility and security. Young adults who are not working represents untapped potential. They cost taxpayers \$93 billion annually and \$1.6 trillion over their lifetimes in lost revenue and increased social services.

A summer job might last just a few weeks but it can profoundly impact youth in many ways:

- Jobs for teens living in families at or below poverty level – the income earned helps teens help their families
- Jobs Provides a constructive opportunity and a safe environment for teens to work and learn
- Teens learn skills they need to get a job and to keep it
- Teens learn first hand about different careers, and with more education, lead to rewarding careers
- Teens get mentored by professionals, their supervisors and other staff. The mentoring maybe informal but they can't help but pick up positive traits they see in their supervisors.

So, teen summer employment benefits everyone. They boost the economy and prepare the youth to become productive members of society.

The Annapolis Youth Summer Jobs Program is an investment in the region's future workforce and will actively prepare our young people to be successful contributors to our economy. Students who participate in the program will gain invaluable exposure to the business environment and gain a perspective on education and employment options after high school.

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Program Goals

- To prepare youth for summer jobs through workshops and readiness training
- To match youth with summer jobs (150-300)
- To mentor youth to assure their success in the program

The Program

Each Annapolis area business is asked to provide two summer jobs, more if they can. The jobs can be minimum wage, which goes from \$8 to \$8.25 on July 1st, more if you can. The jobs will last for 8 weeks, from June 21 until August 22, but dates may vary depending upon school obligations. Employers will offer a minimum of 20 hours per week. The age range of the students will be 14 to 22.

Part I - Mandatory Job Readiness Training - Saturday, April 18, 2015, 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center. The one day workshop will focus on skills needed to get and keep a job. These skills will include, but are not limited to, how to complete an application, resume writing, interview skills, and of of course the 3A's, attendance, attitude and attire. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Part II - Job Fair - Saturday, May 2nd at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center. Businesses will interview and offer jobs to the young people. After students land a job, a banker will be on hand to talk to them about opening a bank account. A computer will be available for youth who need work permits. There won't be any barriers to youths' successful job hunts. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Part III - Job Coaches - Job Coaches will be assigned to each youth and business. In order to address issues that may arise, Job Coaches will serve as a support system for the youth and as a resource to the business owners. If either has a problem, they will have someone to whom to take their concerns.

Targeted Audience

Youth ages 14 - 22

Evaluation

We will have ongoing monitoring of the program through the Job Coaches. We conducted focus groups with youth and business owners during the planning stages and we will conduct exit surveys from both the youth and the business owners to evaluate their experiences. It is my hope that this will become an annual program upon which we will build from this first year.

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