



**Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council/ Youth Activities Report
September 20, 2010**

Summer Jobs 2010

This year we are excited to report that we served 150 youth this summer. Our summer program served youth who were 14 to 21 and who were either low-income, had a disability, a special need or in foster care. This program provided real-life work experience through job readiness training, internships and eventual job placements. We reached out to close to 300 potential employers, including those in the private sector via our job fair, and also building relationships with the business sector throughout the year.

Summer Jobs Program Components

The summer program consisted of a three day intensive Job Readiness Training and six weeks of an internship placement. The job readiness training included skill-building activities on work ethic, conflict resolution, workplace etiquette, team-building, and career exploration. A pre-post skills-based test was given to ascertain skill attainment for the Civic Justice Corp (CJC) youth. A reflexive survey, post test only, was provided to all additional youth. An employer orientation session was held for the employers.

The youth were placed in internships sites. This year we placed 120 in-school and out-of-school youth throughout Montgomery County. We hired three additional staff as “job coaches” to work with the six current workforce staff to assist with the logistics and to support the interns.

All youth were required to work up to 30 hours a week, receiving \$7.25 per hour. Field trips, both educational and recreational in nature, were scheduled on three of the Fridays. Employers were given an opportunity to evaluate each youth at the end of the 6 week program. MMYC staff conducted site visits to ensure the interns and the employers were satisfied and achieving success.

The program included many partners this year: the Department of Economic Development (DED), the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Recreation, Civic Justice Corporation, Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning, the Department of Natural Resources, Housing Opportunities Commission, and forty-one business partners (non-profit, private and government agencies).

This year 30 youth received a “green work experience”. DED partnered with Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Civic Justice Corp, Department of Recreation, and Maryland National Parks and Planning to offer a six-week summer program that offered youth an opportunity to work on projects in state and county parks. The youth were divided into four crews and were based out of Seneca Park. The youth worked on many projects including litter clean-ups, rebuilding hiking trails, and building a park pavilion.

The Civic Justice Corps provided youth participants with valuable skills in park forestry management and with hopes that youth would consider possible careers in the environmental field.

Youth participated in enrichment activities such as camping, canoeing, art, and wildlife projects. The Civic Justice Corp program had a 90 percent completion rate.

Outcomes for Summer 2010:

Served 120 youth through the summer program

- 54 employers submitted applications; 41 received interns
- 3 days of job readiness training
- 6 weeks of internship experience
- 3 days of Enrichment activities/Field trips (Library of Congress/Capitol Tour, White Water Rafting/Harper’s Ferry National Historic Park, and the National Aquarium)

Closing Ceremony

Over 100 youth and their families attended the closing ceremony on August 10th at the Oakland Terrace Elementary School. Twenty-two employers came to support their interns and the program. The program consisted of two youth masters of ceremony who acknowledged the many partnerships, youth awards and reflections, and employer awards and reflections.

Conclusion

Each summer we have expanded our summer employment opportunities for youth. We have worked from a comprehensive service strategy based model which allows youth to think about their individual career & educational pathways. We are working with the private sector, in addition to the public sector, to provide year round unsubsidized employment for youth.

We would like to thank several WIB members for supporting our Summer Program by hosting a youth at your business or organization.

Request for Vendor

This year the Department of Economic Development Division of Workforce Services released two RFP's: one for Employment Services for Youth and the second for Employment Services for Youth with Disabilities.

A QSC was selected, respondents who acquired a score of 75 or higher were interviewed, a recommendation was made to procurement, and vendors were selected.

The County recommended and awarded the Youth Employment Services contract to the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) according to the parameters set forth in RFP.

The County also selected Transcen for the Youth Employment Services for Youth with Disabilities Contract. DED look forward to working with both vendors in the coming year.

Ongoing Youth Activities

In-School Youth Activities

- ***Job Readiness Training (JRT) Program with HOC*** –Program planning for the fall will include a meeting and a MOU to extend the partnership for the Gaithersburg and Sandy Spring programs.
- ***College 101*** – Program planning for the fall will include a schedule and an outline for the school year programs and a partnership with MMYC's Upward Bound Program at Montgomery College Takoma Park.
- ***Wheaton High School-*** Program planning for the fall will include a meeting and a MOU to outline the program and include all possible partners i.e. IT employers.
- ***Seneca Valley High School-*** Program planning for fall and spring semester will include a meeting and a MOU to outline the program and the NRF curriculum. Youth recruitment event on August 12 was rescheduled for September. Tentative start date will be in October.
- ***Families Services Inc.*** - An ongoing partnership for cross-referrals has been established for the Germantown youth. Possible JRT will need further discussion and follow up.

Out-of-School Activities

- Fall cohort of GED classes will tentatively start in October
- JRT classes will tentatively start in October. College 101 Program planning for the fall will include a schedule for school year programming and a partnership with MMYC's Upward Bound Program at Montgomery College