



Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

We help make things happen

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Local businesses receive a helping hand and help youth at the same time

(Cincinnati, OH) – Cincinnati youth are working at nonprofit organizations, government agencies, corporations, law firms, health care facilities, and small businesses this summer, at no cost to employers. At the same time, local teens are gaining a summer income as they learn the skills necessary to become the well-prepared workforce of Cincinnati's future. In this economic climate, employers are short-staffed because they simply cannot afford to hire the help they need. In addition, youth employment opportunities are scarce at best since they are competing in a job market flooded with an overwhelming number of experienced adults. The Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA) is addressing both of these concerns through its Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

"We cannot forget about preparing for the future because we are so concerned with the economic problems of today. We must invest in creative programs that address both. The SYEP provides youth with a summer income now, helps employers meet some of their business demands, and prepares youth to become Cincinnati's future workforce," commented Gwen L. Robinson, CAA President/CEO.

The U.S. Bank Boys & Girls Club is one of 67 worksites involved in the program. Here, youth workers are not only completing administrative tasks, but are also helping to plan summer activities for kids who depend on the services provided by the nonprofit organization. The Boys & Girls Club and their clients benefit from the free assistance. The youth benefit from earning a summer income and learning professional skills.

Through the SYEP, CAA matched 375 local teens with area businesses and the agency is now distributing paychecks and holding weekly employment and life skills trainings for the youth. During their eight weeks of employment and training (June 15 – August 7), Cincinnati youth from low- to moderate-income families are earning \$7.30/hour for 15 hours/week. Funding for the SYEP has been provided by Mayor Mallory's summer youth initiative.

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