



## Cinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

*We help make things happen*

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### **City/Community Action Agency collaboration ensures youth still have summer job opportunities**

(Cinnati, OH) – As part of the Mayor's summer youth initiative, the City of Cinnati and the Cinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA) are working together to help youth secure jobs through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). With the US unemployment rate at its highest level in a quarter-century, finding work is a challenge for anyone. Youth simply cannot compete in a job market flooded with an overwhelming number of experienced adults. They will need assistance this summer, now more than ever in their lifetimes.

Through the SYEP, CAA will place 375 youth, ages 14-18, in entry level jobs at community-based organizations, government agencies, corporations, law firms, health care facilities, and small businesses. During their eight weeks of employment (June 15 – August 7), youth will earn \$7.30/hour for 15 hours/week.

The SYEP will provide youth with far more than a summer income. After an assessment of interests and abilities, CAA will help each youth outline personal career ambitions and the steps necessary to achieve them. In addition, CAA will also administer a series of weekly trainings on topics such as: interviewing, creating a resume, developing interpersonal skills, and financial management.

These experiences contribute to the overriding objective of the SYEP which is a well-prepared workforce. Specifically, studies show that students who work:

- Build more confidence and responsibility than youth who do not work;
- Decrease learning losses that occur during the summer months;
- Use their summer breaks more constructively and are less likely to be involved in troublesome activities; and
- Improve their work readiness and cultivate skills.

The City and CAA are collaborating with other groups in the community to ensure a successful SYEP, including Cinnati Public Schools, Cinnati State Technical & Community College, Hughes High School, and the nonprofit, Jobs for Cinnati Grads.

Gwen L. Robinson, CAA President/CEO, commented that, "CAA is honored to have been awarded stewardship of this program for the third year in a row. We applaud the city for continuing to invest in the future of our youth, especially during these challenging economic times. CAA will not take this charge lightly and will ensure that the 2009 SYEP delivers all that it promises for our youth and for the City of Cinnati."

Michael Cervay, Community Development Director for the City of Cinnati, commented, "The Community Action Agency is a valuable partner with the City in providing summer employment opportunities to area youth. We look forward to a productive and successful program."

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