

The Cincinnati
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In an employment drought, CAA helps young adults find jobs

In an economic climate where skilled adults are competing for jobs traditionally secured by teenagers, the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency is helping 14-24-year-olds bring home a summer paycheck. CAA's Summer Youth Employment Program received almost 2,500 applications from local youth eager to work hard this summer. The agency will be able to provide 1,000 of these applicants with career training and a summer job, made possible through funding from Mayor Mallory's Summer Youth Initiative, Hamilton County Job & Family Services, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"It's no secret that this economy is making it hard for people to pay their bills. But what fewer people understand is that it's also denying our youth of opportuni-

ties that can have a tremendously positive impact on their lives. I'm proud to say that despite the current economy, CAA is not only continuing all of its youth programs, but we are expanding them to meet the increased need," said Gwen L. Robinson, CAA President/CEO.

CAA's SYEP applicants range from high school to post-secondary students and graduates. CAA is partnering with community-based organizations, government agencies, law firms, health care facilities, small businesses, large corporations, and other local businesses to provide professional, substantive work experiences for these young adults. The agency hopes that summer employment will not only provide youth with a summer income, but will also bring the many benefits that research suggests such an opportuni-

ty provides, including: building participants' confidence and responsibility; decrease learning losses that occur during the summer months; using summer breaks more constructively and diminishing involvement in delinquent activities; and improving their work readiness and cultivation of marketable skills.

Tyonna Richardson, 17, said, "I kept filling out applications, but no one ever called. And then the Community Action Agency helped me find a job. A lot of kids are getting into trouble these days and I'm just glad I have something that's good to do with my time."

To learn more about CAA and the SYEP, please visit www.cincy-caa.org. CAA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting Hamilton County's low-income residents in becoming self-sufficient.