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Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

We appreciate the feedback we received on the SYEP Concept Paper released on June 18, 2012. Upon review of the responses, DYCD is offering the following clarifications. All responses will be taken into account as the SYEP Request for Proposals is developed.

Service Option 1: Youth aged 14-15

Question: Will providers be required to provide a service learning model as the placement for all program participants?

- Participation in community service projects, including service learning, is not mandatory. Providers may instead develop any age-appropriate work placement, such as work in a nursing home, community center, or with an employer in the private sector.

Question: Are placements in summer camps and day care centers appropriate for the younger youth to be served in Service Option 1?

- The New York State Department of Health Sanitary Code regulations require that summer day camp counselors must be age 16 or older. A narrow exception allows 15-year-olds to work as Counselors in Training (CITs). However, only ten percent of the total number of required counselors in the ratio of counselors to campers may be CITs. CITs may not independently supervise campers and must be supervised as campers themselves. Other restrictions and requirements also apply to CITs.* See 10 CRR-NY 7-2.5 (b) and 10 CRR-NY 7-2.5 (k).

Youth aged 14 and 15 may, however, work at summer day camps in capacities that do not directly involve children, such as maintenance and grounds keeping, , provided camps comply with applicable health and safety regulations. See www.health.ny.gov/regulations/nycrr/title_10/.

The School-Age Child Care (SACC) guidelines require that all day care staff must be aged 16 or older, regardless of the capacity in which they work. See ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/policies/default.asp.

* For example, CIT duties must be described in written plans, and CITs must receive training and have two years prior experience as a camper. See 10 CRR-NY 7-2.5 (k).

Service Option 3: Vulnerable youth aged 14-24

Question: If older and younger youth are served separately through Service Option 1 (Youth aged 14-15) and Service Option 2 (Youth aged 16-24), shouldn't vulnerable youth also be separated according to age?

- The programming to be provided through Service Option 3 to vulnerable youth should be both age-appropriate and tailored to the specific developmental levels, skills and interests of participants. Accordingly, they will not necessarily be served separately according to age. It is anticipated that Option 3 providers will be specialists able to provide the individualized supports that will enable their vulnerable youth participants to succeed.

Question: May vulnerable youth be served through service options other than Option 3?

- Some vulnerable youth may, and should, be served in any of the other service options.

Service Option 3: Vulnerable youth aged 14-24 and

Service Option 4: Unsubsidized jobs for youth aged 16-24

Question: For Service Options 1 (Youth aged 14-15) and 2 (Youth aged 16-24), competitions are borough-wide. In addition, providers are encouraged to locate programs and conduct outreach to areas of high unemployment within each borough.

For Service Options 3 and 4, will providers be able to serve a particular geographic region or must they recruit participants from all five boroughs?

- While the competitions for Service Options 3 and 4 are citywide, proposers may define the service area in which they would provide services. It could be, for example, one or more boroughs, community districts, or neighborhoods.

All Service Options

Question: Will providers be required to follow the DYCD curriculum exactly as it is written?

- DYCD will provide a standardized curriculum for each service option. Providers are expected to cover the topics in the curriculum, but may adapt the content to the specific needs and interests of the particular population served.

Question: What will the timeframe be for responding to the RFP?

- Providers will have six weeks from release of the RFP to submit their proposals.