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2023 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP) APPLICATIONS OPEN TO NYC YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 14-24

Youth and employers can apply now at nyc.gov/syep

NEW YORK – New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Commissioner Keith Howard today announced the launch of applications for the 2023 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). This summer will mark the 60th anniversary of the storied program, with New York City once again slated to provide a record 100,000 summer job opportunities for young people ages 14-24.

SYEP applications can be completed online (nyc.gov/syep) or at a participating community-based organization during the application period from Monday, February 13, through Friday, March 31, 2023. Applications also opened today for employers who would like to provide work experiences for SYEP participants by becoming a worksite.

“Every young person in this city deserves to discover their passions and connect with potentially lifelong mentors,” said **First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright**. “Through our diverse—and still expanding—employer portfolio, young New Yorkers have been able to explore an array of fields and help find what motivates them as they prepare for their futures. Mayor Eric Adams and I are proud to have helped lead the historic growth of the Summer Youth Employment Program, and thank DYCD and our community and employer partners for their outstanding work as we build on the success of our historic investments in SYEP and the youth of NYC.”

“DYCD is excited to welcome back SYEP after last year’s record-setting summer and unprecedented investment by Mayor Adams that created the highest number of jobs and worksites in the program’s history. We are also looking forward to throwing SYEP a happy 60th birthday party this year—and the program has only gotten better with age. To help us commemorate this incredible milestone, we are looking for your SYEP story! Visit the DYCD website at www.nyc.gov/dycd to share your SYEP memories, and be a part of the big celebration,” said **DYCD Commissioner Keith Howard**.

The city’s SYEP program, which is the largest in the country, runs for six weeks in July and August. The initiative provides youth with paid opportunities to explore potential career interests and pathways, allowing participants to engage in learning experiences that help develop their professional, social, civic, and leadership skills. SYEP participants are compensated for their work at diverse worksites that include business/finance, fashion, philanthropy, technology, arts/culture, engineering/construction, healthcare, legal services, real estate, transportation, advertising/marketing, hospitality/tourism, media/entertainment, and retail.

Last summer, a record number of participants got a jump start on their careers at more than 18,000 worksites in all five boroughs. Ladders for Leaders, a professional internship component of SYEP, doubled in 2022 to place 1,732 high-achieving young New Yorkers in internships at companies such as Google, JetBlue, Madison Square Garden, Metropolitan Museum of Art, SL Green, A&E Networks, and the Ford Foundation. You can read all about it by clicking [here](#) for the 2022 SYEP Annual Report.

As part of Mayor Adams’ commitment to expanding SYEP, DYCD worked with City agencies, NYC City Council, and other public sector organizations last year to provide an unprecedented number of internship opportunities in local government to nearly 9,000 young people. Over 800 youth interned with the NYPD

and FDNY, with both departments hosting events for participants to explore careers in law enforcement and first response.

SYEP offers workshops on work readiness, career exploration and financial literacy. Financial literacy curriculum equips young people with the tools to build a positive and healthy relationship with money. Through more than four hours of content, youth identify their financial values; learn concepts related to banking, saving, taxation, and investing; and develop practical skills to achieve financial wellness.

Additionally, as part of a national effort to encourage young people to save and make healthy financial choices, SYEP participants have the option to receive their wages via direct deposit to a bank account of their choice. Last summer, more than two-thirds of participants received their payment through direct deposit accounts. The multi-year initiative, Summer Jobs Connect, is funded by the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund (CFE Fund) and the Citi Foundation. Participants aged 14 and 15 receive a stipend for the summer; older youth 16-24 are paid the prevailing minimum wage.

Special programming is available for NYC youth through various service options, including CareerReady. The initiative is designed for students between the ages of 14 and 21 from select DOE schools, and allows students, school leaders, and CBO program staff to align the SYEP experience with academic learning. Last year, SYEP's "school-based model" served 21,000 students at 226 NYC high schools, up from 12,000 students and 88 high schools in 2021. Selection to the program is conducted by the participating schools rather than the online lottery.

Through SYEP Special Initiatives, equity is at the forefront of recruitment from historically underserved communities. In 2022, more than 13,300 participants were NYCHA residents; and nearly 4,700 young people were part of the SYEP Emerging Leaders Program, which provides specialized experiences for youth who are justice-involved, experiencing homelessness, in foster care, or who have disabilities and attend DOE District 75 schools.

Launching this summer is the inaugural SYEP Pride initiative. SYEP Pride will connect young people who identify as LGBTQ+ with supportive, safe, and affirming work and career exploration experiences. The program will also allow employer partners to offer unique employment and learning opportunities that will support and empower LGBTQ+ youth through the SYEP program.

Studies indicate that SYEP improves school attendance, offers new skills, reduces incarceration rates, and keeps teens and young adults safe—including youth who wouldn't otherwise have access to paying jobs. Research shows summer jobs save lives, cut crime, and strengthen communities. A 2021 study found that SYEP participation lowers participants' chances of being arrested that summer by 17 percent and by 23 percent for felony arrests. Other research has found that SYEP youth are significantly less likely to be incarcerated in New York State more than five years after their participation in the program.

"An early job can be a critical first step into the financial mainstream. As the largest SYEP in the country, New York City is a leader in connecting young people to safe and affordable bank and credit union accounts through our Summer Jobs Connect initiative, in partnership with the Citi Foundation; we are thrilled to partner with Mayor Adams and the New York City Summer Youth Employment Program to continue this critical work and help more young people take a first step towards a stronger financial future," said **Jonathan Mintz, President and Chief Executive Officer, Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund.**

"Health care is a vital part of the New York City and it's an industry that where many students can begin a valuable career. NYC Health + Hospitals is proud to participate in the SYEP program and expose hundreds of students to the world of mission-driven hospitals and patient care," said **Yvette Villanueva, Senior Vice President for Human Resources at NYC Health + Hospitals.**

“The world of work experience that the Summer Youth Employment Program provides is invaluable. Jobs help teens discover new skills, interests, and potential career paths; develop a sense of responsibility; and understand personal finance. For young people from economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, exposure to these experiences also builds confidence, which translates into higher grades and graduation rates. Children’s Aid is proud to partner with New York City to bring these opportunities to thousands of teens this summer,” said **Phoebe C. Boyer, President and CEO of Children’s Aid**.

“The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is an engaging, educational opportunity for New York City youth to explore various career paths and cultivate knowledge. As CBO, we are invigorated by the opportunity to support more youth this year and collaborate with new faces to provide innovative and sustainable change to the NYC community. CASW strives to be every local youth’s first step in a long, prosperous career. Because our youth have the desire and dedication needed to be successful, we must match that with projects and internships that not only prepare our members for their future but sets fire to the career paths that ignite passion in them,” said **Yokasta Morales, Executive Director of Children’s Arts & Science Workshops**.

“I am beyond excited as we prepare for the start of the 2023 Summer Youth Employment Program. Given the personal and financial commitment of Mayor Adams, and his vision of summer jobs being available to any young person who wants one, we’re looking forward to placing more participants than ever before. I’ve always viewed SYEP as a guarantor of a bright future for New York. Today’s young people are tomorrow’s professionals, business leaders, and elected officials—who one day will themselves be responsible for ensuring that SYEP does for their children what it did for them,” said **Louis Welz, CEO of COJO Flatbush**.

“The release of the Summer Youth Employment Program application is a banner day for so many young people and families in our community. It was my lottery ticket to a meaningful career, and I get so excited thinking about the important possibilities that lie ahead for our future leaders. It speaks to the significance of this program and its impact that this is the 60th year that it’s being offered, and we’re so grateful for the many ways this program leads to success in our programs and greater community,” said **Danielle Ellman, CEO of Commonpoint Queens**.

“Ladders for Leaders internships create exciting opportunities for a diverse array of young people who have not yet been exposed to career paths in New York City’s real estate industry. We’re proud to work with the Adams administration to support this valuable initiative and look forward to seeing more Ladders for Leaders interns this summer in REBNY member offices across the City,” said **Yvonne Riley-Tepie, Senior Vice President of Social Impact at the Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY)**.

“At Uncommon Goods, we are big believers in New York City and the Summer Youth Employment Program. We’ve been active participants for a number of years, benefitting from the fresh perspectives and energy of the interns. Our team members also enjoy mentoring interns who may be new to their field of expertise and getting them up to speed to be meaningful contributors to the business during their time with us. Working under one umbrella organization (DYCD) has greatly simplified the process for us. Interns have participated in many departments of our business and we look forward to being a SYEP worksite again in 2023,” said **Dave Bolotsky, Founder and CEO, Uncommon Goods**.

“United Activities Unlimited is proud to partner with Mayor Adams and the Department of Youth & Community Development to provide NYC’s youth with meaningful job opportunities this summer. The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) gives young people an opportunity to explore career fields, develop tangible skills, and support their families. SYEP is a prime example of how our city can work with the private sector to expand opportunities for all. UAU is proud to once again participate in this program, making a difference in the lives of young people. We’ve proudly participated for many years and have seen

lives change as a result. Thank you to Mayor Adams for again making this a priority,” said **Steven Matteo, Executive Director of United Activities Unlimited.**

“Throughout the years, SYEP has given me exposure to many fields and the opportunity to network, grow, and learn. I am proud to say that through this summer internship opportunity, I have been hired as a sales assistant. Now I’m working with amazing people, getting exposure to international and domestic clients, and growing my understanding of the wholesale manufacturing business,” said **Christina Abraham, 2022 SYEP participant.**

Program updates will be posted to DYCD’s social media sites. For more information, call 311 or DYCD Community Connect (1-800-246-4646).