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**2026 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP) APPLICATIONS OPEN TO NYC
YOUTH AGES 14-24**

Young People and Potential Employers Can Apply Now at nyc.gov/syep

NEW YORK, NY – Applications are open for the 2026 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), providing a fifth consecutive summer of 100,000 jobs and other paid opportunities to young people ages 14-24. SYEP applications can be completed online or through participating community-based organizations found at nyc.gov/syep during the application period through Friday, February 27, 2026. Applications also opened for employers who would like to provide paid experiences for SYEP participants by becoming a worksite. Interested employers can visit nyc.gov/hirenyouth.

“Young New Yorkers hear ‘no’ far too often—and not nearly enough about what is possible. It’s time for a different perspective. That’s why I’m proud to announce that the Summer Youth Employment Program is back for 2026,” said **Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani**. “If you’re between 14 and 24, you can apply for a paid job that builds real skills, real confidence, and real opportunity. This is about investing in our young people and trusting them to lead. Apply today—and let’s make this your best summer yet.” (View [Mayor’s video](#) announcing the opening of applications).

“Summer might be months away, but your journey toward greatness begins today! We are thrilled to announce the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)—the nation’s premier youth workforce initiative—is officially open for business with the earliest application launch in history. This is testament to a new era of government that’s infused with young people like never before,” said **DYCD Commissioner Keith Howard**. “As a former SYEP participant, I’ve seen how this program changes lives. It’s more than just a job—it’s about the pride of earning your first paycheck, mastering your finances, and gaining the unstoppable skills that pave your pathway to success. We are ready for you to claim your spot among a record-breaking 100,000 opportunities available this summer. Don’t wait for the heat to hit—ignite your career right now!”

SYEP 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. Participants aged 14 and 15 receive a stipend for the summer; older youth aged 16-24 are paid the prevailing minimum wage.

Last summer, participants got a jump start on their careers at thousands of worksites across the city, in industries such as business/finance, fashion, philanthropy, technology, arts/culture, engineering/construction, healthcare, legal services, real estate, transportation, advertising/marketing, hospitality/tourism, media/entertainment, and retail.

Additionally, SYEP offers tailored experiences to thousands of young people who are:

- At highest risk of gun violence
- NYCHA residents
- Living with disabilities
- Justice-involved, experiencing homelessness, in foster care
- Participants in CareerReady SYEP, aligned with high school academic learning
- High-achieving youth in Ladders for Leaders, a professional internship component of SYEP, which connects them to pre-employment training and access to competitive internships with leading

companies, including IAC, EmblemHealth, Accenture, the Real Estate Board of New York, SAG-AFTRA, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Hertz, CBRE, the New York Mets, and more.

Studies indicate SYEP participation 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, cuts crime, and strengthens communities. A [2021 study](#) found that SYEP participation lowered participants' chances of being arrested by 17 percent, and by 23 percent for felony arrests. [Additional 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.

Program updates will be posted to [the SYEP website](#) and social media channels. If you need help applying, call DYCD Community Connect (1-800-246-4646).

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