

## A federal helping hand for youths

U.S. stimulus funds are beginning to show up in the form of new and meaningful jobs.

By Tom Infield  
and Max Stendahl  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITERS

Although just 15 years old, he's already 6½ feet tall. So you can easily understand why Jerimyah Batts dreams of one day playing professional basketball.

But he's smart enough to know he'd better have a back-up plan.

So for four hours each weekday this summer, Batts will be learning about geography at Temple University and using GPS technology to help mark trails in Fairmount Park.

The sophomore at Communications Technology High

### Youth Summer Jobs

Number of jobs in the Philadelphia region provided by the federal stimulus program, by county.

Pennsylvania	
Philadelphia	2,533
Montgomery	140
Bucks	121
Delaware	100
Chester	100
New Jersey	
Camden	600
Gloucester	130
Burlington	60

SOURCE: Pa. and N.J. Departments of Labor  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

School is among 125,000 American youths who have gained jobs this summer as a result of the \$787 billion stimulus program enacted in February.

The White House counts their part-time hours toward the 600,000 jobs of all kinds it says the stimulus will save or create this summer.

Batts, taking a break from a class inside Temple's Gladfelter Hall, said he didn't know a lot about the stimulus program. But he said he was "glad to have a job."

Without it, he said, he'd be "just laying at home, watching TV."

If not an NBA player, he said, he hoped to be a counselor. He recognized, he said, that he'd probably need to go to college, and he hopes to "bring my C's up."

If he sticks with his six-week job — in which he is earning the minimum wage, \$7.25 an hour — he could qualify for an elective-course credit at his high school.

The stimulus program in-  
See **STIMULUS** on A20

## Stimulus boosts meaningful jobs for youths

**STIMULUS** from A1  
clides \$1.2 billion for youth employment, including this summer's program. The funding beefs up a federally financed program that has existed for years.

In Pennsylvania, it means as much as \$31 million in additional money to finance about 8,700 youth jobs this summer. In New Jersey, a windfall of \$20.8 million in extra money will pay for about 6,500 jobs.

The funding is geared toward low-income youth. The stimulus will pay for about 2,500 jobs in Philadelphia and 600 in Camden. Six other counties in the region will get smaller shares of the jobs.

The Philadelphia Youth Network, which runs the summer jobs programs in the city, placed Batts in a program sponsored by Temple University and the Friends of the Wissahickon.

The 82 students in his group will spend two weeks on campus and the rest of their time working in the park. According to a program description, they'll work with Temple students and others "in generating spatial data sets related to a park project that will place markers on new trails."

If that sounds sophisticated, it's meant to.

The program is typical of many, city officials said. They're intended to offer more than the drudgery of sweeping playgrounds or picking up litter. Some involve academics, and all are aimed at providing "mean-



Temple University program director Michele Masucci briefs student Mehran Chughtal on an orienteering exercise that teaches participants to use GPS devices and satellite imagery.

ingful work."

"It's preparing them to move into the workforce in a good way," said Sallie A. Glickman, executive director of the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board. "They can build a portfolio and a resumé, and all the things they need to get a job." Mayor Nutter, in an interview, said: "It's not just about the money (for the job-holders). ... We're trying to get young people focused on 'What are you going to do as you move through high school?'"

Counties have some leeway in shaping the summer youth

program.

In Montgomery County, 140 youths are earning more than the minimum wage — \$8 an hour — and some of what they are doing does, in fact, involve physical labor.

"They need to learn how to come to work on time, work in teams, get along with the boss," said Gerald Birkelbach, executive director of the Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board. "... There is dignity in all work, and having a productive summer — that really is the goal."

But he agreed that the experience had to be "meaningful

work, not just picking up rocks in the parking lot."

On Tuesday, on the second day of the Philadelphia program, part of Batts' group was sitting in a darkened classroom at Gladfelter Hall. On a screen, a leader was showing Google satellite images of objects in the region, nation, and world. The students were using geographic clues to identify the objects.

At the same time, out on campus, another part of the group was on a sort of scavenger hunt. Michele Masucci, the Temple program director, said that, in principle, there

was little difference between learning to navigate in an urban landscape and in the woods the students will explore later.

The group's objective on a sun-soaked day was a square patch of grass next to Anderson Hall. Group members located it using satellite images and a series of narrative clues that led them from one part of campus to the next.

Most of the youths were from Temple's neighborhood in North Philadelphia.

Chablis Morant, 14, said she entered the program to learn about environmental science, which she hopes to study in college.

"I wanted to learn about how to get ready for work and be prepared," said Morant, who will enter Cardinal Dougherty High School as a freshman in the fall.

For Kia Howard, 14, the program represents her first job.

She wants to learn about environmental issues — an interest that her mother has fostered by becoming more eco-friendly at home.

"We're trying to do everything green now," said Howard, who will be a freshman at Frankford High School.

Tyler Hynes, 15, a rising junior at St. Joseph's Prep who hopes to become a psychiatrist, said: "It's good to have some sort of background in any given subject."

Contact staff writer Tom Infield at 610-313-8205 or [infield@phillynews.com](mailto:infield@phillynews.com).

# PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## Stimulus, Greater Philadelphia Chamber aiding Phila. summer jobs program

Philadelphia Business Journal - by [Athena D. Merritt](#) Staff Writer

WorkReady Philadelphia's programs will put nearly 9,000 young people to work this summer with the help of \$7.4 million in federal recovery funds and another year of support from the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor's Office announced Wednesday.

WorkReady programs, which are generally available to youths from 14 to 21 years old, employed 7,898 last summer.

The city's allocation from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for youth employment is expected to help employ more than 2,500 this summer, Mayor Michael Nutter said. Another 1,000 paid summer internships will be provided through the Chamber's initiative, which is entering its third year and has received the support of 120 regional businesses, foundations and nonprofits. A total of 96 companies returned as participants this year despite the economy, which is an 80 percent retention rate, the Chamber said.

"Our region's young people need us now more than ever," Chamber President and CEO Mark Schweiker said. "This campaign demonstrates that the businesses community is not sitting on the sidelines at this critical time."

Internships for the chamber's six-week program are filled by students who will enter 11th grade or higher in the fall and costs each employer about \$1,600 per position, which includes the intern's salary and the cost of administering the program. Interns work a minimum of 20 hours per week Monday through Thursday and attend professional development programs off-site on Fridays. The chamber and Nutter recruited businesses and WorkReady Philadelphia recruited students for the program, which begins July 6.

The chamber's initiative, which is run by the Philadelphia Youth Network, provided 441 paid summer intern positions in 2006, 1,049 in 2007 and 1,500 last year. The Network, which is under contract with the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board, is managing the use of the ARRA funds and WorkReady programs. The state's work force investment boards will use ARRA funds to create an estimated 8,692 summer youth jobs across Pennsylvania.

**Philadelphia Youth Network  
Media Hits Related to WorkReady Summer 2009**

Media Source Name	Date (First aired/Printed)	Title	Author	Details
<b>Print</b>				
<i>Philadelphia Business Journal</i>	02/13/09	"Nutter pushes youth intern project in spite of harsh economic times"	Bernard Dagenais	The mayor calls on Philadelphia businesses to provide 1,500 internships to Philadelphia youth in Summer 2009, despite the economic climate.
<i>Philadelphia Business Journal</i>	05/15/09	"Invest in future with interns"	Mike Carbone and Mark Schweiker	Carbone and Schweiker encourage businesses to invest in youth by hiring interns.
<i>Philadelphia Business Journal</i>	06/25/09	"Stimulus, Greater Philadelphia Chamber aiding Phila. Summer jobs program"	Athens D. Merritt	Discusses impact of stimulus funds on WorkReady Philadelphia and Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce's involvement in the program.
<i>Philadelphia Daily News</i>	07/09/09	"Stimulus \$ coming, but impact not clear"	Catherine Lucey	Offers that the full impact of stimulus funds on the City is yet to materialize. Mentions \$4 million will go to youth summer jobs, providing 2,500 slots for youth.
<i>Philadelphia Daily News</i>	08/05/09	"Conservation Corps launched"	Staff and wire reports	Announces the launch of the Conservation Leadership Corps in the Philadelphia region. 50 local high school students will participate.
<i>Philadelphia Gay News</i>	05/22/09	"Local groups launch joint summer internship project"	Jen Colletta	Discusses six-week internship experience organized by The Attic Youth Center and other organizations for 40 youth.
<i>The Philadelphia Inquirer</i>	07/06/09	"Heading to Work"	Mike Armstrong	Announces the start of the internship program, including number of youth interns and number of participating businesses.
<i>The Philadelphia Inquirer</i>	07/10/09	"A federal helping hand for youths"	Tom Infield and Max Stendahl	Discusses the impact that stimulus funds have had on youth employment opportunities in the city, region, and nationally.
<b>Television</b>				
<i>KYW-CBS3</i>	06/25/09			Covers Mayor's press conference at Temple University announcing how stimulus money will be used for summer jobs.
<i>WCAU-NBC 10</i>	04/29/09			Interview with Melissa Orner about WorkReady Philadelphia.
<i>WPVI-6ABC</i>	06/25/09			Covers Mayor's press conference at Temple University announcing how stimulus money will be used for summer jobs.

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<b>Radio</b>				
<b>KYW Newsradio 1060</b>	03/15/09	"The Young and the Jobless"	John McDevitt	Describes the tough times that the business world is experiencing due to the economy, and how that may impact the WorkReady internship program.
<b>KYW Newsradio 1060</b>	06/10/09	"Philly's Gallery Becomes Temporary Job Center for Teens"	Karen Phillips	Discusses the Central Enrollment Center for WorkReady Philadelphia. Melissa Orner is interviewed.
<b>KYW Newsradio 1060</b>	06/27/09	"Phila. Youth Network Finds Thousands of Teens Work"	Pat Loeb	Discusses additional jobs for Philadelphia youth created by stimulus funding.
<b>WHYY Radio</b>	06/25/09			Covers Mayor's press conference at Temple University announcing how stimulus money will be used for summer jobs.
<b>Web</b>				
<b>citybizlist Philadelphia</b>	07/14/09	"Stradley Ronon Participates in WorkReady Philadelphia"	None listed	Announces that Stradley Ronon has five interns as a part of the WorkReady Program.
<b>Daily Times (Delaware County)</b>	08/20/09	"Program puts students to work"	Amy Brisson	Features Chester High School senior Britney Whitehead who is an intern at Burman's Pharmacy in Chester, PA. Britney's internship is a part of WorkReady Philadelphia.
<b>KYW1060.com</b>	06/10/09	"Philly's Gallery Becomes Temporary Job Center for Teens"	Karen Phillips	Discusses the Central Enrollment Center for WorkReady Philadelphia.
<b>KYW1060.com</b>	08/10/09	"Summer jobs for teens"	Pat Loeb	Discusses impact of stimulus funding on summer jobs for youth. Features 15-year old Fernando Santiago, a WorkReady participant.
<b>Montgomerynews.com</b>	08/20/09	"North Light summer internship provides opportunity for teen to give back"	Justin Childs	Features WorkReady participant Ja'Carri Hightner, rising junior at Lanekau High School.
<b>Philadelphia Business Journal (online)</b>	08/04/09	"Walmart Foundation funds green-jobs training for school students"	None listed	Discusses Walmart's donation to fund Conservation Leaders Corps program that funds 50 youth to participate in conservation efforts and receive green jobs training.
<b>Philadelphia Daily News</b>	06/04/09	"By luck & pluck, Rec's no wreck"	Dave Davies & Catherine Lucey	Discusses what the Recreation Department will offer in summer 2009 to youth, in light of City and State budget woes. Notes that 575 jobs will be available to youth.
<b>The Philadelphia Inquirer</b>	07/22/09	"Phila. students attend White House music program"	Vernon Clark	Discusses Philadelphia students attending a music lecture-demonstration at the White House. The students are listed as participating in the "WorkReady Philadelphia Summer Music Program at Benjamin Franklin High School."
<b>The Philadelphia Inquirer</b>	08/06/09	"Phila. students sport greener diets"	Kristen Graham	Discusses the summer experiences of WorkReady youth participating in the Urban Nutrition Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania.
<b>The Philadelphia Inquirer (online)</b>	05/14/09	"PhillyDeals: Have a plan and a dream? Try reality TV"	Joseph N. DiStefano	Announces \$7.4 million in stimulus funding to be managed by PYN for youth employment.
<b>The Philadelphia Tribune</b>	08/06/09	"Intern program developing professionals"	Robert Hightower	Discusses the WorkReady internship program. Features the internship program at Independence Blue Cross.