

Summer Youth Program

About the Program

The Summer Youth Program was funded through the Recovery Act at a time when youth employment was at an all time low. More than 226,000 of the nation's young people had the opportunity this summer, to participate in summer employment as of July 31 (updated numbers will be released in October). The Summer Youth Employment Program surpassed expectations by creating valuable work opportunities, and career readiness programs such as skills training and mentoring activities that will continue year-round time. After a decade without a dedicated federal summer jobs program, the effort created opportunities for young people that would have not existed otherwise.

General Talking Points

- Regardless of recent reports, here is what the Summer Youth Employment Program accomplished in our city/town/municipality ...
- Young people were NOT competing with adults for work experiences through the Summer Youth Employment Program. There was never an opportunity for adults seeking jobs to compete for these same positions. Public and private employers worked with cities and states to create summer youth employment experiences specifically for young people participating in this program.
- For the most part, wages and stipends paid to young people through this program are federally funded.
- Summer Youth Employment Programs are *only one* allowable WIA Youth activity. Young people who were not in summer jobs were taking part in other activities such as comprehensive career readiness programs (that could include skills training and mentoring activities) and may not have been seeking summer employment.
- While approximately 25% of WIA Youth program participants were not enrolled in the summer jobs program (which is one of several activities allowable through WIA), they were enrolled in comprehensive career readiness activities. Participation in other activities does not mean each of these individuals were turned away from the Summer Youth Employment Program.
- While the overall youth unemployment rate is high, as of the end of July we are talking about more than 226,000 young people who may have had no employment whatsoever this summer without this program.

DOL Resources

Link to success stories in cities and states about summer youth employment program:
http://www.doleta.gov/summer_youth.cfm

Link to national data for July (most recent month available):
<http://www.doleta.gov/Recovery/MonthlyReports/200907.cfm>.