

Summer Youth Employment Program

Question and Answer

As of June 26, 2009

Message to All Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program Interested Parties:

Many of you are eager to know what is happening this summer. We understand your frustration. This has been an extremely challenging year for us with the state budget and the greater restrictions placed on eligibility for the Federally funded work slots. We have received over 3,500 completed applications during two months of sign up sessions and are doing our best to find as many work opportunities for as many young people as we can. We appreciate your patience and hope you will join us to advocate for more support for these programs in the future, particularly at the state level.

Q. When will I know if I / my child will be in the program?

A. You will receive a phone call before July 6th if you are definitely accepted into the program. Those who did not meet the eligibility requirements should receive a letter in the next 12 days.

All others are on a waiting list. There are over 1,300 people on the waiting list. Being on the waiting list means you are not currently enrolled in the program, however, we are still advocating for more funding and if we are able to locate and additional funds, -or if those who are eligible and accepted have already found employment elsewhere - you may be called at a later date up until July 18th.

If you are not contacted, it may also mean we do not have your current contact information – if your phone or address has changed, send the change by hitting the Contact Us Form on our website, or call and leave a message with the new information.

You are NOT accepted in the program unless someone has called you, connected with you and told you when and where to report for your Summer Opportunity.

Q. What if the agency I wanted doesn't call me but some other agency does?

A: You are not guaranteed to be in any agency's program, even if it was an agency's program that you were involved with in the past. If a different agency calls, you will be in their program.

Q. One of my children received a call but the other didn't. Does that mean they are both accepted?

A: Only the individual called had been accepted into the program. Your other child "MAY OR MAY NOT" be in the program. He/she may receive a call at a later date, or may be ineligible for the "age to funding source relationship" that he or she is in. We encourage you to wait for a call or letter for the second child to make a final determination.

Q. Is it too late to sign up? I just found out about it...

A. The intake process has been completed. There are no more intake sessions for this summer. Unfortunately we have received more applications than we have jobs for, however we do encourage you to check our website periodically, should anything change. And next year, plan to look for information on our website as early as January-February 2010 to see how you can get involved with the program in the Summer of 2010.

Q. Even though it is too late, can we still sign up?

A. The intake process has closed. There are no additional sign ups.

Q. Didn't you get additional stimulus money to accommodate extra applicants? I read that article in the Courant about 4,500 new jobs.

A. Yes, we did receive stimulus funds for these jobs, however, the Intake / Sign Up process began in April, and we now have more applications than we have jobs. The piece in the newspaper was not an advertisement to recruit youth, but an article that simply included information from the State, and some specifics about the program from Capital Workforce Partners.

Q. Why is the process taking so long? Should my daughter / son / student look for other work in the meantime?

A. We have received 3,500 applications through nearly two months of sign up sessions and are processing them as fast as we can. We appreciate your patience. In the meantime, there are no guarantees of jobs – so if your daughter / son / student should find an alternate job in the interim, we encourage you to pursue these opportunities.

Q. I am calling about a student who has special needs though. I am an educator / parent of a child with special needs. I heard this was a program for youths with special needs – is your quota for applicants with special needs met?

A. This program is not just for individuals with special needs but for all individuals who meet the Workforce Investment Act eligibility requirements. Having a disability is one of many qualifiers. If you have additional questions on this topic, please contact Jackie McGravey at jmcgravey@capitalworkforce.org or 522-1111 x318.

Q. Can you make an exception for my son / daughter? Or, I missed the Sign Up deadline – can I still make a one-to-one appointment?

A. The intake process has closed. There are no additional sign ups.

Q. Why has the process changed? Last year I was able to just get an application and sign up?

A. The funding source for the program this year changed. The Federal Stimulus American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding required additional eligibility requirements, documentation and the Sign Up process was required.

Q. I heard the hold up of the State Budget is also holding up access to the Federal stimulus funds allotted for this program. Is that true, and what does that mean?

A. Yes, that is true, but we are anticipating resolution on that issue and plan to start the summer program July 6th, as planned. If the State does not pass a budget in sufficient time, or allow these monies to be passed through as they were intended, the start of the program may be delayed.

