



Summer Jobs for Youth

Across the country, local communities are using **summer jobs programs** to provide at-risk youth with their first job. Summer jobs programs place youth, typically 14-to-24-year-olds, into jobs in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors for about five to seven weeks. Unfortunately, over the last several years decreased federal funding has limited the number of available program slots. A J.P. Morgan Chase study of fourteen major U.S. cities found that programs were only able to provide opportunities for 46 percent of applicants in 2014. Stronger federal investments in summer jobs programs are needed to ensure more of our nation's low-income and at-risk youth have the chance to reap the benefits of a good summer job.

Summer jobs give young people a chance to gain valuable work experience, develop skills, and earn a paycheck.

- Summer jobs provide youth with the early work experiences and mentors that can put them on the path towards better employment outcomes.
- Many summer jobs programs enable work-readiness training, career planning, and education, providing youth with opportunities to develop skills and explore various career options.
- A 2016 study of New York City's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) found participants increased their earnings by nearly \$900 in the year of the program participation. For youth from low-income families, wages from summer jobs also provide much-needed income.

Summer jobs encourage youth to stay connected to school.

- Research shows that summer jobs programs may help in-school youth remain connected to the education system.
- A 2014 study of the New York City's SYEP found that after program participation, youth older than 16 increased their school attendance by four or five additional days compared to their previous fall semester attendance. This increase in attendance represented 25 percent of the total days students are permitted to miss school and still continue on to the next grade.
- A 2015 study found that New York City's SYEP participants were more likely to attempt and pass statewide exams.

Summer jobs prevent crime, reduce incarceration, and save lives.

- Summer jobs "keep youth out of trouble" by providing youth with positive, productive activities that decrease their likelihood of committing or becoming the victims of crimes.
- A 2014 study of Chicago's summer jobs program shows that the program reduced violent crime arrests among at-risk youth by approximately 43 percent, with crime reduction benefits lasting over a year after the program had ended.
- A 2016 study of New York City's SYEP found participants had a 10 percent lower incarceration rate and 20 percent lower mortality rate than non-participants.