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ROCHESTER SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM WRAPS WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED LOCAL YOUTH WORKING OVER 53,000 HOURS AND EARNING A PAYCHECK

Rochester, NY, September 5, 2023—RochesterWorks announced today the completion of the 2023 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), which had a total of 455 participants this year, the most youth enrolled since before the pandemic in 2018. Combined with the 248 participants in the City of Rochester’s Summer of Opportunity Program (SOOP), a total of 703 local youth were able to receive valuable paid work experience with a local employer.

Both SYEP and SOOP are operated jointly through a partnership between RochesterWorks and the City of Rochester, respectively. The SYEP program is administered on behalf of the Monroe County Department of Social Services, using funding provided by New York State. The two organizations work collectively to recruit and enroll youth into the program, helping families navigate the multi-step application process.

“The Summer Youth Employment Program is one of our community’s best resources. As we look to prepare our youth for a career, the best thing we can do is provide them with valuable work experience and gain the satisfaction of earning a paycheck through hard work,” said Dave Seeley, Executive Director of RochesterWorks, Inc. “I am thankful for our team for getting this program back to its pre-pandemic strength, and grateful for our continued partnership with Monroe County and the City of Rochester.”

The RochesterWorks SYEP program provides two types of paid employment for teens. Youth ages 14 and 15 are enrolled in a structured program with one of 11 local non-profits, receiving work experience and soft skill development. Older youth ages 16-20 are placed directly with one of several dozen local employers who participate in the program. The SYEP wages are paid by RochesterWorks.

This summer, teens in the RochesterWorks SYEP program worked a total of 53,148 hours.

“We are exceptionally proud of the number of youths that we were able to service this summer, as well as the caliber of our employer partners that provided the opportunities for them to learn employable skills, gain work experience, and earn a paycheck as well. A big thank you goes out to all of them, as well as Monroe County and the City of Rochester for being such great partners. We look forward to an even bigger and better summer in 2024,” said Antwan Williams, Director of Youth System Services.

In addition to earning a paycheck, program participants are also eligible to receive financial literacy education, with the option of opening a checking and savings account. This is made possible through a partnership between the Mayor’s Office of Financial Empowerment and Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester.

For more information about the SYEP and SOOP program, please visit ROCSummerYouth.com.

About RochesterWorks

RochesterWorks is Monroe County's largest employment and training initiative. We are a nonprofit dedicated to providing free employment and workforce services to job seekers, youth, and businesses in Rochester and the Greater Monroe County Area.

Learn more about RochesterWorks, our programs, events, and services by visiting www.rochesterworks.org or by calling our Career Center at 585-258-3500. (TTY: 800-662-1220). RochesterWorks is an equal opportunity program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.