



A Private-Public Partnership Serving Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties
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Michigan Works! announces expansion of Youth Summer Work Experience Program

Thanks to additional funding from the federal government's economic stimulus plan, Michigan Works! is tripling its Youth Summer Work Experience Program.

More than 1,000 youths in Kalamazoo and St. Joseph counties will have the opportunity to gain work experience this summer. Youth must be between the ages of 14 and 24 and their family income must fall within specific guidelines. Work experience assignments will occur between May 1 and September 30. A variety of work experience positions are available, including clerical, customer service, maintenance, child care, etc. The rate of pay will be \$7.40 an hour.

Each youth will be assigned a case manager to assist with career readiness development. "This is more than helping young people earn money. It's an opportunity for youth to increase skills, learn new skills, establish lasting relationships with employers, and to establish references for future employment opportunities," says Dolly Roselip, Director of Youth Opportunities Unlimited, the Michigan Works! service provider operating the program.

The employer commitment is simple. Employers must provide the necessary supervision and training for the youth in regards to specific duties assigned and also provide tools and equipment necessary to complete the work. In addition to the opportunity to increase workforce capacity and diversity, work-site employers are also investing in the development of our region's future workforce. More than 150 businesses have already signed up to be a part of this initiative. For more information as to how your organization can be involved contact Don Hepner in Kalamazoo County at 269-349-9676 or Nancy Percival in St. Joseph County at 269-273-2717.