



Closing The Skills Gap | Find • Retain • Grow

# 2023 North Central Region Summer Youth Employment & Learning Program (SYELP)

Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

May 12<sup>th</sup> | Noon – 1 p.m.



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# Welcome to CWP Lunch & Learn

**Please Note: today's session will be recorded for future viewing.**

- Audio and video have been disabled for the presentation portion of this session
- If you have questions throughout the session, please place them in the chat box. A member of our youth team will promptly answer!
- We will post responses to any questions we do not get to, soon after the meeting.
- Today's PowerPoint presentation will be made available on the CWP website:
- <https://capitalworkforce.org/>

# Agenda

- Welcome and logistics
- CWP Overview
- Summer Youth Employment & Learning Program Overview
- Connecting Youth to the Summer Youth Employment & Learning Program
- Q&A



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## About CWP

- Helping businesses **find**, **retain** and **grow** the most qualified talent.
- Our Mission is to **leverage public and private resources** to produce **skilled workers** for a **competitive regional economy**.
- The lead Regional Workforce Development Organization in each of the 37 cities and towns in North Central Connecticut to grow their business sectors and communities.
- Successfully form partnerships between and among businesses, philanthropic organizations, and government to partner around workforce development strategies.
- Provide certified training to participants and connecting them with the right employers to provide good, middle-skilled jobs that provide livable wages.



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## About CWP

- Sector partnerships in Manufacturing, IT, Health Care, and Construction.
- Collaborator with the Governor's Workforce Council and Office of Workforce Strategies.
- Successfully supported 1207 businesses in our region
- Through American Jobs Centers and partners, served 12,178 individuals in our region and placed 1841 individuals into employment.
- Through various programs, provided 1573 individuals with training opportunities.
- Vital to the region's fiscal health and sustainability by helping participants gain employment, becoming new taxpayers, and enhancing the region's economy.



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## About CWP

### Comittment to Youth:

- Advances youth employment via programs like SYELP, year-round internship programs, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth.
- Supports internships and career exploration programming through an ARPA Youth Grant.
- Convenes and champions the work of the Hartford Opportunity Youth Collaborative (HOYC) and the Work-Based Learning Network (WBLN).
- Thank you to the State of Connecticut, Connecticut General Assembly, State Representative Toni Walker, the Connecticut Department of Labor, Connecticut Department of Aging & Disability Services, Office of Workforce Strategy, City of Hartford and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving that have increased their investment in the Summer Youth Employment & Learning Program.



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# 2023 North Central Region Summer Youth Employment & Learning Program (SYELP)

**Angelica Heron**, Manager, Youth Services

## What is SYELP?

The Summer Youth Employment & Learning Program is designed to

1. Connect youth in our region to safe, productive, summer work experiences
2. Introduce young people to "work"
3. Cultivate the development of soft skills necessary to succeed in the workforce
4. Provide occupational training opportunities

The Summer Youth Employment & Learning Program Framework:

1. Aids the economic stability of a youth's household – Wages & Stipends
2. Connects youth to community-based organizations and supportive services
3. Provides a critical support framework (e.g., mental health, connection with Career Pathways)



# Contributing to Youth Success Factors

- ✓ Work readiness and experiences are critical to a young person's future success.
- ✓ Youth employment provides opportunities to gain essential career competencies needed for quality career pathways.
- ✓ Summer youth employment introduces youth to critical career pathways during critical teenage years.
- ✓ Research shows that participation in summer youth employment can lead to improvements in attendance and increased academic engagement.
- ✓ For many youth in urban communities, summer youth employment is their only teenage work experience.

# Program Duration

- July 1 – August 31, 2023
- SYELP runs 6 to 8 weeks (120 hours of participation for each youth)
- CWP SYELP serves youth ages 14-24 in the North Central Region of CT (37 Towns)



## Partnerships: Summer 2023 Providers

- Town of Vernon
- Town of Bloomfield
- Town of Manchester
- East Hartford School Business Partnerships, Inc.
- Our Piece of the Pie (*OPP*)
- Community Renewal Team (*CRT*)
- Human Resources Agency of New Britain (*HRA*)
- Center for Latino Progress (*CLP*)
- Blue Hills Civic Association (*BHCA*),
- Opportunities Industrialization Center of New Britain (*OIC*)

## Expansion: Potential New Summer 2023 Providers

- Town of West Hartford's Youth Service Bureau- Bridge Family Center
- Town of Wethersfield
- Boys & Girls Club Hartford
- Hartford Public Library
- YWCA of Hartford
- **And more on the way!**

# Worksites Available for Youth

Many different types of worksites are available. All sites are COVID-19 safe.

- Municipalities - City of Hartford-Department of Family, Children and Youth and Recreation Services
- Agricultural - The Pond House
- Child Care - CRT, Women's League, and Vernon
- Community Organizer/Non-profits
- Landscaping
- Manufacturing/Construction
- IT
- Hospitals – Trinity Health
- Culinary
- Accounting/Financial/Insurance

# Program Design

The 2023 SYELP will serve three Tiers of youth (ages 14-24). Each Tier is designed to be developmentally appropriate and reflects their distinct needs and activities:

## Tier 1

- Typically, younger youth population (traditionally geared toward 14 and 15-year-olds)
- Have never held a job before
- Focus on classroom instruction and project-based learning models that teach soft-skills
- Pay youth a stipend of \$14/hr

# Program Design

## Tier II

- Youth ages 15-17
- Youth participate in small cohorts/group model
- Mentoring/job coaching
- Experience a mix of both project-based learning and paid work experience hosted by non-profit organizations
  
- Continuing to learn soft skills
  
- Pay youth a wage of \$15/hr

# Program Design

## Tier III

- Youth ages 17 – 24, juniors and graduating seniors in need of postsecondary supports and work opportunities
- Out of School Youth/ Opportunity Youth.
- Provides youth with career competency development and the opportunity to learn skills-based training
- Pay youth a wage of \$16/hr
- They have real-world work experiences that offer exposure to career paths



# Career Pathways

For summer youth participants who are not returning to school and/or do not have post-secondary plans, SYELP is doorway:

## American Job Centers

- WIOA Adult
- WIOA Youth

## Grant Funded Training Programs

- H1B – IT Skills Train
- ACI - Manufacturing, Healthcare, Construction, Youth
- Jobs Funnel – Construction
- CareerConneCT - CDL

# Eligibility and Required Documentation

- Eligible to work in the U.S.
- Those who are low to moderate income and/or have specific barriers to employment and education
- Priority Populations
  - DCF
  - Justice Involved
  - ADS/Disability
  - Pregnant/Parenting Youth
  - Opportunity Youth (OY)
  - English Language Learners
  - Homeless



## Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program (SYELP)

**Purpose of program:** The Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program (SYELP) is a youth employment program, connecting Connecticut youth living in the North Central Region between the ages of 14 and 24 with career exploration opportunities and paid work experience each summer.

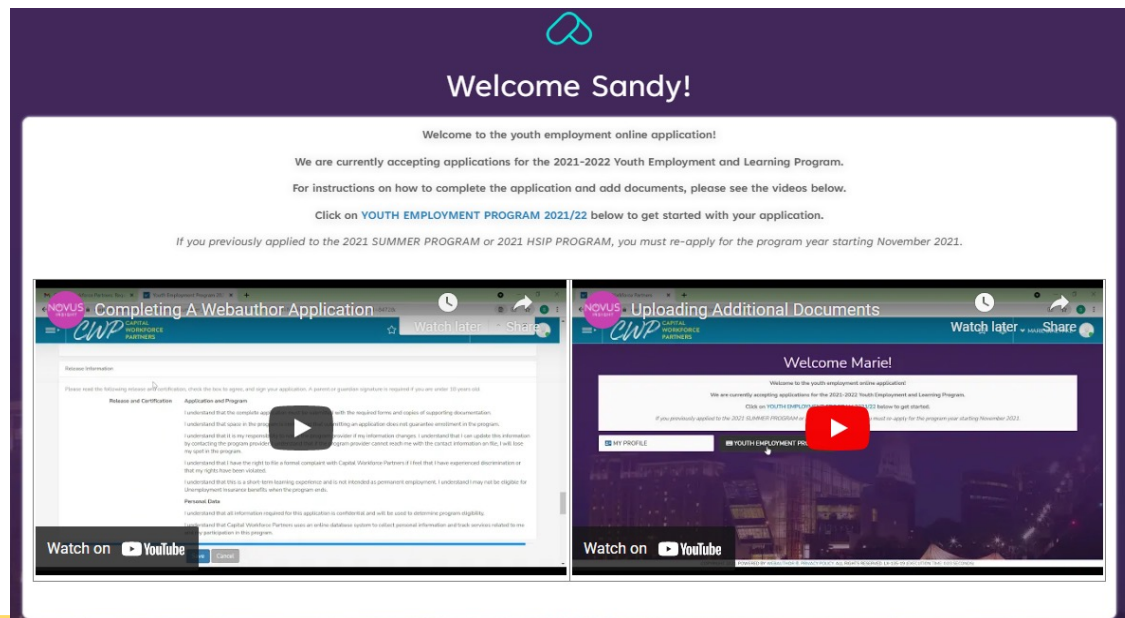
Participants have the opportunity to explore their interests and career pathways, develop workplace skills and engage in learning experiences that help in developing their social, civic and leadership skills.

By participating in structured project and work-based opportunities, Connecticut youth are better prepared for careers of the future.

[Apply Now](#)

## Application Steps for Youth

- ✓ Go to [www.capitalworkforce.org/syelp](http://www.capitalworkforce.org/syelp) to find the youth employment portal.



# Application Steps for Youth

- ✓ Youth will get an email that confirms that their pre-application is complete or if youth are missing any documents, they will also be informed via email.
- ✓ There is an option to save the pre-application if a youth wants to complete the pre-application in parts.
- ✓ The pre-application takes roughly 20 minutes to complete.
- ✓ It is cellphone/mobile device friendly, and pictures of documents can be uploaded directly from the mobile device.
- ✓ Once the pre-application is submitted, providers will reach out to youth to perform the intake process.
  - **Pre-application deadline is May 31, 2023.**



Bloomfield Public Library:  
SYELP Participant

## Key Takeaways

- **Program runs July 1 - August 31, 2023**
- **Application deadline is May 31, 2023**
- [www.capitalworkforce.org](http://www.capitalworkforce.org)
- Safe work environment adhering to State of CT COVID-19 guidelines
- In-person safe learning
- Opportunities extending beyond summer – Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Youth will be paid wages/stipends
- Key Contacts: Angelica Heron, Youth Services Manager

## Q & A

For additional comments or questions,  
please contact:

**Angelica Heron**

**Youth Manager**

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**Lindsay Poulos**

**Youth Employment Coordinator**

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Community Renewal Team: SYELP Participant