Rochester, NY: The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is a government-funded program operated by RochesterWorks! in collaboration with the City of Rochester’s Summer of Opportunity Program (SOOP). Each year, SYEP provides approximately 1,000 youth between the ages of 14-20 years old with six weeks of meaningful paid work experience through youth-focused work sites and programs across Monroe County.

The goal of the program is to provide Rochester’s Youth with more than just a paycheck and real-world work experience. RochesterWorks! recruits employers who agree to provide their young employees with strategic support in a structured professional environment that allows them to develop essential workplace skills.

RochesterWorks! staff provide continuous monitoring and support throughout the six-week employment period, including Sexual Harassment Training, Financial Literacy Training, and check-ins with worksite partner staff to ensure goals are being met. Most programs start in the afternoon to accommodate Summer School schedules.

The application period typically closes in April, and often the number of applicants exceeds the number of available placements. Due in large part to the COVID-19 pandemic that began last year, applicant numbers have been low. SYEP currently has the capacity for up to 800 Youth. Any youth currently enrolled in middle or high school, or a TASC (GED) program, that live within the City of Rochester or Monroe County are eligible to apply. County residents residing outside the City of Rochester must have household incomes that do not exceed 200% of the 2021 Poverty Guidelines. Available employment opportunities include but are not limited to Camp Counseling, Childcare, Customer Service, Entrepreneurship, Landscaping, and Media Arts. Applications are being processed daily on a first-come, first-served basis.

Youth can apply for the program through Friday, June 18, at rocsummeryouth.com.

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As Monroe County’s largest employment and training initiative, RochesterWorks! is dedicated to developing a strong workforce in the Rochester, NY, region as we serve job seekers, youth, and businesses in our community.