The TANF Summer Youth Employment Program is committed to providing training opportunities and meaningful work experience to develop and enhance useful job skills of both in and out of school youth.

For more information contact:
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Program Staffing
- In an effort to help ensure successful program completion, each participant is assigned an Employment Supervisor for the duration of the summer.
- Employment Supervisors work full time as a direct liaison between the youth employees and participating employers on a daily basis.
- Under the direction of the Program Coordinator, Employment Supervisors provide guidance and assistance on the job to youth throughout the duration of the program.

In a given summer, on average, the SYEP provides a total cost savings to the community of $77,000 through subsidized youth employment experiences.

SYEP welcomes opportunities for new businesses or organizations that are interested in providing meaningful, comprehensive employment for the youth of our community.
Program Description

The Chemung County Youth Bureau Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is a comprehensive youth employment program for income eligible youth ages fourteen to twenty residing in Chemung County. Eligible youth and their families must have a gross income that does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty level.

In 2009, in conjunction with the Chemung County Department of Social Services, the Youth Bureau began providing eligible youth with employment opportunities at local businesses, school districts, agencies, and organizations in the community. Over the course of the six week summer program, youth have the potential to earn up to $1,000 by participating in subsidized work experience opportunities and learn valuable workplace skills by participating in various trainings and workshops.

Application & Interview Process

Beginning in late March, approximately 200 applications are distributed through the Department of Social Services to the homes of Chemung County TANF eligible youth. Youth are provided with a self-addressed stamped envelope to return their completed program application to the Youth Bureau office if interested in potential summer employment opportunities.

The SYEP Program application is also available at the Youth Bureau Office and website at www.chemungyouth.com or at middle and high school guidance offices and other youth serving agencies in the county. All applications received are verified by DSS for income eligibility requirements.

Youth are scheduled for interviews within their respective middle or high school within the county. Interviews consist of a series of questions designed to determine a youth’s work readiness skills, interests, and transportation needs.

Program Components

- Program participants attend a mandatory orientation and training that includes but is not limited to learning program policies/procedures, soft employment skills and banking and check cashing in preparation for their summer employment.

- Additional job training is provided through a series of workshops throughout the program that are typically held at the Elmira office of Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben (CSS) Workforce NY.

- Incentives are provided to program participants each week of the program to ensure success on the job. Prizes include gift cards to various local restaurants and movie theater passes.