

# Employers encouraged to take advantage of program which pays workers' salaries

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CINCINNATI - Employers looking for extra help around the office this summer can get it without having to pay a worker's salary.

Hamilton County Community Action Agency is searching for employers to hire up to 500 applicants through a grant provided by Hamilton County Job and Family Services.

CAA is putting out a desperate call for employers looking for summer help because the program only runs through August 23.

The goal of the program is to allow teenagers and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 to gain experience in the workforce.

David Johnson, a graduate of Walnut Hills High School, says his summer job at CAA is helping him develop skills he'll eventually need to pursue a career in economics.

"I've learned how to work in a professional business environment. I've learned how to deal with real life situations on how things should work," Johnson said.

Johnson is one of 500 summer youth employees who have already been assigned a job with a grant from the City of Cincinnati and stimulus funds.

However, additional funding from Hamilton County Job and Family Services just came through to CAA.

Now the agency is looking to place up to 500 more youth in summer jobs.

The challenge is finding new employers to participate by next week.

"It's a learning and coaching and mentoring environment for youth ages 14 to 24. The program is an invaluable experience helping our youth," said Summer Youth Coordinator Dianne Dozier.

CAA Community Relations Director, Mason Gray, says this opportunity to work in an office environment will "give them a sense of a career path."

Gray says employers who have entry-level positions are encouraged to contact CAA.

The grant covers up to 25 hours of week on the job.

It pays between \$7.30-\$9.00 an hour.

With summer jobs at a premium due to the thousands of layoffs, CAA says this is a win-win situation for the youth and employers.

"This is the only option that I had. I applied other places but they didn't give me the opportunity that this program did," said Summer Youth Employee Keasha Reed.

Employers interested in hiring someone from the program should contact CAA Summer Youth Coordinator Dianne Dozier at (513) 569-1840 ext. 2417.

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