



Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board

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“Building Partnerships for Workforce Solutions”

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEADLINE: TANF Summer 2006 Youth Employment and Training Program

Poughkeepsie, New York, June 23, 2006 – The Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board (DCWIB) has received a summer grant for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in the amount of \$230,085; this is more than a 15% increase over last year’s allocation. TANF programs are for eligible youth ages 14-20 with the goal to employ the youth in positions that will give them the opportunity to be challenged and productive, enhance their self-esteem, increase workforce readiness skills, explore career options and improve their understanding of work day world expectations. County Executive William R. Steinhaus states, “The summer youth employment jobs provided through this funding gives the participating youth a taste of the “real workplace,” opportunities to connect with adult role models, and a chance to save money for fall school expenses. This funding is reaching youth throughout the county.”

The DCWIB awarded \$205,601 to six different programs. The programs run by Cornell Cooperative Extension (\$14,234), Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-kill in conjunction with Martin Luther King Cultural Center and North East Community Center (\$67,458), Dutchess ARC (\$14,456), Mill Street Loft (\$61,600), Children’s Media Project (\$15,890), and Nubian Directions (\$31,963) will serve approximately 100 youth.

At the completion of the program all participating youth will have a personal portfolio that includes career exploration related to the type of summer employment they are engaged in and an interview with their employer at the start and end of the work experience. Some participants will make a presentation to the Youth Council addressing the skills they have learned as a result of their specific work experience. "It is my hope that this work experience will help youth better understand the relevance of their education and that they will then return to school in the fall with a renewed interest," said Thomas Sipos, Chairman of the DCWIB.

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Workforce Investment Boards administer federal funds for job counseling and training, and are advocates for workforce issues to help employers and employees improve their competitiveness in business.

The programs provided by this agency are partially funded by moneys received from the County of Dutchess, the New York State Workforce Investment Board and the New York State Department of Labor.

EOE/P, auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities