



Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board

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“Building Partnerships for Workforce Solutions”

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEADLINE: Summer Youth Employment Program 2007

Poughkeepsie, New York, June 22, 2007 – Dutchess County Executive William R. Steinhaus has announced the Dutchess County Department of Social Services has awarded \$299,008 to the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board (DCWIB) for the 2007 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) *Summer Youth Employment Program*. The program provides youth ages 14 years to 20 years old with summer employment positions, giving them an opportunity to be challenged and productive, enhance their self-esteem, increase their workforce readiness skills, explore career options and improve their understanding of work day world expectations.

County Executive Steinhaus said, “*The Summer Youth Employment Program* is a wonderful investment in the youth of our county. This program offers the opportunity for young people to develop job readiness skills that will help them become productive participants in our workforce.”

DCWIB has worked closely with Department of Social Services to continue to make the program more relevant in today’s employment environment and give youth the skills needed to meet national standards of job readiness. This year, more than 100 students will take part in the *Summer Youth Employment Program*. They will be employed in a variety of summer positions that will help them to develop transferable skills applicable to entry level jobs they may apply for in the future. They will also participate in five educational sessions at Dutchess Community College that will introduce them to employer expectations and critical components of the National Workforce Readiness Credential which will lead to their readiness for entry-level work as defined by employers across the US.

A competitive process has determined that the programs run by Dutchess ARC (\$28,679), Cornell Cooperative Extension (\$35,628), North East Community Center (\$47,148), Children’s Media Project (\$20,053), Martin Luther

King Cultural Center (\$23,587), Mill Street Loft (\$52,500) and Nubian Directions (\$25,639) will administer the employment component and Nubian Directions in partnership with Dutchess Community College (\$18,115) will run the education component.

By the end of the summer, the goal is for all participating youth to be able to identify their newly acquired hard and soft skills, which they can then further develop in other entry level jobs and to have an understanding of the significance of formal and informal education as connected to career goals and choices.

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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