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# Travis County and the City of Austin Updates to the Joint Subcommittee



**SUMMER  
YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT  
PROGRAM**

# AGENDA

Introduction

Primary goals

Advantages

Success

Summary

# INTRODUCTION

The Travis County and the City of Austin Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is an initiative that provides summer employment opportunities for Austin/Travis County youth. The program was established through a collaboration between Travis County and the City of Austin and has consistently demonstrated its commitment to fostering youth's personal and professional growth while contributing to the betterment of the community. The program is funded by both the City of Austin and Travis County.

The program's mission is to help young people from diverse backgrounds recognize their potential to become self-sufficient and resilient professionals while also contributing to the well-being and sustainability of their community. The SYEP uses a multifaceted approach to equip young participants with essential skills, valuable work experience, and a pathway toward building a brighter future. This is achieved by guiding Travis County's youth to unlock their innate career potential through comprehensive training and rewarding paid employment opportunities.

1

**Skill Development:** SYEP provides young people with the opportunity to develop job skills and gain work experience, which can be crucial for their future employment prospects.

2

**Financial Independence:** By earning their own money, youths can learn financial responsibility and gain a sense of independence.

3

**Networking Opportunities:** SYEP allows young individuals to meet professionals and peers, expanding their network, which can be valuable for future career opportunities.

4

**Community Engagement:** SYEP often involves community-based projects, fostering a sense of civic engagement and community pride among participants.

## ADVANTAGES

5

**Reduced Crime Rates:** Engaging young people in structured activities during the summer can contribute to lower crime rates, as it keeps them occupied in constructive ways.

6

**Academic Improvement:** SYEP is designed to reinforce academic skills, helping prevent the loss of learning over the summer months.

7

**Exposure to New Career Paths:** SYEP can expose participants to careers they may not have considered, broadening their horizons and aspirations.

8

**Social Skills Development:** Working with others, especially in diverse settings, helps youths develop critical social and interpersonal skills.

## ADVANTAGES (CONT'D)



# PROGRAMMATIC SUCCESS

- Just short of **1500** youth recruited.
- **1085** attended Career Readiness Training
- **731** internships filled
- **114** employers
- **\$13** per hour compared to \$7.25 last year.

# SUCCESS STORIES FROM SYEP 2023

## Healthcare and Technology Internships Leading to Employment Opportunities

- SYEP participants, through their dedication and exemplary performance, secured extended internships and job offers in the healthcare and technology sectors.
- Direct link established between SYEP placement and career opportunities; our program is not just a summer job but a steppingstone to future careers.
- **Highlight:** One outstanding intern, initially placed in a hospital setting, has now been employed by the same hospital while concurrently enrolled in a nursing program, showcasing the tangible impact of SYEP in shaping career paths.



Pictured above: Ascension Hospital SYEP Interns with Judge Andy Brown and Council Member Vanessa Fuentes

## EMPOWERING YOUTH

Summer youth employment programs play a vital role in the holistic development of young individuals, preparing them for future success while also contributing positively to their communities and the economy.



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# THANK YOU