



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Summer Youth Employment Program





Overview

The Summer Youth Employment Program is a seven-week employment and job-readiness training for low-income, high-risk youth throughout the city of Chicago. Students are provided with mentors and role models, meaningful work experiences, and opportunities to reinforce a strong work ethic. The goal of the program is to enhance interpersonal skills and increase employability skills.

Catholic Charities Summer Youth Employment Program partners with the city of Chicago's One Summer Chicago Plus to provide youth who live in high crime neighborhoods where gang violence is common with educational and professional work experiences. Neighborhoods and communities served include Englewood, Cicero, Berwyn, and Greater Grand Crossing. Additionally, these programs address how the youth can work to change their neighborhood for the better.

The Benefits for Youth

In 2015, 600 youth were employed through Catholic Charities Summer Youth Employment programs.

-  **100%** of youth were placed in employment opportunities
-  **100%** developed or improved professional development skills
-  **91%** rated overall satisfaction as "satisfied" or better
-  **85%** felt that employers valued their work

"Working over this summer, kept my son safe and out of trouble by not hanging outside in the streets."

"The program helped me return to college. I was able to save money to help buy books and pay admission fees."

"This was a great experience. I gained life skills, like working with others and public speaking."

Program Requirements

Youth receive employment and enrichment opportunities at various work sites throughout the city. Catholic Charities partners with dozens of work sites each year, including both internal and external programs. Interns work 20 hours a week, with 16 hours being at a work site and four hours of educational/vocational training and field trips.

The most basic requirements for this program is that the applicant:

- Be a city of Chicago resident
- Be between 16 and 24 years of age
- Have permission to participate from a parent or guardian if under the age of 18

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: (312) 655-7330



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THE MISSION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities fulfills the Church's role in the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life. *In order to remain faithful to our mission, Catholic Charities is guided by these core values: Respect, Compassion, Competence, and Stewardship.*