



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Summer Youth Employment Funding Available to Counties

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced today that \$26 million in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding is available for counties to create or expand subsidized summer employment programs for TANF-eligible youth ages 14 to 24.

“Summer youth employment is an investment in Ohio’s future,” said ODJFS Director Michael Colbert. “This will give more Ohio young people the opportunity to learn job skills while they earn an income, build their resumes, and gain business references and potential mentors in the working world.”

The employment subsidy will begin June 1 and run through August 31. Wage subsidies will help local businesses hire young people into jobs that might not otherwise exist. Counties that choose to participate must contact ODJFS by April 15.

“I strongly encourage counties to take advantage of this opportunity” Colbert said. “Many of our young people find themselves faced with a very daunting task this summer: finding a job in a still-recovering economy, when the unemployment rate for teenagers hovers around 23 percent. They need jobs not just for the cash, but for the work experience: to learn how to act professionally, behave responsibly, gain confidence and be productive members of society. This funding will help give them gain that experience.”

TANF is the federal government’s primary cash assistance program for low-income families. In order to help recipients find and keep jobs and work toward self-sufficiency, TANF not only provides cash assistance, but funds such services as child care, job training and other work support services.

The federal guidance for using TANF funds to support summer youth employment programs can be found at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/policy/im-ofa/2012/im201201/im201201.html>.

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