

## Background



The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and Illinois Department of Human Services administered a grant program to provide eligible youth with age-appropriate job training, life skills, counseling, work-readiness and meaningful work experience. The program provided youth with structured career exploration, training and paid work experience connecting youth to the skills that are needed to enter and advance in the workforce. The program was administered by community-based organizations (CBO's) that demonstrated fiscal and program capacity to provide services to eligible youth participants.

This program was funded in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget under the Illinois Department of Labor. DCEO directly administered approximately \$6.6 million in Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). For more information, visit <http://www.illinoisworknet.com/syep2014>.

## Services Offered

Youth provider grantees were provided online training and handled enrollment, placements tracking and reporting using IwN ([www.illinoisworknet.com](http://www.illinoisworknet.com)). Youth participants were placed at appropriate worksites to gain work experience earning a wage of \$9.00 an hour. Youth participants used IwN to completed an online pre- and post-tests used to measure the success of the program, and other career planning tools. Each participant was provided information on:

- Career and Training Planning
- Financial Planning
- Workplace Skills
- Job Search Skills
- Resume Writing
- Applying for a Job
- Interviewing Skills
- Personal responsibility/safety, violence awareness, and prevention

## DCEO Administered Outcomes

*This outcome occurred during the program.*



2,717 Youth Placed in Work Experience



106 Youth  
Hired by an  
Employer



47 Youth  
Enrolled in a Job  
Training Program



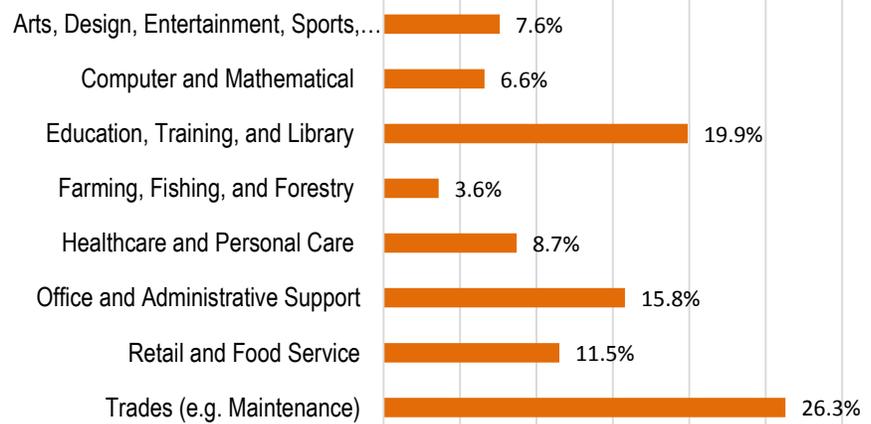
1,548 Youth  
Continued or Enrolled in  
an Education Program



## Employment and Occupations

Youth work experience placements administered by DCEO included a variety of occupations shown with the chart. Other employment information includes:

- Total of Employers: 591
- Total Hours Youth Worked: 435,553
- Total Youths' Earnings: \$3,919,976



## Success Stories

This is a sample of the many successes that occurred. Visit the SYEP website to see a complete list of DCEO-sponsored community-based organizations and more success stories submitted by program participants.  
<http://www.illinoisworknet.com/syep2014>

**Provider: The Jackson Initiative / Location: Cairo, IL / Pathway: Law, Public Safety and Security**



My summer job was at the Courthouse in the Sheriff's Department. I had an excellent supervisor who got me acclimated to the work environment. Watching the officers and deputies was a unique experience for me that provided an opportunity to see a lot that I didn't know happened behind the scenes. I really enjoyed my time there and would eventually love to land a permanent position at the Sheriff's Department.

**Provider: Springfield Urban League / Location: Springfield, IL / Pathway: Education and Training**



I had a great work experience at Little Angels Childcare! I worked with the children and assisted with escorting them on outings. I now know I love to work with children and elderly people. I learned many job and life skills such as patience. Before this experience, I didn't realize the importance of patience or how to work with children in a day care setting. Next summer I would really like to return.

**Provider: Universidad Popular / Location: Chicago / Pathway: Health Science**



This program gave me a chance to work at an acupuncturist clinic where I worked as a chiropractic assistant. I learned more about the anatomy of the body and how to use that knowledge to give a proper chiropractic therapy to the clients. The knowledge, skills and confidence I've gained will help me with any job I am pursuing.