



HAMPDEN COUNTY WORKFORCE BOARD

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February, 19, 2019

Dear Hampden County Employer,

MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, Inc. in partnership with MassHire Holyoke Career Center and MassHire Springfield Career Center, need your help in creating more job opportunities for low-income, disadvantaged youth between the ages of 14-21 through our ***Summer Jobs for Youth Campaign 2019!***

This year we're focused on increasing the number of private sector businesses willing to hire a young person. By hiring a young person, you create an opportunity for them to gain valuable work experience and develop skills necessary to obtain unsubsidized employment in the future. More importantly, for some youth, a summer job can lead to the start of a career pathway in areas such as Healthcare, Advanced Manufacturing and IT. In the coming weeks, young people will be in search for a summer job. The need is there and the demand is high. We need your help as an employer to create more job opportunities.

You can provide a summer work experience for youth to work, learn and earn in the following three (3) ways:

- 1) **Hire a Youth.** Please consider directly hiring a youth for your summer employment needs. Participating youth receive 15 hours of work readiness skills training before employment. Youth are referred to you, and you make the final selection. A great way to backfill for another employee's summer vacation!
- 2) **Donate Money.** \$360.00 will pay for one week of employment based on 30 hours a week at \$12.00 an hour. A \$2,160.00 donation pays for a young person to work for 6 weeks! All donations are tax deductible.
- 3) **Become a Worksite.** Consider using your business as a worksite and the youth will be paid by MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, Inc. Another great way to cover for employee vacations!

All youth will be pre-screened, work ready and anxious to help meet your hiring needs. Giving a summer job to a young person is a proven way to build the quality of the future workforce. We need your help this summer. Enclosed is a *Donation/Job Order* form. Please complete the form and return it to the contact person listed at the bottom of the form.

Thank you,

J. Jeffrey Sullivan
Chair, MassHire Hampden County
Workforce Board, Inc.

Cleveland Burton
Chair, Hampden County Youth
Council