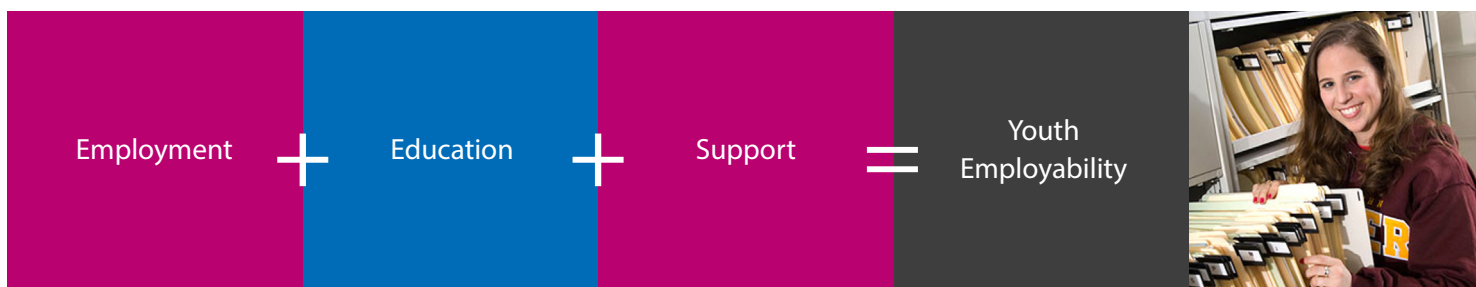


the Sillerman Center

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHILANTHROPY

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: A Guide to High Impact Investments



Teen employment rates are at their lowest levels in 60 years at approximately 30%. Waiting lists for summer jobs programs are ten times larger than the available slots. Nationally, jobs go unfilled even though so many people are unemployed: U.S. employers say a lack of skills is the main reason for entry-level vacancies and causes “significant problems in terms of costs, quality, and time.”

Rationale for Investment

Investing in the 6.7 million 16-24 year olds who are disconnected from both education and work will yield benefits for future generations and for society as a whole. The costs of doing nothing are high, and without assistance, these youth will face a lifetime of struggles including:



Young people with meaningful work experience are more likely to stay in school, gain skills, enjoy better educational and health outcomes, and get good jobs as adults. Research has shown decreased violent behavior and court involvement and increased school success for summer youth employment program participants.

What is a Strong Summer Youth Employment Program?

- OFFERS real work for pay, educational opportunities, and support.
- FACILITATES/PARTICIPATES in results-oriented partnerships involving business, government, philanthropy, schools, and nonprofits – necessary for effective and sustainable approaches.
- PROVIDES a bridge to year-round employment, education, and support programs.



High Performing Programs Should Aim to Address the Following Areas:



Funders who invest in strong summer youth employment programs – youth wages, education elements, and supports – will be contributing to short and long-term benefits for young people and communities.

For more information please visit:

The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy
415 South Street (MS 035) | Waltham, MA 02453 | 781.736.3772
sillermancenter.brandeis.edu

Prepared in partnership with the [Center for Youth and Communities](#)

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+ The Sillerman Center draws upon scholarship and practitioner experience to engage and inform members of the philanthropic community committed to moving social justice work forward.