Preparing Youth for Success

Supporting Youth as They Transition to Adulthood

THE ISSUE

While citywide unemployment is at a low three percent, youth unemployment remains near 13 percent, and is more than double that rate for African American youth. Additionally, Multiracial and White Seattle students are more likely to have a trusted adult to talk to than Black/African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or Hispanic/Latino students. Children and youth are better prepared to thrive when they are supported by their families and community, have access to quality education and healthy development, and when their families are economically stable. Through strategic investments in these areas – affordability, employment, education, community safety – HSD works to improve youth outcomes and address racial disparities.

Seattle Public School students who did not graduate on time (by Race/ethnicity, 2015-16 school year) American Indian/Alaska Native 45.5% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 37.5 Hispanic/Latino 37.2 Black/African American 29.7 Multiple 22 19.1 Asian 16 White

27%

Percentage of Seattle Public School students in the 8th,10th, and 12th grades don't have a trusted adult they could talk to about something important.

1 in 12

Approximate number of young adults (ages 16-24) in Seattle who are neither working nor in school.

INVESTMENT TOTAL: \$15 million



ON THE WEB

6

seattle.gov/humanservices



Seattle Youth Employment Program

The Seattle Youth Employment Program (SYEP) supports participants, ages 16-24, in the work world through employment learning opportunities. These internship opportunities, aimed at meeting the needs of underserved youth and young adults, promote work readiness and strengthen career development. SYEP focuses specifically on youth and young adults who face the biggest barriers by partnering with community-based organizations to provide additional support in all aspects of life.

Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program is funded through a USDA grant that helps provide healthy meals in the summer to approximately 5,000 low-income children and youth ages 1-18. In 2016, there were 103 community sites, including eight in South King County (i.e. White Center, Skyway, and Tukwila).

Summer Opportunity Fund

The Summer of Opportunity Fund, in partnership with the Department of Neighborhoods, was a firsttime pilot that invested \$75,000 in innovative, grassroots projects that sought to address higher rates of youth violence during the summer months. Five grants were awarded to grassroots organizations at \$15,000 each. Projects addressed education, employment, justice, violence prevention, and/or health. All projects were chosen for their cultural and linguistic relevance to the community served, and were led by volunteers or staff that reflected the communities of the participants.



670 young people served through SYEP



230,130 Summer Food Service meals served

85

East African/Black men successfully participated in leadership development projects and/or obtained full-time employment

Impact Story



Hawa Said is an 11th grade Running Start student at Garfield High School. She began her first internship experience as an Administrative Assistant for the Human Services Department (HSD) in the summer of 2016. She immediately excelled at her internship by providing excellent customer service, responding to office needs, and hosting office guests. She also helped manage files, entered data, and assisted with payroll processes. Hawa's site supervisor said she excelled because she was, "dependable, detail-oriented, well organized, and takes initiative." Hawa has been able to transfer these skills to her personal and academic life. "I've become better at managing my [school] assignments and more comfortable communicating with other people," she told SYEP recently. After graduating, Hawa plans to study law and aspires to be a personal investigator or attorney.

