

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The City of New Haven Youth@Work Program sought additional support to employ youth during Fiscal Year 25. The Youth@Work program is an effort to support the New Haven community youth population by preparing them to be productive citizens and to help our employers meet their workforce needs. Under-served youth, ages 14-21 are provided with summer and year-round employment opportunities, career exposure and work readiness experiences that will transfer to their future careers. The program targets low to moderate income young persons who are in need of a work experience and have encountered educational and/or social barriers that have prevented their success.

Per our latest statistical compilation, total students served statewide in 2012 was 4,945. 2012 benefitted from a 637 increase of youth served from 2011. However, despite the significant investment in the 2012 program, far fewer young people were afforded opportunities: over 2400 fewer youth compared to the TANF funded 2010 program and over 1,000 fewer than the 2009 ARRA funded initiative. We are pleased to report we have had a 4th consecutive year of increase (among students who had an employment experience compared to those who were not given an opportunity) in students who returned to school and advanced to the next grade by 7.4% and in students who graduated by 11.7%.

In the City of New Haven, in Fiscal Year 24 only 57% of the applicant pool were offered employment a decrease of 3% from 2023. With the aid of the funding from the State Department of Labor, we seek to supplement funding from the City of New Haven to offer employment to all applicants for summer programming July 1, 2024 - August 2, 2024 and increase year-round employment opportunities by 100% from 75 to 150 youth for a 25-week work experience.

### **BENEFITS**

Early work experiences serve as the foundation for future success in the workplace and have proven effective in helping youth to:

- Establish connections with employers
- Encourage responsibility and foster independence
- Develop technical skills
- Develop communication and interpersonal skills
- Clarify work values and future work preferences
- Interact with caring adults