



A public/private partnership that supports youth through their first work experience.

## SUCCESS STARTS IN THE SUMMER

Youth need opportunities to learn critical workplace skills that can only come through real work experience. As the recession has displaced thousands of adults, young people ages 16-24 are often locked out of the job market. Missing out on these early work experiences can have long-term negative effects on employment and lower lifetime earnings.

## SummerWorks – Summer Youth Employment Program

SummerWorks makes it easy for businesses and other community members to work collaboratively to address this crisis. Worksystems provides a coordinated system of training, screening and employer of record services.

Youth and business benefit from SummerWorks. Our employer partners see a tangible return on investment, including:

- **Real Work:** Youth come ready to do real work. SummerWorks can be a great opportunity to address a backlog or complete special projects for which current staff does not have capacity.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** We do all the upfront training and screening and provide payroll processing.
- **Leadership Development:** Supervising a youth intern is an opportunity to develop the leadership and mentoring skills of your frontline staff.

## About Worksystems, Inc.

Worksystems, Inc. (WSI) is an experienced non-profit that pursues and invests resources to improve the quality of the local workforce. WSI designs and coordinates workforce development programs and services delivered through a network of partners to help youth and adults get the skills, training and education they need to go to work or advance in their careers.

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Over the past 10 years, summer youth employment dropped from 46%-27%. Among diverse, low-income youth employment is as low as 12%.

## SPONSOR AN INTERN

- Internships typically last 6-9 weeks during the summer (180 hours total)
- A sponsorship of \$2,000 covers all the wages and other direct costs plus leverages \$1,000 in workforce funds to provide training, screening and employer-of-record services.
- Hosting an intern at your business involves identifying an intern supervisor and developing a work plan. Not to worry, we have job coaches to support you every step of the way.

Get involved today. Contact:

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Our intern was a very mature, confident, and intelligent individual. In fact, she was more prepared and ready to learn than some of our college age paid interns. Brenda Patrick, Port of Portland



By partnering with Worksystems, you can help local teens, especially from diverse and low-income communities, get their first work experience and an on-ramp to career success.

### Here's how it works:

Through SummerWorks we provide...

- Work-readiness training prior to placement
- Screening and matching youth based on the skills and preferences you specify in the position description
- Ongoing job coaching to support the youth and the intern supervisor throughout the experience
- Advising and networking opportunities to integrate the summer experience into each youth's education and career goals
- Employer-of-record services - we take care of payroll processing, taxes, and insurance



It opens your mind to so many different possibilities... You don't really get it in high school and then afterward you're kind of like 'it's really is hard to get a job.'

Lawashia Smith, Intern

### Target Population:

Youth age 16-21 from across Multnomah and Washington counties can participate in SummerWorks. We work with school districts and community-based organizations to reach out to under-represented youth. The youth we work with are motivated and want to reconnect with school or work, but face many barriers such as growing up in poverty or lacking the necessary education.



### SummerWorks Results: *Since the program's inception in 2009*

- 91% of youth have successfully completed their internship and received a positive evaluation from their supervisor
- 93% of our employer partners would encourage their colleagues and other business partners to participate in the program
- 93% of youth returned to high school, post-secondary, or became employed
- 97% of youth were low-income and 76% were youth of color

