



U.S. Department of Labor Summer Jobs and Beyond: Career Pathways for Youth

Milwaukee Career Plus: Employment Pathways for Youth

<https://www.employmilwaukee.org/Employ-Milwaukee/Programs--Services/Reentry/Summer-Jobs-and-Beyond--Career-Plus.htm>

Period of Performance: May 2016 – June 2019



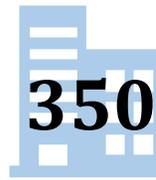
participants attained a Measurable Skill Gain



in-school youth served



out-of-school youth served



participants received work experience



participants placed in unsubsidized employment



participants placed in post-secondary education/training

Overview of the Program: Employ Milwaukee, administered the Milwaukee Career Plus project, connected in-school and out-of-school youth ages 16-24 to career readiness, summer employment, continued education, career services and year-round employment opportunities. The Program implemented several activities for the youth including career development, financial literacy, career exploration, supportive services, GED/HSED attainment, occupational skills training, and work experience. These efforts were carried out through a sector-based approach that linked youth to employment opportunities. Each of the project's three pathways offered opportunities to earn skills in financial literacy, critical thinking, social perceptiveness, active listening, professional writing, and various industry-specific skills.

Program Highlights:

- **Recruitment Strategies:** Program administrators established a partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools to identify non-attenders and engage them in support. Outreach with organizations like the Boys and Girls Club helped identify individuals aging out of other programs and those in Apprenticeship programs which provided a pathway for job readiness.
- **Partnership Strategies:** Project staff engaged the following entities in their program operation: City of Milwaukee, public schools, technical colleges, Boy's and Girls' Club, Spotted Eagle, Employers, and the State Department of Workforce Development. These organizations provided support for Earn and Learn Summer program, through the re-engagement center youth were offered educational opportunities, and the technical college provided basic skills and pre instruction to youth. Employ Milwaukee was able to leverage the relationships with our local school district, other youth servicing agencies, and employers seeking to develop opportunities for youth in order to start their career pathways and workforce pipeline.

- ***Work Experience Activities:*** Students were invited to Employ Milwaukee for a full day of enrichment programming entitled “Career Professional Learning and Unity Summit” (Career PLUS). Students participated with motivational guest speakers and rotated conference-style through small-group sessions on financial literacy, career exploration, and job readiness skills. This activity prepared students for interviews and upcoming work experiences with the Children’s Hospital and other industries in the area.
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- ***Leveraging Support (outside of WIOA resources, monetary/in-kind):*** Employ Milwaukee co-located Career Plus coordinators onsite at Milwaukee Public Schools high schools (valued at \$2,328 per year); and, leveraged district staff, especially Career & Technical Education staff, school leadership, and counselors who worked with the Employ Milwaukee director of Youth Services, onsite career coordinators, and other staff (valued at \$5,000 per year).