



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

Beyond Summer Jobs in Chicago (BSJC)

<https://www.onesummerchicago.org/>

Period of Performance: May 2016 – June 2018



in-school youth served



out-of-school youth served



participants attained a Measurable Skill Gain



participants received work experience



participants placed in unsubsidized employment



participants placed in post-secondary education/training

Overview of the Program: The Chicago Workforce Partnerships' BSJC program prepared youth for jobs by connecting them to unsubsidized employment. The goal of the project was to improve outcomes for youth by leveraging resources and providing services that emphasize workforce skill development through collaborative support. The approach connected youth to long-term services by linking the existing One Summer Chicago program to Chicago Public Schools' student outreach and re-engagement centers. During the program, youth were engaged in career exploration and other activities to help them understand the relationship between secondary and post-secondary credentials. The project served 300 youth, placing 176 into unsubsidized employment and 44 into post-secondary education or training. Youth began the program in a summer job and continued in an extended, highly-structured subsidized work experience that included a training plan and intensive on-site communication between the agency staff, youth, and employers.

Program Highlights:

- **Recruitment Strategies:** Youth were recruited through two participant pools - the summer youth employment program and One Summer Chicago program, which is a city-funded project for targeted high schools. Program operators identified students who were at high risk of becoming Opportunity Youth (defined as youth and young adults between 16 and 24 who are neither in school nor working). Other recruits included school dropouts recently reengaged into high schools or GED programs, and homeless youth.
- **Partnership Strategies:** Staff worked with the city public schools, Department of Family and Support Services, and businesses to develop appropriate opportunities for participants. Additionally, BSJC staff partnered with local re-engagement centers to connect out-of-school youth to high school and GED programs. For their partnership with businesses, the program utilized labor market research to target high-demand industries and inform business outreach. At the start of the program, BSJC's marketing team developed materials specifically for employers outlining program goals, services, and benefits to

participants and employers. These marketing materials were distributed both physically and electronically for easier distribution to employers and other potential partners. A key partner was Child Protective Services (CPS). The CPS representatives attended monthly meetings hosted by BSJC and helped to identify and connect participants in need of their services.

- ***Work Experience Activities:*** Program participants received job readiness training and pre-employment skills. In addition, youth were provided career exploration to help them transition to unsubsidized employment. BSJC engaged youth in a series of events, such as hosting employment hiring events for the opportunity youth, connecting youth with the Hospitality Hires Jobs Network, and sending youth to other local job fairs in conjunction with business partners. These events connected youth to local employers like Chipotle, UPS, Five Guys, Jewel-Osco, Walmart, and FedEx. Youth received work experience assignments in fields such as construction (Anchor Realty), media (The News School, Yolo-Mobile App), and retail (Walgreens). BSJC also hosted “Employer Orientations,” which allowed employers to better understand expectations and challenges that may arise from working with the youth.
- ***Leveraging Support (outside of WIOA resources, monetary/in-kind):*** BSJC leveraged support from the Boys and Girls Club, the South Side Community Credit Union, and the offices of city Aldermen to create opportunities for recruitment, engagement, and education.
- ***Community Impact:*** BSJC positively impacted youth in the community by providing jobs and supporting civic engagement through community service. Youth participated in community service events and leadership development activities designed to uplift and encourage youth to become leaders in their local community. BSJC also hosted a series of trainings known as the “Anti-Violence Community of Practice.” All delegate agencies serving the participants took part in these monthly meetings, where they shared resources and best practices for anti-violence efforts, and received training on trauma-informed care.