



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

Santa Maria Summer Jobs and Beyond Project

City of Santa Maria in Santa Barbara County, California

Period of Performance: May 2016 – December 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 intent of the Santa Maria Summer Jobs and Beyond Project is to serve young adults (in-school and out-of-school) by providing valuable services in partnership with the private and public sectors. The project aligns the partners to create and connect participants to paid work experience opportunities, including summer and year-round employment opportunities and career pathways opportunities in education and employment in the identified Santa Barbara County industry sectors.

Grantee partners include: County of Santa Barbara Workforce Development Board; the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce; Santa Barbara Education Office; Center for Employment Training (CET); Goodwill Industries of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties; Four Square Church; Santa Maria Parks and Recreation; Community Health Centers of the Central Coast; Edward de Jesus Seminars and Consulting; and Foundation for California Community Colleges.

The project has exceeded its enrollment goal of 260 youth by 20 youth, with a current enrollment of 281 participants. The project has enrolled 157 in-school youth (higher than the target of 137) and is just over 100% of the goal for out-of-school youth at 124. Additionally, 122 employers are currently supporting work experience. Youth in the project have participated in financial aid workshops, education and training workshops, customer service trainings, career camps, “dress for success” activities, case management services, and supportive services.

Program Highlights:

- The Santa Maria Summer Jobs and Beyond project was one of the first to respond to the high levels of gang-related youth murders. Whereas, many of the local agencies met and discussed solutions, the project was one of the first to actually put in place a program that offered positive solution to youth. The project has brought back summer jobs to youth in the community.

- Partnering with the local chamber of commerce and hosting an annual Youth Summit have been two of the strategies used to foster a greater engagement with employers and community organizations. For employers, the Youth Summit event features an employer panel where they share with youth their expectations. Additionally, the event promotes summer job opportunities with specific employers, and community organizations promote their resources and/or services. With over 100 employers supporting the project, Santa Barbara has work sites in the medical, manufacturing, administrative, retail, and beauty industries, to name a few. The youth that finish work experience typically gain skills in customer service, communication, time management, and punctuality and learn the basic terminology needed for a job.
- The project has established partnerships with many local youth-serving organizations, such as the Santa Barbara County Probation Department, Los Prietos Boys Camp, Casa Pacifica, New Beginnings, Family Service Agency, the local YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, and youth and family centers. Additionally, they have partnered with a new mentoring program spearheaded by the local chamber of commerce that was created mirroring the project.
- Program participants continue to get jobs, proving that youth have been utilizing their employment preparation skills. With the help of career exploration activities and assessments, youth have been seeking higher education with many receiving offers to 4-year universities, and some have relocated out of state for college.