



Urban Youth Jobs Program

Information for Job Seekers

First launched in 2012, the goal of the Urban Youth Jobs Program is to help young people entering the world of work have a successful start. Participants receive critical workforce skills that will serve them well into their careers. To date, more than 1,500 New York businesses have hired 27,000 youth under this initiative. Initially limited to 13 target areas, the program was re-authorized through 2017 and expanded statewide.

Am I eligible?

You are eligible to participate if you:

- Are 16-24 years old and unemployed
- NOTE: 16 and 17 year olds MUST be in school or attending classes to earn their high school equivalency diploma AND need permission from a parent or guardian
- Live in New York State and fit into any of these categories:
 - 18-24 years old, no longer in school, without a high school diploma, GED certificate or high school equivalency diploma
 - Veteran
 - Member of a family that receives:
 - Aid from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - SNAP benefits (food stamps)
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits
 - Free or reduced-cost school lunch
 - Referred by a rehabilitation agency approved by the State, or an employment network under the Ticket to Work Program
 - Served time in jail/prison
 - On probation or parole
 - Pregnant or a parent
 - Homeless
 - Is now or has been in foster care or the custody of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services
 - The child of a parent who is:
 - In jail/prison, or has been in the past two years
 - Collecting unemployment insurance
 - Another risk factor not identified above but approved by the Commissioner of the State Department of Labor

How can the program help me?

Once you are certified to participate in the Urban Youth Jobs program a counselor can help connect you with opportunities at participating, certified businesses. You can start earning a paycheck, get valuable work experience and start down a possible career path right away.

Do I have to tell anyone why I am eligible?

No, you do not have to tell anyone you ask for a job, anyone who gives you a job, or anyone you work with why you are eligible to participate in the Urban Youth Jobs Program.

How do I apply to become certified?

You can apply to be certified online at: www.labor.ny.gov/youthjobs

When are applications due?

The New York State Department of Labor must receive all applications by December 31.

What if I have questions?

For more information on the program, or help with the application, call 877-226-5724 or e-mail: youthjobs@labor.ny.gov.

Once You Are Certified

- Once you have received confirmation that you are certified, an Urban Youth Jobs Program counselor will set up a call or meeting with you about your goals and skills.
- You will receive materials and a smartphone link. If you're ready to look for work on your own, you can let businesses know about the program and that hiring you qualifies them for a tax credit.
- You can also check the NYS Job Bank (www.ny.jobs) for openings. Locate jobs in your area by typing in your city or zip code in the 'Locations' tab (upper right corner of the webpage). If you see job openings that interest you, send an e-mail message indicating your interest in applying for each position you see. Look for a contact name and e-mail address for each business toward the bottom of the job opening description.