

PRESS RELEASE

June 10, 2019

**THE ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS APPROVE BUDGET
INSERTION FOR SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PILOT PROGRAM**



Pictured are (from left to right, front row) District 2 Freeholder Vice President Wayne Richardson, Freeholder At-Large Romaine Graham, District 3 Freeholder Tyshammie L. Cooper, Freeholder At-Large Patricia Sebold, and Freeholder President At-Large Brendan Gill. (From left to right, back row) District 5 Freeholder Carlos Pomares, District 4 Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano, Freeholder At-Large Rufus I. Johnson, and District 1 Freeholder Robert Mercado. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Newark, NJ) – On May 15, 2019, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders voted unanimously to approve a budget insertion of \$192,000.00, from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, to provide summer employment opportunities for low income youth who reside in Essex County.

Essex County was selected by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development as one of eight pilot programs to assist youth, both in-school and out-of-school, in transitioning to the world of work. The goal of the Summer Youth Employment Pilot Program (SYEPP) is to provide youth and young adults with internships, work experience, workforce preparation skills, and exposure to various careers that will facilitate the development of the program participants.

The day-to-day workflow of the SYEPP will focus on specifics such as financial literacy training, resume building, entrepreneurship skills, diversity training, and prevention of workplace harassment training. Participants will gain hands-on work experience, earn a paycheck, interact with employers, and receive supportive services.



Brendan W. Gill
Freeholder President

At the conclusion of the program, metrics will be provided consisting of: the number, demographics, and goals of young adults served; the number of businesses/worksites that hosted SYEPP interns; the number of any SYEPP interns that were hired permanently on a full-time or part-time basis; and overall employer/business satisfaction with this program, and any suggestions for improvement.

The SYEPP is structured to provide a positive experience for both employer and employee. As President Gill stated, “This program will provide our youth with opportunities to make money, but also acquire the skills that will prepare them to compete for jobs in careers they may have never considered previously. Career development is an often overlooked aspect of summer employment. We are happy that this feature will be a major part of the program.”

For Additional Information:

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