

APRIL 2024 | ISSUE 15



Schenectady County Job Training Agency

Possibilities Abound

As we enter the vibrant, yet surprisingly snowy, month of April, we would like to highlight the transformative power of skills training. At the heart of our mission lies the belief that continuous learning and skill development are the cornerstones of personal and professional growth.

In this issue, we shine a spotlight on the importance of learning foundational skills at an early age. With the focus on skills development, we look for additional and augmented partnerships within the community, willing to provide our customers with employment opportunities to launch into the workforce. Connect with us if you are interested in learning more and becoming part of the solution to the ever-changing workforce needs of our community.

Wishing you a month filled with growth, discovery and endless possibilities!



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APPLY TODAY!

Summer Youth Employment

JULY 8 - AUGUST 16

**APPLICATIONS DUE
APRIL 12, 2024**

*eligibility criteria, participant selection process and timeline of program events are outlined in the application

Open to Schenectady County residents age 14-24

6-weeks of summer work experience

\$15 per hour + supportive services

Learn foundational employment skills
Earn and manage money
Make lasting community connections

Questions?

Call (518) 344-2737 or e-mail
SchenectadySJTA@dfa.state.ny.us

Click or scan here for the application:



<https://bit.ly/2024SchCoSYEP>

Summer Jobs

Many prolific members of our community got their start through the Summer Youth Employment Program, learning the “soft” skills that provided a foundation for sustainable success in the workforce.

If you or someone you know is a Schenectady County resident, age 14-24, this hands-on, work experience provides an excellent introduction to the world of work. In addition to this independent work experience, youth receive access to the wrap-around services of Schenectady County Connects including resume development, interview prep, transition to unsubsidized employment opportunities, and more.

Visit <https://bit.ly/2024SchCoSYEP> to apply - applications must be received by April 12, 2024.

Invest In Our Youth

If you're looking for an opportunity to support our community, instill key foundational skills and work ethic while benefitting from a few extra helping hands this summer - becoming a worksite might be for you!

We plan to hire **400 youth** this summer and need your support! Our worksites are the key to a successful program as they provide youth with connection to their fields of interest, mentoring relationships to utilize as future references and a chance to create lasting, pro-social ties to the community.

If you'd like more information on becoming a worksite, please reach out to (518) 374-2737 or SchenectadySJTA@dfa.state.ny.us. If you're ready to sign up today, please visit our registration form: <https://bit.ly/SchCoWorksite>.



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM WORKSITE REGISTRATION

**INTERESTED IN HELPING THE COMMUNITY?
COULD YOUR BUSINESS USE AN EXTRA HAND?**

Become a worksite supervisor today and mentor youth as they learn the foundational skills of employment. You could make a difference in youths' lives by offering this short-term work experience opportunity!



SCAN HERE:



**INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING
OUR FUTURE WORKFORCE ON
THEIR PATHWAY TO SUCCESS?
REGISTER TODAY!**

Or visit:
bit.ly/SchCoWorksite

Celebrating Success



Tanner, a Senior in high school, was unsure whether he wanted to pursue college but instead, with the help of our staff, connected with the Carpenter's Union Pre-Apprenticeship Program. He will complete 160 hours of training and have a secure job with the Carpenter's Union and a \$400 professional tool set - all before graduating from high school.



Our staff at Washington Irving Educational Center assist people for whom English is a second (or more) language in finding employment. This can be daunting when most of our area's workforce is English-speaking. Recently, 3 of these students found gainful employment with Schenectady City School District and Amazon.



Olivia was referred to our Job Readiness Training as a mandate for receiving Public Assistance benefits. She was homeless and driving for InstaCart to support her family but eagerly engaged in all of the services Schenectady County Connects has to offer. Olivia soon obtained a career at NYS Department of Tax and Finance and was also able to secure an apartment for herself and her family.

Youth Sports Funding

Schenectady County Connects was able to award more than \$140k to 9 community organizations under the 2024 Youth Sports Education and Youth Team Sports funding through NYS OCFS

- Hamilton Hill Arts Center (Capoeira/Hip Hop)
- Lightwork Elite
- Niskayuna Youth Basketball Association
- Rotterdam United Soccer Club
- Schenectady Jewish Community Center
- Schenectady Little League
- Schenectady Ring of Hope Boxing
- Scotia Glenville Softball League
- YMCA

Professional Development

Support for training opportunities extends, not only to our customers, but to our staff as well. Here are some recent professional development accomplishments:

2 Staff Certified as Bridges Out of Poverty Trainers through Aha! Process

- Improving job retention, building resources, improving outcomes and supporting people moving out of poverty

3 Staff Certified as Workforce Development Specialists through NYS DCJS and the NIC

- Certified to facilitate *Ready, Set Work!* and *Career University* curriculum to assist individuals with criminal histories in making informed decisions about their next career pathway and reentering the workforce

4 Staff Certified in Individual Peer Support & 3 Staff Certified in Group Crisis Intervention through the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation

- Part of a peer support team seeking to diminish vicarious trauma and help our law enforcement officers, 911 dispatchers and first responders process every day and more catastrophic, significant crises

2024 Workforce Advocacy Benefits Cliff Updates



When an individual or family receiving Public Assistance obtains employment, this income impacts the amount of assistance they continue to be eligible for and often renders them ineligible for assistance, closing their case. This sudden removal of benefits is what is termed the “benefits cliff” where consistent, reliable public income is no longer present and the family has to navigate the financial and emotional implications of budgeting, saving and relying on themselves to ensure they remain financially stable.

Our advocacy agency, NYATEP is encouraging the following items to be included in the State budget to minimize the “cliff effect” impact many New York families face:

- “The establishment of a task force to study fiscal benefit cliffs in New York state's Public Assistance Program and make recommendations to reduce and eliminate such fiscal cliffs and the \$500,000 in funding for OTDA for expenses incurred for the study. “
- “Increase the income threshold to 400% from 200% of the Federal Poverty Level for the one-time, six-month earned income disregard for public assistance recipients who enter a job after completing an employment training program. “

APRIL

- International Fun at Work Day on the 1st

- Administrative Professionals Day on the 17th

- Take Your Daughter/Son to Work Day on the 25th

MAY

- Bike to Work Day on the 17th

- Memorial Day on the 27th

- National Creativity Day on the 30th

JUNE

- World Day Against Child Labor on the 12th

- Juneteenth on the 19th

- National Work from Home Day on the 27th

CONTACT INFORMATION



(518) 344-2737



SchenectadySJTA@dfa.state.ny.us



Please call or e-mail us if you'd like to make an appointment to meet with our staff



@SchenectadyCountyConnects