

South Dakota Department of Labor
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300 Youth Gain Summer Work Experience

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) enrolled 301 teenagers and young adults this summer in a program to give them real-world work experiences.

A \$3 million federal grant from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund was awarded to the South Dakota Department of Social Services in June to provide work experience jobs for those who are 16 to 24 years old.

“We have been able to help young people who otherwise would not have had jobs this summer,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “For many of them, this was their first job, and it gave them an excellent opportunity to learn good work habits and gain workplace skills.”

Priority was given to applicants who were TANF and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients, along with youth receiving public assistance or those eligible under the Workforce Investment Act.

“Participants earned average wages of \$8.25 an hour on the job,” said Secretary Roberts. “This program was also advantageous to businesses because the Department of Labor paid these wages with the federal grant money.”

Many workplaces employed young people in the program as receptionists, housekeepers, retail/sales associates, and labor and production workers, but positions also ranged from pharmacy technicians to veterinary assistants and medical coders/billers.

The work-experience program ends Sept. 30. For more information, contact any local DOL office or visit www.sdjobs.org