

South Dakota Department of Labor
South Dakota Department of Social Services
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Summer Youth Work Experience Program Announced

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Departments of Labor (DOL) and Social Services (DSS) will use a \$3 million federal grant to deliver a summer youth work experience program to those ages 16 to 24 years old.

Grant funding was awarded to DSS through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund. TANF is a temporary assistance program for families with serious financial needs.

“Because of the current recession, some young adults have struggled to find summer employment,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “The Department of Labor is working with employers to create at least 600 meaningful job opportunities for eligible young people in South Dakota.”

Those work opportunities will help less-experienced workers, such as teens, establish work histories, gain references, advance their careers and secure permanent employment. They will earn cash while building good work habits and learning new skills.

“This is an opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of our young people by partnering with the Department of Labor,” said State Social Services Secretary Deb Bowman. “The funding will pay up to \$5,000 of each participant’s wages, which will help with necessary supportive services such as work clothing, tools and transportation.”

Applicants must meet certain eligibility guidelines; priority will be given to TANF and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) recipients, along with youth receiving public assistance and youth eligible under the Workforce Investment Act.

Businesses interested in creating jobs for the program should work with their local DOL office. Jobs in the program must start at no less than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. To learn more about the summer youth work experience program, contact any local DOL office by visiting www.sdjobs.org