

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Summer Youth Employment Program places 800 youth in local jobs

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—County Executive Ilene Shapiro is thrilled to announce the annual Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) placed 798 youth in meaningful summer jobs. This is a 36% increase in participation compared to 2023. Jobs began on June 10 and will run for a total of eight weeks. Participants can work up to 20 hours a week earning up to \$2,400. In total, participants are on track to earn over \$1,680,000 in gross wages across 335 Summit County employers.

“I am incredibly proud of the work my team led to make the Summer Youth Employment Program so successful,” said Executive Shapiro. “Getting real-world experience in a field of your interest, earning your own money, and making connections with professionals who are intentional about nurturing the next generation – all of these positive experiences can really make a difference in the lives and career paths of our young residents.”

The Summer Youth Employment Program was made possible thanks to the partnerships with Executive Shapiro’s Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS), Youth Success Summit, and Jobs for Ohio Graduates (JOG). Together, these partners created one universal application for multiple employment programs. From there, staff were able to determine which program the youth and family were eligible to join based on certain eligibility criteria for each respective program. This new system simplifies the application process for families.

The incredible success of the program illustrates that young people do want to work and engage positively in their communities. Finding a summer job based on students’ career interests can fuel current or future passions, provide focus and engagement for students over summer break, and show the material and mental health benefits of earning their own money.

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