



Sonoma County Summer Jobs Program Summer Youth Ecology Corps Summer 2009

President Obama's new stimulus package, titled the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, provides 1.2 billion dollars to support youth workforce programs under the Workforce Investment Act, including summer employment for youth. The Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board and Youth Council are excited to be able to offer this opportunity for the county's youth, and are currently in the planning and early implementation stages of this summer's program. We are also pleased to report that through a partnership with the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) and New Ways to Work, youth participating in this summer's program will have the opportunity to work on a variety of conservation-related projects with the SCWA and other environmental and conservation organizations.

What will this year's summer jobs program look like?

1. Dollars will flow through the state to Sonoma County and the Youth Council/Workforce Investment Board (WIB).
2. The Sonoma County Youth Education & Employment Council and WIB has determined priority populations for participation, and will define local program design, and the selection of sub-contractor(s) to deliver the program.
3. Eligibility criteria for participating youth is consistent with existing WIA youth programs (legal right to work, economically disadvantaged, additional barriers to employment) with the exception that the upper age limit has been extended to age 24.
4. Performance measures for the summer component are limited to work readiness as defined by the Act and the U.S. Department of Labor, the State, and the Sonoma County WIB.
5. In addition to individual placements in public and non-profit agencies, youth will have the opportunity to work on a variety of conservation-related projects through the Summer Youth Ecology Corps.

The Sonoma County Summer Youth Ecology Corps

The Sonoma County Summer Youth Ecology Corps is a new effort, supported by a partnership between the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and Youth Council, and a number of governmental and private non-profit organizations with an educational or environmental mission. SCWA has engaged New Ways to Work to support the project planning process and identify quality conservation-related work projects for youth to complete this summer. Once the projects are identified, the WIB/YC will be responsible for placing youth at the project sites, through the Sonoma County Workforce Investment Act summer jobs program provider(s).

Conservation projects will be completed in coordination with this year's Summer Jobs Program. While the details of the summer program are still being finalized by the WIB and Youth Council, it is expected that the program will begin in mid to late June and will be offered to youth ages 14-24, recruited through the county's youth and young adult programs, including schools, and delivered by youth providers, selected through a competitive RFP process conducted by the Youth Council and WIB. Small crews of 6-8 youth will be placed by the youth providers for six to eight weeks of work on habitat restoration, maintenance, and other projects with Sonoma County environmental and conservation-related organizations

The youth providers selected by the Youth Council and WIB will be responsible for youth recruitment, day-to-day oversight of each project crew, and work closely with the project hosts to manage each crew's work and support the educational aspects of the program. With support from the SCWA, additional resources will provide additional support for crew coordinators, and help defray the costs of transportation and tools.

Potential conservation/ecology projects are being solicited by New Ways to Work, and will be made available to the youth providers as they are identified. New Ways will assist in the overall project design, and help broker relationships between selected providers and the identified projects. The projects will help meet the priorities of the hosting organizations and serve a public benefit, as well as provide youth the opportunity to hold a job, learn about

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the environment, and develop new skills. The projects will also support youth throughout Sonoma County as they gain valuable work experience and advance their educational goals.

Sonoma County Summer Youth Ecology Corps and Sonoma County Summer Jobs Program

Rough Timeline:

For Information Purposes Only: Subject to Change

Projects Solicited	March 1 st – April 30 th
RFP for Summer Jobs Program Issued	March 18 th
Initial Ecology Project Proposals Due	March 27 th
Potential Summer Jobs Provider(s) Bidders Conference	March 30 th
Proposals for Summer Jobs Program Due	April 16 th
Final Ecology Project Proposals Due	April 30 th
Youth Recruitment Begins	Spring (TBA)
Summer Youth Program Providers Selected	June 2 (by the Board of Supervisors)
Ecology Projects Selected and Matched	June
Summer Program Launch	June

To propose a project:

Conservation and environmental organizations are encouraged to propose projects for completion this summer. To request a proposal package, please contact Kellie Noe at New Ways to Work. knoe@newwaystowork.org or 707-824-4000 x 33. Initial ecology project proposals are due March 27th

To apply as a program provider:

The Workforce Investment Board will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the summer program on March 18th. To request a RFP package please contact Laura Sauter at 707-575-8507 or email her at lsauter@schsd.org. Responses to the RFP are due April 9, 2009.

A bidders conference will be held on March 30th, from 1pm to 4pm at the Training and Assessment Center, 2227 Capricorn Way, Santa Rosa 95407.

To refer youth to the program:

Youth recruitment will begin this spring. To receive information on how to refer youth to the Summer Jobs Program please email Laura Sauter at lsauter@schsd.org and you will be placed on our distribution list.

We look forward to an exciting and productive summer!

Karen Fies
Director, Employment & Training Division
Sonoma County Human Services Department
Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board
707-565-8501
kfies@schsd.org

Steve Trippe
President and Executive Director
New Ways to Work
707-824-4000
sgtrippe@newwaystowork.org