



CareerWise New York Stakeholder Update

Date: April 17, 2020

Edition #5

This pandemic has had an immense impact on our apprentices, families, and communities, but we are inspired by the extraordinary ways everyone has risen to this challenge. From our neighbors, to the postal service workers, healthcare workers, and other first responders--every day we see *you* go above and beyond to extend kindness and support amidst this crisis. Thank you for your endurance during these trying times.

Just today the mayor announced \$2 billion in cuts to municipal services from the city budget. Most alarming is the \$124 million cut and full suspension of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), a model that not only gives young people meaningful work experience during the hot, summer months, but also provides critical wages to low-income families. While we know work will not be “business as usual” this summer, we also know that remote internships are very possible. Without SYEP young people who have already faced immense challenges in the last few months of the academic year, will spend a summer without income and an important work/learning experience. If you are interested in helping our community save SYEP, please see the attachment in the email.

Fall 2019 Cohort 1 Update

We continue to negotiate the end of the work restriction with DOE and are providing information related to apprentice security and CWNY support. While we cannot predict when we will see a lifting of the work from home restriction, we know our DOE partners are as anxious as we are to find a resolution.

A number of apprentices have expressed missing the CareerWise community of apprentices. As a show of best practice, one of our employers is holding an optional virtual social gathering for their cohort of apprentices. They are using it as a way to check-in and also boost social engagement between apprentices. This is a wonderful way to keep your team connected during this time, and we encourage you to do the same with your apprentices, if and when possible.

Fall 2020 Cohort 2 Update

- Students continue to submit their profiles onto the Hiring Hub and employers continue to move forward with recruitment. We currently stand at 270 students approved to apply to apprenticeships; of those, 199 students have collectively submitted 662 applications.
- Employers will continue to hold virtual interviews over the next 2-3 weeks. We currently have 62 open positions, 31 offers issued, and 18 offers accepted.



HERE to HERE Business Council Update

CareerWise New York is considering the opportunity to join forces with CareerWise Colorado and affiliates in D.C. and Indiana, to respond to a [US DOL RFP](#) in support of youth apprenticeships over the next four years. The grant sizes range from \$1M to \$5M with approximately 20 awards granted. If granted the maximum award, the four CareerWise partners could deliver 900 registered apprenticeships over 4 years. We believe this RFP is an excellent opportunity to showcase the unique value of CareerWise and we are currently in discussion with a number of Business Council members to determine their interest in participating. If any Council member is interested in learning more please let Barb (bchang@heretohere.org) know.

Youth Apprenticeship in the Spotlight

In addition to the USDOL grant opportunity there is discussion about youth apprenticeship happening in Congress as well. Congressional representatives on the House Education and Labor Committee have begun negotiations to reauthorize and update the National Apprenticeship Act of 1937. The committee released a discussion draft of the legislation prior to a hearing in early March. Provisions in the draft provide for registration and funding of youth apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships. The draft provides that the U.S. Department of Labor will enter into an interagency agreement with the Secretary of Education to promote and support integration and alignment of programs under the national apprenticeship system with secondary, post-secondary, and adult education. **The potential agreement between the Department of Education and Department of Labor is a game changer. Joining these two departments--which in other countries, like Switzerland, are one in the same--is critical to the integration of work and education in a dual system.**

The draft also proposes grants to modernize the apprenticeship system. It is not clear whether the legislation will be acted on in the current session, but the discussion draft is evidence of growing interest in youth apprenticeship.



Resources

1. **CareerWise New York Website:** We have added a new page to the [CareerWise New York website](#) where you can find these weekly updates. Check here for apprenticeship-specific information including special messages and FAQs for our [apprentices](#), our [employers](#) and our [school partners](#). Please visit the [HERE to HERE](#) website for more expansive information about community resources and response.
2. **NYSED:** A guidance memo from the New York State Education Department on the provision of services to students with disabilities, including ELLs with disabilities, during school closures on account of COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

REMINDERS

COHORT 2 SUPERVISORS TRAINING 5.4

In the coming weeks, **Cohort 2 Supervisors** should expect an invitation detailing the upcoming training on Monday, May 4th. This meeting will primarily focus on the first portion of the training, prior to supervising an apprentice this fall.

5/4 - Virtual Supervisor Training Part I for Cohort II Supervisors (timing TBD)

CWNY DESIGNATOR APPROVER (SCHOOL PARTNER)

Mark your calendars, the upcoming **Designator Approver Meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm via Zoom. This meeting's key focus will be *Family Engagement and Accepting Offers*. Agenda and calendar invites have been shared via email. We look forward to seeing you there.

4/22 - April Designated Approver (School Partner) Meeting

We will continue to update you on training as we approach the summer months.

#SaveSYEP Campaign

1. To join the effort and receive updates on the campaign, fill out this [short form](#).
2. Sign and share the petition: <https://bit.ly/saveSYEP>
3. Invite others to view and comment on this document: bit.ly/SYEPtoolkit

UPDATE: We have launched a new page on our website with a summary of our resources, links, and social media graphics. Check it out: <https://teenstakecharge.com/syep>

The city has [announced](#) that it will eliminate SYEP this summer. We are focused on a forceful response urging the administration to reconsider. Jumaane Williams and others have been vocal in calling for the Mayor to save SYEP. Let's keep it up and make sure they hear from those who will be impacted by this heartless cut.

Daily Action #1 — April 8: Tweet at, email, or Instagram message our ally Debi Rose, Chair of the Youth Services Committee on the City Council.

Email: drose@council.nyc.gov

IG + Twitter handle: @CMDDebiRose

Use #SaveSYEP and feel free to tag @TeensTakeCharge so we can like, retweet, etc.

Encourage her to fight back against this cut to SYEP! Tell her why SYEP is important, especially now. She needs to hear from us.

Daily Action #2 — April 9: Contact Speaker Corey Johnson to tell him what we want to be heard on this issue, and ask him to meet with young people, community leaders, and SYEP providers. We've got a pre-made Tweet ready to go. **Just click [here](#).**

You can also email him **SpeakerJohnson@council.nyc.gov** or message him on Instagram **@SpeakerCoreyJohnson**.

CONTEXT

This public health crisis has caused families across the city to enter a financial crisis. The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is an essential city service that provides paid summer jobs to 75,000 youth every year. Not only do those young people receive valuable job skills and work experience, they also receive a PAYCHECK. Given the tremendous financial strain on hundreds of thousands of low-income New York City families right now, we should be EXPANDING paid summer opportunities, EXPANDING ways to put cash directly into the hands of low-income families who are being hit the hardest by this pandemic.

Last year 151,000 young people applied for the program, meaning 76,000 were turned away due to lack of spots. In the richest city on earth, we should be able to provide a summer job to every young person who wants one. We are calling on Mayor de Blasio to **SAVE** SYEP so that every student who wants to participate in the program can.

But what about the COVID-19 crisis and social distancing measures?

This is the most common question we get. Based on conversations with CBO friends, we are confident that providers can rise to the challenge of providing meaningful remote opportunities for young people in the event that social distancing measures remain in effect in July and August. In fact, many have already prepared for that possibility.

In fact, if we need to keep up social distancing over the summer, then it will be important to engage young people in meaningful opportunities online where they can build skills, connect to other teens and adults, and earn income. Asking young people to stay indoors over the summer without anything meaningful to do is not good policy.

Should we really be complaining about these cuts during a financial crisis?

Yes! SYEP is an important economic stimulus. Not only are youth engaged in safe, pro-social, job readiness activities, but businesses benefit from an infusion of resourceful youth that support their business and enhance their productivity. This is going to be needed now more than ever, whether or not we still have social distancing.

It is important to note that when facing a fiscal crisis in 2009, NYC expanded SYEP as a way to get money to the families that needed it most, and to keep young people engaged. The expansion was supported with federal funds, but replacement of city funding only happened *after* those federal funds were allocated to the city. The city did not cut its own support until it already had the federal funds in hand. This current administration is cutting the program without any such replacement support.

Moreover, SYEP is the only program that is not just facing a budget cut, but being eliminated entirely. Budgets for other programs and agencies are generally being cut by a few percentage points.. NYC needs to find \$1.3 billion in cuts to a city budget of about \$95 billion in order to meet its new revenue projections. That's about a 1.5% total cut. But instead of cutting a little from everywhere, SYEP is facing a 100% cut.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Sample Tweets / Facebook Posts

In the richest city on earth, we should be able to provide a summer job to every young person who wants one! Join me in telling @NYCMayor to #SaveSYEP.
<https://change.org/expandSYEP>

Families around NYC are in financial crisis. A paid summer job for a young person helps the whole family. Join me in telling @NYCMayor to #SaveSYEP.
<https://change.org/expandSYEP>

If we can shift a 1.1 million student school system to remote learning in a week, we can offer meaningful remote summer jobs to a fraction of that number of young people 3 months from now. No excuses, @NYCMayor! We must #SaveSYEP.
<https://change.org/expandSYEP>

— Make your own tweet! Include Why SYEP matters to you and be sure to tag @NYCMayor and use #SaveSYEP

Instagram

Post on your Instagram story about what's happening so you can educate your friends. Tell them to DM you if they are interested in joining the fight and have them fill out this survey: bit.ly/expandSYEP

Share the link to the petition (<https://bit.ly/SaveSYEP>) in your bio and direct people to sign it!

Post a short video saying why SYEP matters to you / the community. Use #SaveSYEP, and if you tag @TeensTakeCharge and we'll share your post with our 3,200+ followers.

We have posted and will continue to post graphics from @TeensTakeCharge. You can access these images at <https://teenstakecharge.com/syep>.

HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR / PARTICIPATED IN SYEP?

Tell us about it! We'd love to use your testimonials as part of our advocacy. Simply fill out [this short form](#).

CONTACTING POLITICIANS

Corey Johnson, speaker, NYCC
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Debi Rose, youth services chair, NYCC
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Daniel Dromm, finance committee chair, NYCC
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Jumaane Williams, public advocate
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<https://www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov/contact/>

Scott Stringer, comptroller
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Rubén Díaz Jr., Bronx Borough president
@Ruben_Diaz_Jr

<http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov>

Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough president
@BpEricAdams
<https://www.brooklyn-usa.org>

Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough president
@GaleABrewer
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Sharon Lee, Queens Borough president
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<https://www.queensbp.org/contact/>

James Oddo, Staten Island Borough president
@HeyNowJO
<https://www.statenislandusa.com/bp-james-oddo.html>

Brandon Cardet-Hernandez, Senior Education Advisor to Mayor de Blasio
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BCardetHernandez@cityhall.nyc.gov

SAMPLE EMAIL

Dear _____,

I hope you are well. My name is _____, and I am a student from [**neighborhood / borough**]. I'm writing to you with an urgent request to save the funding for the city's Summer Youth Employment Program.

You have been a big supporter of SYEP in the past, so there's no need to explain the importance of the program for young people like me. As we are dealing with a major public health crisis right now, we are also experiencing a serious financial crisis for [**families like mine / families across the city**]. That's why — even if SYEP has to shift to remote internships — we must preserve opportunities for students, especially from low-income families, to bring funds into their households.

[OPTIONAL -- add a few sentences of personal experience with SYEP. Were you planning to apply this summer? Have you done the program before? Have friends who have relied on the income?]

Will you please stand up for me and thousands of families across the city to tell Mayor de Blasio to save SYEP at this crucial time?

Thank you for your support. Let's get this done!

Sincerely,

WRITING AN OP-ED

Are you interested in writing an opinion piece about SYEP for a local news outlet? Contact sophie@teenstakecharge.com, and we'll be glad to work with you and connect you to our media contacts.

Here are our general op-ed writing tips:

1. **Identify your Purpose:** why are you writing this op-ed? Are you sharing your personal story? Advocating for a specific policy? Educating the public? Your purpose will affect the format of your piece and, while writing, you should return to your purpose to refocus and inspire you.
2. **Identify your Argument:** What do you plan to argue, and how? How is your argument different from what's out there currently? What new angle or perspective are you adding to the debate?

A good op-ed needs the three S's:

- S**tory (your personal experience or the experience of someone you know)
- S**tatistics (hard facts & numbers that describe the problem or what's at stake)
- S**olution (what change do we want to see? can be policies or call to action for readers)

In the next sections, we break down those three subsections.

Story:

The personal story section of your op-ed is extremely important because it illustrates the direct impact of the issue on you and other students. People don't just see statistics, they see a real person who is being negatively affected by the policies.

Statistics:

While personal stories are extremely impactful, people in power also need to see clear evidence that what you are saying is true. The statistics you choose to include in your piece will vary depending on your focus. It is much harder for our opponents to argue with detailed and supported facts. You can find statistics in a variety of places, but here are some databases, research projects, etc to get you started:

[The Numbers and Offerings of SYEP](#) from the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development

[Fewer Out-of-School and Out-of-Work Young Adults, As Warning Signs Emerge](#) by Lazar Treschan and Irene Lew

[Universal Summer Jobs for NYC Youth Proposal](#) by Lazar Treschan

[Testimony on SYEP](#) by Lazar Treschan

[Paid Summer Internships for Every Young Person](#) by David R. Jones

[A Summer Jobs Program for the 21st Century](#) by David R. Jones

[Testimony on SYEP](#) by Irene Lew

Solution/Call to Action:

After you have convinced your readers that SYEP is an essential program that must be protected, you need to make a call to action, a powerful final message to inspire them to take action or support specific policies. For the #ProtectSYEP Action, you can either call on public leaders to protect the program, or call on your readers to take action and join you. Make sure to highlight the petition!

ABOUT TEENS TAKE CHARGE

Teens Take Charge is a student-led organization fighting for educational equity in New York City. Our Education Unscreened campaign calls for a host of policy changes to address school segregation, including an expansion of work-based learning opportunities, which narrow some of the gaps that segregation creates. Learn more at teenstakecharge.com.

Questions? Ideas?

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