



For Philadelphia Youth Network: cclark@pyninc.org, Christina Clark, 267-502-3772

For City of Philadelphia Office of Children and Families: heather.keafer@phila.gov, Heather Keafer, 267-275-2637

For Philadelphia Works: Dawn Thomas, dthomas@philaworks.org, 215-557-2587

PHILADELPHIA IS STILL #ALLIN4WORKREADY

WorkReady Philadelphia partners remain committed to ensuring young people are engaged in workforce experiences

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (May 5, 2020)—During a time when many cities are announcing the cancellation of their city's summer jobs programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Philadelphia partners are united and committed to ensuring young people are safe, healthy and able to engage in paid workforce experiences. Through innovation and collaboration, The City of Philadelphia Office of Children and Families, the Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN), Philadelphia Works and WorkReady partner organizations are using both digital and virtual experiences that will build skills and prepare young people for success in the workplaces of the future.

This year, WorkReady experiences will be redesigned. All participants will have a digital experience to earn incentives. These digital experiences are both mobile and computer friendly and will focus on:

- **Digital Career Exposure** to learn about various career opportunities based on personal interests, abilities, aptitudes, leading to the implementation of a career plan.
- **Financial Literacy** to learn how money is earned, spent, saved and how to use financial resources.
- **Digital Literacy and Brand Identity** to learn how to use, share and contribute to information through digital technologies.

In addition to these digital experiences, some WorkReady partner organizations will be using platforms such as Google Classroom to provide enhanced virtual experiences for example job shadows or career day. PYN will continue to monitor guidelines and recommendations from local, state and federal officials to determine if a transition for any in-person experiences will be possible this summer. Participants will also earn money based on successful participation in these activities.

"We know that these summer experiences for young people will be more important than ever in the months and years to come as we collectively contribute to Philadelphia's and the nation's economic recovery," said Chekemba Fulmore-Townsend, President and CEO of PYN. "Our young people are an asset, and we are still #ALLin4WorkReady to cultivate their talent and potential."

There are three ways to get involved at workready.org:

1. **Apply** if you are between 12-24 living in Philadelphia
2. **Hire** young people virtually this summer. We're here to help you think this through.
3. **Donate** to the Philly Summer Jobs fund. Every dollar helps us to help create as many opportunities as possible this summer.

"We want to make sure that our young people are included in these recovery efforts," said Cynthia Figueroa, Deputy Mayor, Philadelphia Office of Children and Families. "Investing in summer experiences will help lift our communities and City beyond this pandemic and we are proud to stand as a city #ALLin4WorkReady."

"We fully understand the severity of the economic impact COVID-19 is having on our local economy and how businesses are navigating this," said H. Patrick Clancy, President and CEO of Philadelphia Works. "Developing a strong talent pipeline remains a priority for our city and its economic recovery and summer experiences remain a critical part of this."

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About WorkReady:

WorkReady is a 6-week summer job for 12-24-year-olds in Philadelphia. For many young people, summer jobs are a critical first introduction to the world of work. WorkReady offers 5 program types through 70 partner organizations, providing more than 1,000 places for young people to work each summer. Each year, more than 16,000 young people apply annually for roughly 8,000 opportunities. WorkReady partners and supporters are working to raise awareness and raise funds so that more young people can work this summer. WorkReady is managed by the Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN). For more information, visit www.workready.org. **Due to COVID-19, programming for summer 2020 will look different**

About the Philadelphia Youth Network:

The Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN) is a solutions-builder forging together significant players to alleviate a root cause of poverty by preparing 12-24-year-olds to become productive working adults. Our work is grounded in the understanding that young people need access to both education and employment, proven factors in being prepared for a career. With a track record of increasing impact, PYN funds and brokers action with the right partners to collectively address barriers. PYN constructs systems to create change, while innovating to meet evolving needs. Together with our partners, PYN dramatically changes the trajectory of individuals' lives by giving voice to underserved youth, and ultimately creating a pipeline for an educated, engaged workforce. For more information, visit www.pyninc.org.