



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

News

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Hundreds of Trenton Youth Will Gain Work Experience through Trenton Mayor Eric E. Jackson's Alliance with Leading Chambers of Commerce, Business, Nonprofit and Community Organizations

*Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Initiative is Accepting Applications;
Mayor Jackson Encourages Parents to Sign Up their Children*

Trenton, N.J. — More than 250 young people ages 16-21 will get summer jobs thanks to a partnership between Mayor Eric E. Jackson's administration, the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce, the MIDJersey Chamber of Commerce, the Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce, Rider University, and Millhill Child & Family Development, **Mayor Eric E. Jackson** announced today.

"A summer job is among the best ways we can prepare our young people in Trenton, helping them explore their gifts and talents in the workplace," said Mayor Jackson. "A summer job instills an array of positive traits in children, including independence, responsibility, interpersonal skills, and a strong work ethic, and parents like the idea of their children working."

Now in its third year, the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Initiative, which was first organized in 2016 by Mayor Eric E. Jackson, former Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer and former MIDJersey Chamber of Commerce CEO Robert D. Prunetti, has begun accepting applications online at **millhillcenter.org**. Millhill Child & Family Development has taken the lead in administering this year's program, including accepting supporting contributions through the Millhill Foundation from businesses and individuals who wish to help employ Trenton youth. Participants will receive job-preparedness training at Rider University, the program's higher-education partner.

"Millhill is proud to be a partner with Mayor Jackson and our committed partners in providing meaningful jobs to Trenton youth who would not have had the opportunity otherwise," said **Cynthia Oberkofler**, Executive Director of Millhill Child & Family Development, a nonprofit organization that provides education, counseling and family support services to children and families. "The Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Initiative has the potential to change the lives of the Trenton youth who are involved."

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Here is how organizations from business, education, nonprofit, government, and community can help ensure that a Trenton young person gets a summer job this year. First, an organization can provide an internship or sponsor a youth's employment by making a financial contribution. \$2,000 covers the cost of employing one young person during the summer jobs period that starts July 1st. Contributions of any amount can be made payable to the **Millhill Foundation** and sent to the attention of **Cynthia Oberkofler at Millhill Child & Family Development at 101 Oakland Street, Trenton, NJ 08618.**

Business advocacy organizations, such as the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce that represents 1,300 companies and 5,000 individuals, have committed to the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Initiative's overarching mission to be a workforce development resource and to engage their members to help advance its success.

"Effective workforce development is the foundation of strong labor forces, and a community's strong labor pool means their economy is equally strong with the parity that is needed for them to succeed," said **Peter Crowley**, President and CEO of the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Trenton's youth are willing, gifted and blessed with myriad talents, and it is the mission of this Chamber that we contribute to their personal development and well-being through this important program."

The following organizations are strategic Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Initiative partners: Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce, MIDJersey Chamber of Commerce, Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce, Rider University, and Millhill Child & Family Development.

Robert D. Prunetti, now Chairman of **Mayor Jackson's Workforce Advisory Board**, which seeks to formulate partnerships that develop practical, sustainable policies to elevate the quality of Trenton's workforce and its access to higher-paying jobs, believes that governments must undertake workforce development to close the widening skills gap that is already creating labor shortages for highly skilled positions.

"Employers reward skills and performance," said Prunetti. "Employers seek a link between education and high-performing employees. So, among other action items, I think it is of paramount importance that we begin exposing our youth to the job market early and connect what they are learning in the classrooms to where their education can lead."

Mayor Jackson is encouraged by the energy and support for his summer-jobs initiative. "Since I took office on July 1, 2014, I have governed through collaboration. Communities cannot solve complex challenges by themselves. They must partner with capable, like-minded organizations in the public, private and nonprofit sectors that step forward of the line to do impactful things, like engaging youth. The Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Initiative exemplifies this philosophy," he said.

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