



APPRENTICESHIPS. INTERNSHIPS. JOBS.

Dear Youth Ready Chicago applicant,

We would like to thank you for applying to the Youth Ready Chicago summer employment program. Your commitment to furthering your workplace experience and skills and desire to bring home income, especially during these tough economic times, are admirable.

This summer Youth Ready Chicago will be able to offer 14,000 jobs, internships, and apprenticeships. It seems like a big number, but it isn't nearly enough. We typically receive between 50,000 and 80,000 qualified applications each year – this means that only 1 in 4 applicants are able to be placed.

This statistic is not meant to discourage you and other young Chicagoans from applying for these jobs. We wish every young person who applied could receive a work experience opportunity this summer, but we simply have a limited amount of funding and a lot of talented youth such as you applying for jobs.

Now that you have completed a Youth Ready Chicago application, we recommend that you also look for other opportunities as soon as possible to increase your chances of having a job this summer. Although the job placement process is still going on, a large number of applicants are contacted for interviews or employment opportunities by mid-June. Youth Ready Chicago website provides guides to other potential activities for this summer and beyond, as well as job search and interview preparation strategies. You can find the "Youth Employment Guide" and other tips and resources at <http://youthreadychicago.org/youth/resources.html>.

Regardless of the outcome, you should be proud of your initiative and ambition. It is a very difficult job market for Chicagoans young and old. We encourage you to keep your head high, and to continue improving your skills and contacting potential employers with patience and persistence.

Best wishes for a safe and productive summer.

Sincerely,

The Youth Ready Chicago Team

Every year representatives from the City of Chicago go to Washington to join many others fighting for the restoration of the national summer jobs program funded by the federal government, which provided tens of thousands of summer youth jobs in Chicago. While our Congressional delegation has always been supportive, not enough other members of Congress have voted to do this. We hope that one day that will change, and we will continue to fight for summer jobs funding until this country again recognizes the great need for such a program and its great value in encouraging positive youth development.