

Community Planning and Economic Development News Release

Contact: Rose Lindsay, Communications (612) 673.5015

One Week Remains for Students to Apply for the 2016 City of Minneapolis STEP-UP Youth Employment Program Application deadline is Friday, February 5

Friday, January 29, 2016 (Minneapolis) – The City of Minneapolis announced today that Minneapolis youth ages 14-21 who have not yet applied for its STEP-UP youth employment program still have one week to do so. The online application will close at midnight on Friday, February 5 for the summer 2016 student cohort. The online application takes approximately five minutes to complete. However, students should plan ahead as additional information is needed from their parents or guardians to complete their application. A brief essay is also required as part of the application process.

Created in 2004, STEP-UP is a nationally recognized program dedicated to preparing tomorrow's workforce today. Each year, STEP-UP recruits, trains, and places more than 1,600 Minneapolis youth in great jobs with over 230 top Twin Cities businesses, public agencies, and nonprofits. STEP-UP places an emphasis on serving youth who face some of the greatest barriers to employment, including youth from economically challenged backgrounds, youth with disabilities, and youth of color. In 2016, STEP-UP placed 1,563 Minneapolis youth in internships. Over 91 percent of the youth were students of color, 90 percent received free or reduced-price lunch, and 41 percent were from immigrant families.

"STEP-UP is a tremendous opportunity for the young people of our city to build their path to success," said Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges. "By providing STEP-UP interns with the opportunities to develop real-world skills, we are making sure our future workforce is competitive and growing strong. I look forward to seeing the vast diversity and strengths of our community reflected in the next co-hort."

STEP-UP interns explore diverse career interests, gain valuable on-the-job skills, make strong professional connections, and prepare for meaningful careers. Interns receive work readiness training certified by the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce that prepares them for a professional job experience. Internships pay up to \$2,000 in wages over the course of the summer.

"Last summer was one of the best summers I've ever had," said Emmanuel, a student at South High School and STEP-UP intern at Boston Scientific. "Not only did STEP-UP match me with the type of job that I wish to pursue, but the work environment also was perfect for me. STEP-UP prepared me for my job interview and everything that came after. It gave me the experience that no other job could and prepared me for the work environment after school."

“STEP-UP is an amazing program. Not only did I get paid, but STEP-UP allowed me to expand my network, gain experience and explore more careers,” said Ashley a student at South High and two-year intern working for the City of Minneapolis. “I discovered that the engineering, medical, and business fields were areas I am most interested in. STEP-UP has improved my resume continuously. It is a great program, and I wish to be part of it, to grow with it, and make a difference with it.”

“I had an intern, Mai, a few summers ago who helped my office build stronger relationships with bi-lingual clients by translating customers' needs and concerns,” State Farm® Agent Mary Trondson said. “She was a great asset to us during her time with State Farm. Customers really enjoyed working with her and asked for her often.”

To be eligible for STEP-UP, youth must live in Minneapolis and be 14-21 years old on June 1, 2016. Additional requirements include certain income guidelines or having a substantial barrier to employment. For complete program details visit the [City of Minneapolis website](#).

STEP-UP is a City of Minneapolis program provided in partnership with AchieveMpls. STEP-UP is a City of Minneapolis program in partnership with AchieveMpls. Other partners include the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Minnesota WorkForce Centers, and Project for Pride and Living.

###