

## What is the Region 2 Workforce Investment Board **Summer Youth Program?**

The R2WIB Summer Youth Program is a work-learning program for economically disadvantaged youth between the ages of 14-24. It is operated through funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment of 2009 (ARRA) as part of their year-round program contract. The WIA Act of 1998 (WIA) regulations supplemented by further guidance and direction provided by Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) No.14-08 dated March 18,2009 and all communications from Workforce West Virginia that applies to the ARRA Summer Employment Program.

R2WIB is designed to encourage the youth participants to develop good work habits, to provide public service through summer employment, and to receive academic enrichment. Eligible youth are paid \$7.25 and work up to 30 hours per week for approximately six weeks.

According to R2WIB, the purposes of summer youth program are four fold:

- (1) to enhance the basic employment & educational skills of youth;
- (2) to encourage school completion or enrollment in skill improvement and development programs;
- (3) to provide eligible youth with career building skills and experiences
- (4) to enhance the citizenship skills of youth.

The R2WIB Summer Youth Program complies with this mandate by providing participants actual work experience and basic skills enhancement via worksite education. At least 3 hours of worksite education per week are required for each participant, using materials provided by R2WIB. Three hours per week of basic skills instruction is the mandated minimum; supervisors and worksite providers are encouraged to spend more time in educational pursuits.

The positions made available cannot affect members of the work force; since these jobs are municipalities, school systems, or other non-profit institutions have inadequate funds to finance. The community benefits because the program provides services that help maintain our municipal, state and federal facilities.

Participants earn income when they participate in the worksite education and when they perform work tasks and projects. They learn about the world of work and various career fields. The income earned assists the family and often makes continued education possible. R2WIB also provides job references for future employment.

In order to provide and equal employment opportunity to all participants, discrimination based on race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability, citizenship or political affiliation is prohibited.