

FACT SHEET ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
IN SAN FRANCISCO
2010 – 2011

- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment opportunities for youth 16 – 24 years of age have reached historic lows. In July of 2010, unemployment amongst youth was the highest on record (since 1948).
- In San Francisco, during the summer of 2010, Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or “stimulus” funds mitigated the impact of local cuts to youth employment services. However, in 2011, San Francisco will lose over 1000 employment opportunities for youth due to the loss of stimulus funds and local budget reductions.
- According to the SF Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF), 30 years ago there were over 10,000 federally-subsidized work experience opportunities for youth. In 2010, there were less than 200.
- The dramatic decline of youth employment opportunities has occurred despite the fact that youth in San Francisco have consistently identified employment opportunities as their highest priority. According to the 2008, 2009, and 2010 Youth Vote Student Survey conducted by the San Francisco Youth Commission, when asked about extra-curricular activities of interest, the most frequent response was “finding a job/internship.”
- DCYF has also validated the need for greater employment opportunities for youth. Data collected through DCYF’s 2008 Community Needs Assessment found that every neighborhood in San Francisco wanted more employment and training opportunities for youth.
- Despite being identified as a “promising practice” in the 2008 DCYF Community Needs Assessment (CNA), San Francisco’s largest youth employment program, the Mayor’s Youth Employment and Education Program (MYEEP) was cut by \$1 million in the 2010 – 2011 city budget. This reduction has resulted in fewer employment opportunities citywide and the elimination or drastic reduction of services to the Chinatown, Ocean View/Merced/Ingleside, and Potrero Hill neighborhoods.
- Youth who work while in high school earn higher wages in their later teen years and have lower rates of dropping out of school. (The Historically Low Summer and Year Round 2008 Teen Employment Rate: Sum, et, al. 9/2008);
- San Francisco once boasted a robust private sector summer jobs program for youth with active involvement from many of the city’s largest employers, Employment Development Department, SF Chamber of Commerce, community service providers, and the Mayor’s office. Today, that once high-profile well resourced annual campaign is non-existent.