The 2019 Secretary’s Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships

Citi Foundation

Summer Jobs Connect

Various municipalities across the country

**Challenge**

Youth from low- and middle-income households are statistically less likely to have access to opportunities to acquire transformational life skills. Financial knowledge and skills, coupled with access to financial products, are critical to a young person’s journey towards economic success.

**Innovation**

Recent research shows that providing young people with opportunities to develop early positive financial behaviors is transformational to them achieving personal and professional goals that include enrolling in college and graduating.

**Overview**

Summer Jobs Connect (SJC) partners with city governments to underwrite summer job opportunities for low-income youth and use the powerful teachable moment of a first paycheck to connect young people to the financial mainstream. The summer program includes providing the youth with financial education and linking them to safe and affordable financial products and services in their neighborhoods. Since its launch in 2014, SJC has provided over 11,000 young people with summer work experience and connected more than a half million young people to financial empowerment services.

**Partners**

Cities for Empowerment Fund, mayors in various cities (Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York, St. Louis, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.), and various partners in private and nonprofit sectors.

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