

The Skillman Foundation

Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT)

Detroit, Michigan

Challenge

Youth employment became a focus in response to a clear message from neighborhood youth who reported having few job opportunities to obtain or aspire to.

Innovation

Working to address the high rates of disconnected youth and unemployment in Detroit, Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT) is a 6-week summer youth employment program. GDYT combines work readiness training with on-the-job experience designed to prepare Detroiters aged 14 to 24 years for the workforce. With the help of Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and the city's philanthropic and corporate leaders, GDYT's current goal is to provide 8,000 youth with meaningful employment.

Overview

Chaired by Skillman Foundation staff, this new public-private partnership is committed to expanding summer and year-round employment opportunities for Detroit youth. GDYT has four programmatic components. First, youth are prepared for the workplace through at least 24 hours of work readiness training prior to placement at a worksite. Second, eligible youth are recruited through local schools, community organizations, and the City's workforce development system. Youth are matched with employers based on interest, ability, and accessibility. Employers can interview candidates or allow GDYT youth specialists to manage the placement process. Third, youth are supported throughout the summer by their assigned GDYT youth specialist, who helps youth succeed in the workplace. Youth also receive program shirts that serve as bus passes throughout the summer. Fourth, GDYT makes the employer's job easier by providing support to ensure success. Every employer has access to training, a toolkit, and liaisons. The GDYT program also handles human resources matters and youth payroll.

PUBLIC-SECTOR PARTNERS

City of Detroit; Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation; Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority, Wayne County; State of Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development; U.S. Department of Labor.

OTHER PARTNERS:

Supported by nearly 30 funders and corporations.

