



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

News Release

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Minneapolis City Goals: A Safe Place to Call Home ▫ Jobs & Economic Vitality ▫ Eco-Focused ▫ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives ▫ Many People, One Minneapolis ▫ A City That Works



Less Than One Week Remains for Students to Apply for the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP Program for Summer 2015

Application Deadline is Friday, February 18 at Midnight

February 13, 2014 (Minneapolis) – The City of Minneapolis announced today that if a student has not yet applied for its STEP-UP youth employment program that there is still time. The online application will close at midnight on Friday, February 18 for the summer 2015 student cohort. The online application takes approximately 15 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 now a nationally recognized program for Minneapolis youth ages 14-21 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 families from lower economic backgrounds and youth of color. In 2014, STEP-UP placed an estimated 1,650 Minneapolis youth in internships. Over 90 percent of the youth were students of color and one-third of the youth were from immigrant families.

"STEP-UP is a valuable opportunity for our youth to gain real-world skills and have a better chance at success in the future workforce," said Mayor Hodges. "I know first-hand the talented and passionate young people who participate in this program – my office was lucky to have a fabulous STEP-UP intern in 2014. This investment in our youth is critical to ensuring we are economically competitive on a regional, national and global scale into the future."

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.

"STEP-UP gives teens an opportunity to earn their own money, and even more it gives them a sense of accomplishment," said STEP-UP Alum Pa Nhia. "At 18, I have worked in a law firm, an investment bank and an accounting firm. My resume is beautiful!"

STEP-UP also offers advanced level internships and industry-recognized trainings that help interns deepen and integrate career exposure with post-secondary education and career planning.

To be eligible for STEP-UP, youth must live in Minneapolis and be 14-21 years old on June 1, 2015. 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 in partnership with AchieveMpls, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Minnesota Workforce Centers, and Project for Pride and Living.

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