

SummerWorks



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2009, Worksystems created **SummerWorks** — championed by Councilor Loretta Smith — to **help young people develop essential workplace skills**, leading to meaningful employment opportunities at regional businesses. The program has an unassailable track record of success, particularly in creating opportunities for youth facing social and economic challenges. SummerWorks helps **build a diverse and strong local talent pool** that supports regional employers' growth and success.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION

11,014 Youth have completed a work experience

1,730,032 Hours worked

\$20,245,450 Earned

91%

Are Economically
Disadvantaged

71%

Identify as
Youth of Color

SummerWorks provides invaluable career exposure for young people through:

- Paid real-world experiences in dynamic work settings
- Practical skill-building that boosts resumes
- Hands-on learning in safe environments where youth are encouraged to grow personally and professionally

Participating Youth:

- ✓ Earn money while building their future
- ✓ Are more likely to return to and complete school
- ✓ Are more likely to enter post-secondary education

For more information, visit worksystems.org or contact Adriel Person, Worksystems Youth Programs Manager at aperson@worksystems.org or 503-478-7349.

SummerWorks Services & Current Results



SummerWorks has now been expanded to include year-round opportunities.

SERVICES TO YOUTH:

- Career Coaching: Personalized coaching and ongoing support to help youth develop skills, access resources, navigate training and employment services, and succeed in long-term career growth
- Essential skill development including soft skills like adaptability, collaboration, communication, self-awareness, and a solution mindset
- Financial literacy training
- Support services (i.e. uniforms, tools, and transportation)

SERVICES TO BUSINESSES:

- Outreach and recruitment
- Supervisor training
- Payroll coordination and compliance
- Feedback collection and continuous improvement
- Program management and oversight

85%

of youth successfully complete their work experience

93%

of worksites express satisfaction with the program

YEAR-TO-DATE RESULTS

July 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

318 Youth served through

340 Work experiences

124 Worksite hosts

Helping Youth Who Need it Most

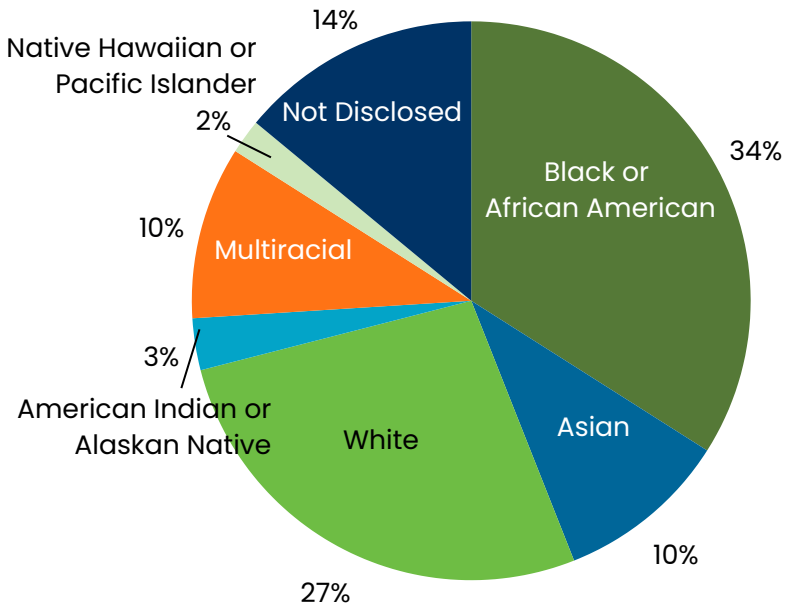
Pregnant or Parenting	3%
Experiencing Homelessness and/or Runaway	9%
LGBTQIA2S+	16%
In or Aged Out of Foster Care	10%
Experiences a Disability and/or May Need Accommodations in the Workplace	20%
Receiving Public Assistance	51%
Justice System Impacted	3%

SummerWorks Demographics

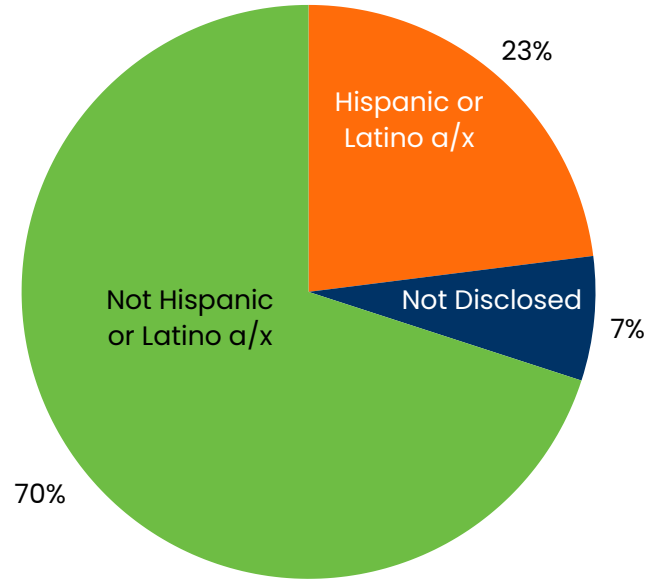
July 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025



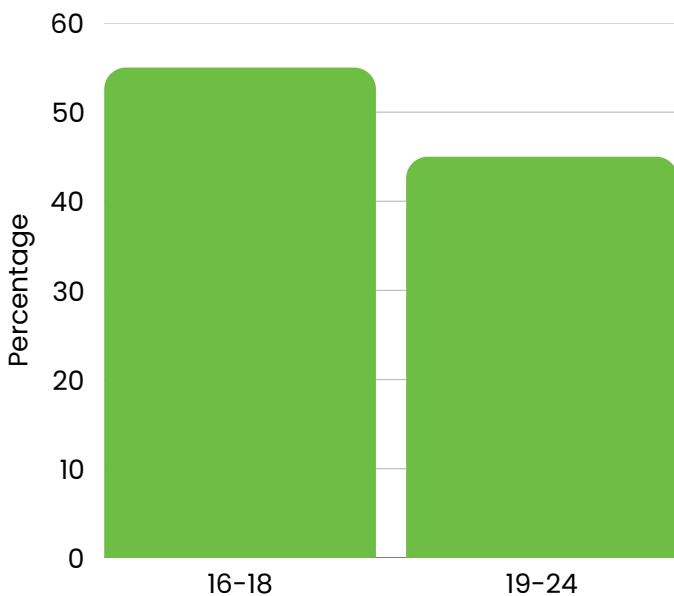
RACE



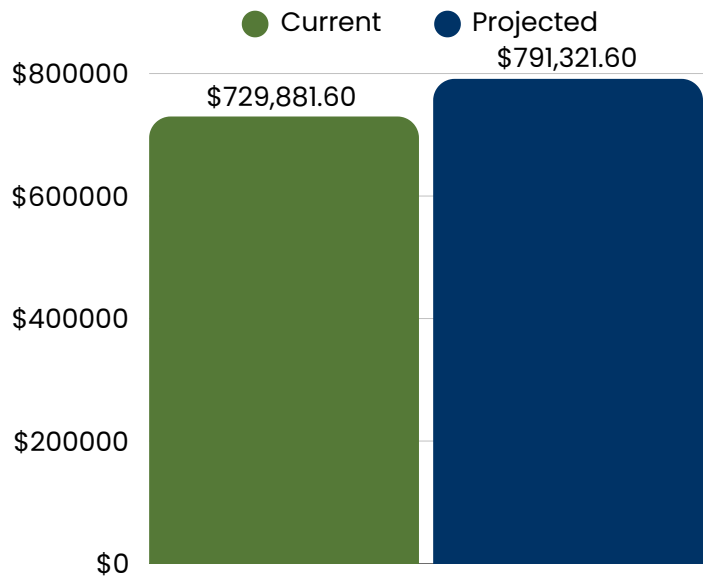
ETHNICITY



AGE



WAGES EARNED



SummerWorks

Funding, Partners & Participants



FUNDER	BUDGET (July 2024 - June 2025)
Multnomah County	\$647,000
City of Portland	\$550,000
City of Gresham	\$300,000
Tri-Met	\$73,000
Worksystems	\$650,980
TOTAL	\$2,486,922

COMMUNITY-BASED CAREER COACH PROVIDERS



SUCCESS STORIES

Eva completed 150 hours with Portland Parks & Rec Rangers, where she supported daily operations such as cleaning and maintaining ranger vehicles, notetaking during meetings, note taking, filing, and organizing. While there, she learned the value of communication, flexibility, and pushing outside her comfort zone. Inspired by her supervisor’s leadership, Eva gained confidence and stayed aligned with her goal of becoming a crime scene investigator. She plans to continue growing through classes and future work experiences.

Gabby completed 160 hours with the City of Portland Hearings Office, where she worked on legal memos, attended hearings, and helped develop a civics program for high school students. Her experience deepened her understanding of city government and confirmed her goal of attending law school in 2025. She also secured a second internship with the Hearings Office.

Raven served as a drafter for Empowered Neighborhoods, completing 193.5 hours. They contributed to residential design projects and learned to apply creative skills in real-world problem solving. Raven praised their supervisor’s guidance in helping her understand the importance of project management. Raven found the role aligned perfectly with their goal of becoming an architect, and they plan to return to PSU to complete their architecture degree.

Munira completed 130 hours with City of Portland - Vibrant Communities as a Workforce Development Research Intern. She gained hands-on experience collecting and analyzing survey data, attending events, and learning remote work practices. She was nervous to begin this work, but because her supervisor was supportive, communicative, and dependable she was set up for success. The internship boosted her confidence and research skills, and she hopes to return to SummerWorks next year while continuing her studies at Portland State University.