

PRESS RELEASE

St. Louis
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For Immediate Release



PRESS CONTACT

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STL Youth Jobs receives \$150,000 from JPMorgan Chase for the Career Accelerator Pathway (CAP) for returning youth focused on education or trade

ST. LOUIS -- [STL Youth Jobs](#), now in its ninth year of providing jobs to youth, ages 15-24, in the city and county of St. Louis, received a major commitment from JPMorgan Chase to expand summer jobs for youth on an advanced career track. STL Youth Jobs engages young adults in meaningful employment to increase youth's networks, enhance the region's workforce and economy, reduce crime, increase youth's academic success and develop the skills needed to build a lasting and successful career. Since 2013, STL Youth Jobs has provided over 4,000 youth with paid work experience, job readiness and financial literacy training, career and mentoring services.

JPMorgan Chase invested another \$150,000 for the third summer to support the Career Accelerator Pathway (CAP), totaling their commitment to STL Youth Jobs at \$1.1 million. This additional funding provides 50 high-achieving young adults with extensive pre-employment training as well as paid professional summer internships with leading corporations, businesses, and nonprofits. Youth enrolled in this program are returning participants who are on post-secondary or trade education tracks seeking to enhance their work experiences.

As part of JPMorgan Chase's over \$600 million commitment to jobs and skills training efforts, in 2017, the firm committed \$17 million to support summer youth employment. This investment has contributed to helping cities across the U.S. provide summer jobs for over 40,000 underserved youth across more than 7,000 work sites to-date.

"Between persistent racial injustice, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting economic downturn, it's been a challenging time for families across the country," said Craig Horstmann, Market Director, Commercial Banking for JPMorgan Chase. "And especially in under resourced communities, young people are being hit particularly hard. That's why JPMorgan Chase is working in St. Louis to address this problem by identifying innovative strategies for reconnecting young people to work-based learning experiences. Summer jobs provide students with a meaningful learning work-based experience, source of income, chance to build professional networks, and pride in their ability to contribute to their families and communities."

Through these professional internships, CAP participants are exposed to careers, mentorship, and professional development opportunities not typically accessible to youth in the St. Louis region. This program removes many of the barriers to entering the private sector while also providing opportunities for enriching internship experiences and an improved professional network. The St. Louis businesses community is also provided with a cost-effective way to grow and diversify their talent pipeline.

Over the past five years, with the generous support of JPMorgan Chase, STL Youth Jobs has integrated career and skills-based focus into their summer employment program through an IT training program, a healthcare track, and active connections to career pathways offered within the local school districts.

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These efforts were successful in providing exposure to high-growth industries while also building essential job skills of participants (i.e. communication, problem-solving, etc.) that their future employers demand.

“JPMorgan Chase’s investment in STL Youth Jobs has allowed our region’s young people to advance their career trajectory through new opportunities and increased professional networks,” said Hillary Frey, Executive Director of STL Youth Jobs. “So many youth would not have known about a particular company or would not have had access to these professional networks without STL Youth Jobs. Youth are able to leverage their career paths as they reach a crucial stage in deciding next steps post-graduation.”

ABOUT STL YOUTH JOBS

STL Youth Jobs envisions a city where our youth have the opportunity they need to succeed, and our businesses have the workforce they need to compete. STL Youth Jobs’ mission is to bridge the divide between our region’s youth and the growing skills gap in our workforce. This is accomplished by training St. Louis youth to be ready for the jobs of tomorrow through an individualized career assessment, financial literacy and job readiness trainings, employment experience and continuing career support and mentorship. STL Youth Jobs is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Learn more at stlyouthjobs.org or follow on social media @stlyouthjobs.

[Applications are open now for youth](#), ages 15-24, seeking a paid summer work experience. STL Youth Jobs is also seeking businesses and organizations who are interested in hiring and mentoring youth this summer. Employers can sign-up [here](#).

STL Youth Jobs is successful because of private and public funding. It costs about \$2,600 to fund one youth employee’s job. JPMorgan Chase’s generous support, coupled with public investments and other private donations, will allow around 500 teenagers and young adults from under-served communities in the region to gain employment. To help fund a youth job or to learn more about the program, visit [STL Youth Jobs](http://STLYouthJobs.org) online.

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