

## BUSINESSES AND YOUTH PROGRAMS



Employers in the Chemung County area who would like to increase their ranking will have the opportunity to participate in a special program, a program that will enable young workers to be placed with local businesses and the best part for employers is that it will cost the companies absolutely nothing. There is currently a program going on, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Summer Youth Employment Program, and they are in the search for local businesses that are willing to participate in taking on youth workers for a period of time, basically throughout the summer. The starting date would be on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, lasting for six weeks total. With this program, youth will have the opportunity to be trained and learn the skills that will come in handy in the workplace. It also keeps them off the streets and out of trouble, while helping them to earn a bit of cash. The program pays the salaries for the youth so that the companies do not have to pay out of their own pockets. The program coordinator, Tara Moran, says that all they really needed from these businesses is their support. They will not be asked to pay a single cent, as the program takes care of paying these youth workers. The program recently launched an initiative, referred to as Hire One Youth, which would help find employers that would be willing to partner with the program and hire youth workers. There are still employers that are needed for this program because the program would like to help more youth this summer than they were able to last summer. The executive for Chemung County, Tom Santulli, says that employer should be willing to partner up with the program because it is a win-win situation. The employers get an employee without having to pay the cost that they would normally pay for an employee. In the meantime, the youth gets a job, a way to earn money, and most importantly, something to do during the summer that will give them the skills and training they need to find work in the future, aside from just a summer job. Both the private sector employees and public sector employees can join the program and have youth working for them during the summer. As of right now, interviews are going on. Through this program, the youths that are eligible will be working a minimum of 20 hours but up to 30 hours each week. They will be working all different types of jobs, all of which must be allowed by the law, of course. It is obvious the youth would not be able to work as a doctor or a dentist without the credentials and degrees but they can work in grocery stores, shopping centers, and in various other settings.

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