

2026 MBSYEP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Managed by the DC Department of Employment Services, the Mayor Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP) is a locally funded initiative that provides District youth ages 14 to 24 with an enriching summer employment experience through subsidized placements in the public and private sectors.

MBSYEP provides a transformative 6-week experience for over 10,000 District youth from **June 29 to August 7, 2026**. Participants will engage in a dynamic program focused on:

- High-quality workforce and leadership development
- Impactful civic engagement opportunities
- Comprehensive career exploration activities

Through this immersive experience, District youth will gain exposure to high-growth and in-demand careers, preparing them for future success and connecting them to exciting opportunities.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Participants can expect a fun, engaging, and transformative summer while gaining valuable work experience and earning compensation for successful participation at an assigned worksite. To participate in MBSYEP, District youth must complete three essential steps:

Step 1: MBSYEP Application (January 26 – March 6, 2026)

Complete the online application, including selecting your top three career interests, the Banking Quiz and W-4 information, at summerjobs.dc.gov.

Step 2: MBSYEP Certification (January 26 – March 28, 2026)

Submit eligibility documents either virtually through the Youth Portal or in-person at an MBSYEP Certification event.

Step 3: MBSYEP Orientation (April 4 – May 22, 2026)

Attend an in-person orientation (required for 14-15- year-olds and new participants) or complete it virtually through the Youth Portal (for returning participants).

Step 4: MBSYEP Job Announcements (June 8, 2026)

Login to your Youth Portal to view your host site.

Step 5: MBSYEP - Day 1

MBSYEP participants, do not forget to report to the worksite listed in your Youth Portal on Day 1 of the program. On the first day, be sure to meet with your host site supervisor. Your supervisor will help you become familiar with the company policies and procedures which will allow you to better understand expectations and how to succeed in your role. ***Your work experience journey begins here!***

MBSYEP Career Development Roadmap: Navigating Career Exploration and Work Experience		
Age 14 - 15	Career Exploration MBSYEP participants will discover interests and strengths, explore career paths and industries, and take part in job shadowing.	
Age 16 - 17	Career Exploration MBSYEP participants will grow their careers by focusing on their interests, exploring different career paths, and making professional connections.	Work Experience At this stage, work experience should be more introductory and exploratory, providing opportunities for MBSYEP participants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MBSYEP participants will gain a general understanding of the workforce and different industries. MBSYEP participants will explore various career options and job roles. MBSYEP participants will develop basic skills such as communication, teamwork, and time management. MBSYEP participants will build confidence and self-awareness in a professional setting.
Transition Point Around ages 16-17, youth should begin shifting their focus from broad career exploration to more targeted work experiences. This milestone is significant because, by this stage, they have typically had opportunities to explore various industries, identify personal interests and strengths, and develop foundational skills that prepare them for deeper engagement in specific career pathways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MBSYEP participants will gain exposure to various careers and industries. MBSYEP participants will develop a clearer sense of strengths, interests, and values alignment. MBSYEP participants will start forming a coherent vision for future career paths. At this stage, work experience becomes essential for building practical skills, confidence, and a strong foundation for future success.		

<p>Age 18 - 21</p>	<p>Career Development</p> <p>At this age level, MBSYEP participants have begun to develop a clear sense of their strengths, interests, and values, and are likely to have some idea of their career goals. Internships and mentorships play a critical role in helping them gain practical skills, build a professional network, and deepen their understanding of their chosen field and industry.</p>	<p>Work Experience</p> <p>At this age level, MBSYEP participants will begin transitioning to targeted work experiences that focus on developing advanced skills and offer practical, hands-on exposure within a specific industry or job role.</p>
<p>Age 22 - 24</p>	<p>Work Experience</p> <p>At this phase of MBSYEP, MBSYEP participants will focus on gaining specialized skills, building a strong professional reputation, and developing leadership abilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce development activities should include advanced training or earning industry-recognized credentials and certifications. • Workforce development activities should include leadership development programs. • Workforce development activities should include attending networking events specific to their chosen field. • Workforce development activities should include taking on greater responsibilities. • Workforce development activities should include building a professional online presence. 	

For more information on 2026 MBSYEP, visit summerjobs.dc.gov.

#MBSYEP2026 on X: [@MBSYEP](https://twitter.com/MBSYEP) and MBSYEP Instagram: [@oycdc](https://www.instagram.com/oycdc)