

The Department for Children, Youth and Families

Justification for a Memorandum of Agreement between the Department for Children, Youth, and Families and the Albany County Department for Social Services and an agreement between the Department for Children, Youth, and Families and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County for the 2026 Summer Youth Employment Program

Since 2005, the Office of Temporary Disability and Assistance (OTDA) has administered the New York State Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and has allocated funds to each district to provide summer employment opportunities for youth throughout the State. The total amount allocated to Albany County for SYEP 2026 is \$792,355.

Districts may opt to retain their allocation and use district mechanisms to operate the program, or may assign the funds to their local Workforce Development Board (WDB) to operate the program. Albany County has opted to assign the SYEP allocation to the WDB. The \$737,355 that has been allocated to Albany County will be assigned to WDB. Over the years, the collaboration between the County and WDB in the facilitation of the SYEP has been a successful partnership.

The allocation for SYEP goes to the Department of Social Services (DSS). The coordination of the SYEP program is facilitated through the DCYF. The Department respectfully requests Legislative authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with DSS in the amount of \$55,000, \$30,000 of which is to cover administrative costs associated with the facilitation of SYEP (which includes coordination of the application process, providing public relations, and preparing reports and other documents). The remaining \$25,000 is to establish an Agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension to cover costs related to preparing program plans, monitoring programs and projects, preparing reports and other documents, as well as providing financial literacy workshops for youth participants.

The New York State SYEP is an important platform to introduce youth into the workforce, helping them to acquire skills that can be used to improve school performance and become responsible adults. Since many low-income youth face the prospect of a difficult transition into work or college, constructive workforce experiences can provide great benefits. In addition to the income it produces, experience in the workforce and interaction with working adults can help youth recognize the importance of educational achievement, and help expand their education and career goals.

The New York State SYEP provides youth from low income households (under the 200% of federal poverty guidelines) with employment opportunities during the summer months. To augment the work component of the SYEP, providers may include educational and/or career exploration activities which will better prepare youth as they continue their education and transition to the world of work. Allowable activities and services for the New York State SYEP include: work subsidies for youth (payment to employer or third party); education and training; and supportive services such as transportation, counseling, and incentive payments.