



The Children's  
Partnership

### **Youth Struggle to Find Summer Jobs in New York City, Nationwide**

New York City's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), an initiative which subsidizes entry-level summer jobs for youth ages 14-21, expects greater demand for even fewer openings this year. Program officials claim that one of the main reasons they expect demand to be so high this summer is that now applicants can apply online. The teen unemployment rate in New York City is currently 28 percent, one of the highest in the country and part of a nationwide trend of decline in employment among young people. Evelyn Fernandez-Ketcham, executive director of New Heights Neighborhood Center in Washington Heights, a youth workforce development organization, said, "Work-based experience helps build real skills development that the youth can apply to life...young people work – and they do want to work – it builds their self-esteem."