

April 25, 2011 - Mayor Announces 2011 Summer Job Program

Hundreds of youths and young adults will work this summer thanks to Mayor Cedric Glover's job program designed to offer meaningful employment opportunities and constructive, positive outlets for those seeking to improve their lives.

A press conference to announce details about the program will be held Tuesday, April 26, at 11 a.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room at Government Plaza, 505 Travis St., Suite 200.

Participants will be employed this summer at public and private organizations. Traditionally, the jobs offered have included: clerical aides; recreation aides; day-care center attendants; accounting clerks; receptionists; library aides; teachers aides; tutors; maintenance assistants; landscaping and construction assistants, among others.

Sixty percent of the program participants must meet low-income criteria or be considered at-risk youth or young adults. The remaining 40 percent can be from any income level as long as the participant is between the ages of 16 and 21.

The program peaked in 2009 when federal funds helped raise the number of participants to more than 800. Since then, Mayor Glover has continued to advocate for funding, recognizing the positive impact that the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act had on him as a youth.

“I know from experience how valuable it is to one's self-esteem to cash that first paycheck and be able to talk about your job with pride and dignity,” Mayor Glover said. “And employers who have participated in the summer job program have found a critical pipeline for loyal employees, hiring many of the participants after the program ends.”

In lieu of federally-funded programs, Mayor Glover and the City Council budgeted \$300,000 of general fund money for this summer while still seeking ways to partner with business leaders, elected officials and non-profit groups to create even more job opportunities. The Mayor has directed the City of Shreveport Career Solution Center to work with area businesses to assist in this special effort.

Over 250 participants will benefit from this program. Another 300 are projected to gain summer employment from other public and private sources.

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