



Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board, Inc.
the Local Workforce Investment Board

One Arch Place
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301
voice: 413-773-1835
fax: 413-784-1765
www.franklinhampshirereb.org

NEWS RELEASE:

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CONTACT:

**Franklin Hampshire Career Center
Jim Parcels, Dir. of Youth Programs
Franklin Hampshire Career Center
413-774-4361 Ext. 306**

YEAR ROUND JOBS FOR NORTHAMPTON YOUTH!

With the help of the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Career Centers, the Mayor of Northampton, on the heels of a successful summer jobs program for youth, will once again host Northampton YouthWorks, a year round jobs program, for eligible Northampton young people, age 17-21.

Governor Deval Patrick dedicated 11 million this year in this year's budget to support such summer and year round city-sponsored programs across the Commonwealth, which must be matched 20% by contributions from the private sector to support youth employment. At the state level the Commonwealth Corporation will be providing funding to the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board to oversee the Northampton program.

The Northampton YouthWorks program will put approximately 20 Northampton youth, age 17-21, to work in private or public sector employment over the next four months, in jobs 6 to 8 weeks in length. The grant will pay for youth wages and for staff time to develop placements and counsel youth, including provision of twenty hours of Work Readiness, Safety, and Career Exploration training.

Eligible youth must be Northampton residents and low-income. They will earn \$8 an hour.

“We are very excited about this opportunity to put Northampton youth to work in the community on a year round basis,” says Mayor David Narkewicz. “This past summer youth worked at such places as Northampton schools, Habitat for

Humanity, Northampton Community Music Center, the Northampton Council on Aging, Country Nissan, Fitzgerald Fences, the Veterans' Administration, Highland Valley Elder Services, Serio's and the Three County Fair Grounds. I heard that employers and youth were really happy with the program. But we do need participating businesses, especially private sector, to donate the equivalent of a youth's first two week's wages as 'match' to the project, so we can continue to qualify for this program every year."

"Teen employment has been at its lowest levels since the Depression," notes Jim Parcels, Director of Franklin Hampshire Career Center Youth Programs. "Young people really need help getting a foothold in this tough economy, we usually have funds to put a few dozen youth to work over the summer, but this project allows us to help youth secure jobs during the non-summer months in greater Northampton, and has been a great addition to our services."

The project will issue applications soon to businesses and organizations who are interested in being a youth worksite. Applications for Northampton youth have been distributed through the schools, community and town partners.

Interested parties may also call the Franklin Hampshire Career Center at 413-774-4361 Ext.306.

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