

Summer Youth Application 2017- Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get an application?

Starting Tuesday, February 21st, applications will be available to New Bedford youth age 14-21 from 2:00PM-4:00PM at the New Directions Youth Annex, 5 Dover St. 2nd floor, downtown New Bedford. Applications will be available in hard copy only at the Youth Annex, Monday-Friday from 2:00PM-4:00PM from February 21 – March 10. Youth must be present and at least age 14 to receive an application. Applications will not be distributed after March 10.

Why do I have to provide all of this documentation?

New Directions programs are funded by the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board via State and Federal funds. The state and federal government have attached strict eligibility guidelines to this funding and we need to show that the youth who work and receive wages with these funds are in fact eligible. New Directions staff will guide you through the eligibility process however it is important that you respond to our attempts to contact you, attend all appointments and return documentation on time.

Who is eligible?

The state and federal government have decided on criteria for youth eligibility. Youth must be age 14-21 and New Bedford residents to apply. All youth must meet income eligibility to be considered for summer jobs program. In addition to income eligibility, the state recommends that opportunities for summer employment go to youth who are in state custody or court involved and/or youth experiencing academic difficulties, are of single parent households, are English language learners, and teen parents.

I worked for New Directions last year; do I need to apply this year?

Yes. All youth who worked last year need to re-apply.

Why do I need e-mail?

New Directions has found that e-mail is the fastest most efficient way to contact youth. The faster we can contact you, the faster we can complete your application. We find that often youth do not get phone messages and phones also become disconnected throughout the application process. Also, mailing letters takes several days and too many letters are returned to us undelivered. If you for any reason cannot communicate via e-mail, please contact us and we will make other accommodations. If you do not have an e-mail account, we can assist you in creating one.

How will youth be selected to work?

The goal of New Directions youth services is to help young people build the skills necessary to be successful in the workforce. Whenever possible, we model program activities to represent “real life” work experiences. In keeping with this practice, all eligible youth will be scheduled to interview with potential employers during April school vacation (April 18 -21). Employers will then select youth to be placed at their worksite.

New Directions cannot and will not guarantee placement for anyone. If you are not eligible for the program, we will notify you and keep your application on file in case we have other opportunities outside of the state and federal programs. Youth who are eligible but are not placed will be put on a waiting list.

What does the number on my application mean?

All New Directions youth applications are numbered on the right hand corner of the application. This is so we can track your application throughout the eligibility process. When you received your application, your name was written next to the application number, this is so we can verify that you did receive a valid application and that New Directions has you on file as having started the application process. Applications that have been photocopied are not valid applications and will not be accepted.

When will I be notified that I have been selected?

Timeline for notification may depend on notification of funding. We hope to start this process by late May. If you completed the eligibility process, attend interview, and are selected to participate in the program; we will send you an e-mail to invite you to attend orientation with New Directions. You must attend orientation in order to participate in the program. If you cannot attend orientation due to a schedule conflict, it is your responsibility to contact New Directions to reschedule. Open slots due to missed orientations will be filled with youth from the waiting list.

Where will I work?

Eligible youth will have the opportunity to select employers with whom they wish to interview. Employers will then select youth to be placed at their worksites. Youth may choose to interview with more than one employer in order to increase their chances of being selected; however we strongly encourage youth to only interview for jobs that they find interesting. Worksite placements cannot be changed once a youth is assigned. If you are selected to work, you will be invited to attend orientation with New Directions and you will receive your placement letter and work permit information at that time.

When will work start?

We anticipate that most work sites will start on July 11 and end on August 19. These dates are subject to change due to funding and employer schedules. In the past we have had additional opportunities that may begin earlier or later. If you are selected, you will receive specific information regarding your start and end date.

What if I have to go to summer school?

Historically, most summer job schedules include daytime hours and it is not possible for employers to accommodate summer school schedules. If you are selected for the program and you learn that you must attend summer school please contact New Directions (508) 979-1700 as soon as possible.

When will I need to get a work permit?

If you are under age 18 and you are selected to work, you will need to get a work permit. We will provide you with the information and necessary documentation at orientation.