

Summer of Opportunity Program (SOOP) Frequently Asked Questions

Make a difference in a young person's life!

What is the Summer of Opportunity Program?

Youth Employment Services offers the Summer of Opportunity Program (SOOP) to City residents ages 14-20. SOOP operates in collaboration with the RochesterWorks Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) through marketing and a joint youth application. The primary difference between the two programs is eligibility. SYEP requires applicants to meet residency and income guidelines. SOOP only requires residency within the City, no matter which school applicants attend or the family income. All applicants must be enrolled in middle school, high school, or a high school equivalency program (TASC).

What is the Summer Internship?

SOOP operates every July and August providing work readiness training and employment opportunities to youth. Students must complete the application process, including the submission of required documents, and determination of eligibility. After completing all steps, applicants are assigned to either SOOP or SYEP to continue the process. We refer successful applicants to organizations in the public, not-for-profit, faithbased, and private sectors. For many youth, this is their first opportunity to gain real-world work experience.

When does the program take place?

The application opens yearly on February 1st. We will refer youth to you for interviews and continue their onboarding after you have made your selections. Selected youth will begin their internships the week of **July 7, 2025**. Interns are required to complete the full six weeks of participation with a maximum of 20 hours per week.

Do I have to pay my intern(s)?

NO! Interns receive a weekly stipend from the City of Rochester. Host sites are responsible for providing their interns with 20 hours of meaningful work experience through coaching and mentoring for the full six weeks. Hosts also track intern hours. Youth Employment Services will provide follow-up job coaching to ensure that both program participants and SOOP partners have a beneficial and enjoyable experience.

How do I participate?

We actively recruit host sites throughout the community that can provide real-world work experiences to SOOP interns. Interested organizations must complete an Intern Request Form for consideration. For more information, contact Youth Employment Services (YES) at (585) 428-6366 or soop@cityofrochester.gov