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Connect Detroit



Wayne Metropolitan
Community Action Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONNECT DETROIT AWARDED \$50,000 GRANT TO HELP BRING GROW DETROIT'S YOUNG TALENT WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM ONLINE FOR SUMMER 2020

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency's CARES Relief & Recovery Services funds online platform and technology to keep youth safe and employed during COVID-19

DETROIT – Connect Detroit, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that strives to address community problems by facilitating, and mobilizing funding in support of collaborative community solutions, today announced that it was awarded a \$50,000 CARES Relief & Recovery Services grant implemented by Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency.

The funds will be used to bring Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT) work-readiness and paid training opportunities online and will fund the opportunity for nearly 34 students to participate this summer.

Online experiences will be available via computer, tablet or smartphone. Connect Detroit is working with stakeholders across the city of Detroit to ensure that every GDYT youth has access to a suitable device and connectivity. Work and learning experiences commence at the beginning of July.

"In light of COVID-19 pandemic, we need to ensure our young people have productive work opportunities and the means to support themselves and their families in this tough economy, but we realize the need to do so in a responsible manner that protects the health of youth and employers," said Dierk L. Hall, Connect Detroit president and CEO. "We are grateful that partners who have already signed up to provide jobs and/or funding have reconfirmed their commitment to Detroit youth and paid online learning experiences. With every grant we secure and dollar donated we can serve that many more youth."

Every summer, more than 8,000 Detroit youth age 14-24 find jobs, training and a paycheck through GDYT. In doing so, they not only participate in meaningful work experiences and training that helps them gain the confidence and skills they need to build a career, but they also are able to contribute to the financial well-being of their family. Connect Detroit administers GDYT on behalf of the City of Detroit and various public, private and community stakeholders in Detroit.

“This unprecedented time has put a strain on so many families and individuals,” said Louis D. Piszker, CEO of Wayne Metro. “Wayne Metro is committed to helping Connect Detroit continue to provide young people the opportunity to obtain skills they need to succeed in the workplace and also earn a paycheck in this challenging economy.”

For more information on GDYT, visit www.gdyt.org.

About Connect Detroit

Connect Detroit is a Detroit, Mich.-based, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that strives to address community problems by facilitating and mobilizing funding in support of collaborative community solutions. Since its founding in 2001, it has organized, managed, and led four dozen community change initiatives and mobilized more than \$140 million in support of their good work. These resulting collaboratives have addressed a range of community problems, including the need for better data for decision-making, a lack of after school programming, the threat of home-based lead hazards, and limited access to healthy foods and safe recreational opportunities. Connect Detroit is also behind Detroit’s well-known youth employment program, Grow Detroit’s Young Talent. The organization is located at 613 Abbott St. in Detroit. For further information, call 313- 967-5898 or visit www.ConnectDetroit.org.

About Wayne Metro Community Action Agency

For nearly 50 years, Wayne Metro has provided economic independence programs that nurture families and build communities. That includes Head Start and area school programs, housing and utility assistance and community development projects. For more information visit: www.waynemetro.org or follow Wayne Metro on Facebook (@waynemetro), Twitter (@WayneMetroCAA) or Instagram (@waynemetro).

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