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Program creates summer jobs for youth

The Athens County Subsidized Summer Youth Employment Program is providing jobs and valuable learning opportunities for 138 Athens County residents between the ages of 14 and 24. The program's 40 work sites provide summer jobs in fields such as the arts, animal care, building and grounds maintenance, community and social services, education, library science, and office and administration support. All positions are currently full and there is a waiting list for any positions that open up. No further applications are being accepted.

All participants receive program t-shirts, weekly gas cards and daily lunches. In addition, job coaches work with the youth and on-site supervisors to create positive work experiences and develop valuable learning experiences and seminars covering topics such as financial responsibility, nutrition, physical fitness and safety. All participants will also attend training for CPR and basic first aid. The program is being run by the Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Program (HAPCAP) and Athens County Job and Family Services.

"HAPCAP is very excited to be a partner in this program," said Jessica Stroh, employment and economic development director for HAPCAP. "Many participants in the program have demonstrated initiative, motivation and pride to be working in the communities in which they live. For some, this is their first job and it is rewarding to see how they are developing work and life skills that they can take with them for their rest of their lives. Others are building on previous work experiences while helping to support their families."

Nickie Bailes, who is serving as job coach in the program, said the participants are working very hard and are leaning a great deal.

"Having a job and having this responsibility is really helpful for them," Bailes said.

"I love it," said Katlyn Jenkins, 14, of Glouster. "I've learned a lot from it."

Amanda Pickering, 24, of Glouster, has worked since she was 15 and is thankful for this job and the opportunities it provides.

"I'm always doing something. I'm never just sitting around. My days go by very quickly," Pickering said.