

Healthy Solano Mini-Grants to Promote Youth Workforce Development	
Why	<p>Economic stability is one of the most crucial social determinants impacting health, and unemployment is a key issue that has been highlighted locally in connection to public health. The Healthy Solano Collaborative – a diverse group of community-based organizations and Health & Social Services staff representing the local public health system –identified unemployment as a priority issue and developed proactive strategies centered around workforce development among youth in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). These mini-grants support the implementation of CHIP strategies:</p> <p>Goal 1: Provide communities with resources and guidance that support the cultivation of interests and skills in youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy #1: Engage agencies that work with youth in activities to identify and distribute resources • Strategy #2: Create a marketing and distribution plan for distributing the information and guidance to families <p>Goal 2: Expose people of all ages to opportunities for assessment/education/experience/skill building for job readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy #1: Engage local employers in building a mentoring program • Strategy #2: Identify all the resources currently available • Strategy #3: Explore opportunities to use technology to improve job readiness.
Who	The Healthy Solano Team (within Solano Public Health)
What	Sustain successful Healthy Solano mini-grant program for community-based youth workforce development. In 2019, the Healthy Solano Team received over 20 robust applications in response to a Request for Applications. These-grants (of up to \$7,500) were available to community members, leaders, groups, businesses, and organizations to support the cultivation of career interests and job skills in youth. With current funding Solano Public Health could only award three (3) of the 21 applicants.
Where	<p>Throughout Solano County. Examples of 2019 applicants include: Youth Development Organizations, School Districts, Police Departments, Faith-Based Organizations, Recreation Departments, and many other community-based organizations. New ideas and creativity were encouraged, example activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentorship programs—Job shadowing, Career counseling, Internship programs • Events --Career resource fairs, Networking events • Skill-building—Job-skills trainings, Soft-skills trainings, Apprenticeship programs) • Pathways to success—Scholarships/stipends for professional development & education, Provision of tools, resources, items for job preparedness including business attire, professional resumes, job-search resources, etc., Connecting marginalized populations to career opportunities (e.g.: justice-involved youth, integration with low-resourced schools, foster care, etc.)

**Three awardees currently being funded by Solano Public Health
(from the September 2019 RFA):**

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Applicant	Description	# Youth	Funding
1) Immersive Learning Center	Gig It! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immersive Learning Center is STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & math) focused organization established in 2016 to help address the gap in the Vallejo Unified School District STEAM education. Gig It! is a hands-on project made up of a series of 10 weekly workshops aimed at empowering and motivating socio-economically disadvantaged youth age 16-24 to develop and utilize skills that they currently possess or those that are easily attained to find opportunities in the Gig Economy, Cottage Industry or other small business. 	24	\$7,450
2) Touro University-Public Health Program	Youth in Action for Healthy Equity, Phase 2: Increasing Public Health, Physician Assistant and Public Health Nursing Career Readiness with Low-Income Ethnically Diverse High School Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The curriculum will utilize inquiry-based learning techniques and Youth-led Participatory Action Research (YPAR) principles and include career readiness skill-building sessions presented in the 11th grade BioMed classrooms at Jesse Bethel with approximately 100 students. Peer Health Promoters (n=10) will participate in weekly afterschool YPAR sessions and will assist with the implementation of classroom presentations and assessments. Class sessions will focus on a Public Health Equity approach including Health Education/Promotion and Advocacy. A culminating Youth in Action for Health Equity Symposium will highlight student group health promotion and advocacy projects. The aim is to inspire interest in public health and related health careers and provide career readiness tools, resources, and practice. 	100	\$7,450
3) Vacaville Police Dept- Youth Services (YSS)	Vacaville Summer at City Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer at City Hall (SACH) will expose 20 underserved high school youth entering their junior and senior years to an educational, 4-week job skill building internship experience 	20	\$6,650

3) Vacaville PD (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SACH will engage local employers, City of Vacaville Departments, to provide youth mentoring opportunities with job shadowing, soft skills development, networking, skill building. • Additionally, youth will participate in an educational enrichment program coordinated through the Vacaville Unified School District (VUSD), a committed partner in this project. A VUSD teacher will provide class room instruction on 21st Century workforce skill development, civic engagement, local government, resource identification, financial literacy and career interests through lecture, presentations, field trips, and technology. • Youth that complete the program will receive a \$300 stipend, as an acknowledgment of the work product they provided the City of Vacaville. They will also receive five credits which supports youth who are struggling academically. With successful completion of a YSS program, youth can also request their arrest record be expunged; thus increasing their opportunities for future employment and fair inclusion into society so they can reach their full potential. 		
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With additional funding, these top-ranking awardees could also be funded:

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Applicant	Description	# Youth	Funding
1) Sustainable Solano	Land and Water Caretakers Training and Certificate Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This training program would pair Vallejo youth (focusing on ages 14-20) with sustainable landscape design professionals to learn various aspects of the business — from the knowledge learned from hands-on work on design and installation to the softer skills of working with clients and building a business. These professionals would provide both practical instruction as well as mentoring as part of our Land and Water Caretakers program. Youth participants will have the chance to participate in hands-on workshops in sustainable landscaping and gardening, giving them exposure to the importance of healthy soil, healthy food and healthy communities. Students who complete the Land and Water Caretakers program and pass the practical exam would be able to serve as assistants in the summer Permaculture Design Course (PDC), earning a stipend for their work. Those who finish the PDC program will have an internationally recognized certificate and better understanding of how systems work within the environment and society. Student assistants in the PDC program also would meet with a financial institution representative to learn about financial literacy and the opportunity to establish a savings account where their stipends can be paid through direct deposit, giving them experience with building savings for the future as they build skills for a career. 	8	\$7,450
2) Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD)	Aquatic Skills Workforce Development Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to note that Vallejoans from all cultural backgrounds learn how to swim since Vallejo is surrounded by a large body of waterways including the San Pablo Bay, Napa River, Mare Island strait, and the Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline. Learning how to swim can be 	40	\$7,450

2) GVRD (cont.)	<p>a very enjoyable experience and an important potentially life-saving skill to acquire and master. However, the necessary skills are disproportionately lower in low-income/ethnically diverse families. On average, GVRD employs 70 to 80 Lifeguards annually that teach approximately 1,200 aquatic classes in Vallejo.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scope of the Aquatic Skills Workforce Development Program (ASWD) is twofold: A) to introduce and teach more high school students the multi-faceted benefits of learning and becoming a paid certified lifeguard, and B) that greater numbers of ethnically diverse student populations are reached through this training experience, and become lifeguards to serve and potentially attract and encourage larger numbers of diverse populations to take advantage of aquatic programs. 		
3) Fairfield Police Activities League (PAL)	<p>PAL Works!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAL WORKS! will provide 6 local low-income, underserved teens a chance to create a job readiness portfolio that will include 60 hours of paid internship. Each intern will participate in 20 hours of job readiness training to cover communication, time management, problem solving, public speaking, teamwork, conflict resolution, customer service, and stress management, and then complete a 60-hour internship in a field of their choice. Their internship will include job coaching, self-assessments and feedback from local professionals. Students who successfully complete all 80 hours will earn a stipend and create a career ladder / resume portfolio to track their accomplishments. 	6	\$7,450

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4) Solano County Computer Digital Skills Center	<p>Read and REAP the Rewards! (Reading and Leadership Development Program)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading and Leadership Development program for males of color will engage up to 24 school-age youth in activities to address computer & digital literacy, reading and financial literacy and workforce competency. Participants will be introduced to numerous careers and/or business industries of potential interest. They will receive coaching and guidance in the process of self-assessment, skills-building and readiness to qualify for internships and entry level employment should an opportunity arise. <p>Program will run through April 2020 and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job Shadows as a part of career exploration Job Skills training to include Computer Basics, Introduction to Microsoft Word and Power Point Soft Skills training to learn the importance of social and interpersonal skills in the workplace and in life overall. The population to be served is middle and high school males of color reading below grade level, to include youth who are academically and/or economically challenged and underserved. 	24	\$7,450
5) Club Stride	<p>Power Building, Civic Engagement and Career Development for youth with Vallejo expertise [Rooted in a community-based participatory approach to advance equity, influence social policy and/or resources at a systemic level through youth advocacy]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid internships and a chance for 18 Vallejo students to build skills and expand their networks to promote youth development competencies for commitment to community engagement, volunteering, knowledge of how to interface with government systems, and knowledge of essential vocational skills, and perception of future in terms of jobs or careers. Club Stride will train 3 paid interns at each high school site (18 interns divided among three (3) high school campuses). 	18	\$5,400

5) Club Stride (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interns will work alongside industry professionals to assist with all aspects of facilitation of the initiative including outreach, website and social media development, marketing, project design and implementation, and operate as an advisory component for campus activities. • This initiative will empower youth to exercise civic power in meaningful ways through multimedia and technology-based systems and skills development campaigns using civic media • This project will harness this power by engaging youth in strong digital marketing campaign strategies to support and drive youth advocacy connected to issues related to social determinants of health and through these campaigns create power to advance equity. 		
6) Greater Purpose Church	<p>Youth in the Booth (YITB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population will be young adult males and females ages 13-18 residing in Solano County with a career-interest in the Audio Visual and Sound Engineering field • To introduce youth to the A/V profession and the many career pathways available within the field. We are focused on Black / African-American children specifically, although all persons are welcome to apply. In addition, we know from experience the benefit of having youth work in the A/V ministry within churches and the insight, relevance and value they add to the ministry • This project will be a pilot and model to local churches seeking to create or expand their audio-visual ministry and advance the gospel employing professionally trained volunteer staff. This will happen at no cost to the participating churches; and may inspire them to continue or seek other sources of vocational training within their ministry. • Partners on this project will be: audio-visual staff at local churches including the Pastors; Industry professionals whom we have working relationships with, including local educational institutions with A/V or sound recording programs. We will also use human resources and, career education professionals to develop the interns' soft skills. 	4	\$7,400

Total Additional Funding Requested: \$42,600