



# YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (YWD) PROGRAM NPO FAQs

## What is YWD?

The YWD program connects youth to positive professional relationships, building critical 21st century job and life skills, and providing direct experience in a work environment, that research suggests is the most important way to prepare young people for the realities of college and the workforce. VCSJ leverages our expertise and brings a bevy of partners together, so that program participants have access to leadership level employees at local businesses, nonprofits, and governmental agencies.

## What is the age of a YWD Intern?

The program targets youth between the ages of 16-24.

## How are YWD interns recruited?

VCSJ has established partnerships with local high schools, colleges and universities, where we find next generation motivated and engaged individuals who are ready to bring change into their communities.

## What are the components of YWD?

The program cycle is about 10-12 weeks or 120 hours, whichever comes first. Interns attend two workforce development trainings, provided by experts in the local business community.

Interns participate in nonprofit work, as a strategy to build their workforce skills. The program ends with a culminating event called Demonstration Day.

## What is Demonstration Day?

Demonstration day is where interns deliver presentations about their assigned nonprofit work experience and what they've learned. Presentation components include: agency mission, communities served, personal accomplishments and challenges during the internship assignment.



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## What trainings are provided to the YWD interns?

Our pathway to change focuses on developing the skills employers know successful workers need: time management, project management, oral and written communications, financial literacy and professional and community leadership. The YWD Program is “made real” by providing participants with internship opportunities that make relevant connections between academic accomplishments and career options.

## How does a nonprofit organization benefit as a YWD partner?

Interns will work with nonprofit agencies to gain insight into organizational and operational effectiveness and manage specific nonprofit agency service projects that will help the agency build capacity and strengthen ties to the community both for the agency and the individual.

The program aims to engage youth and young adults between the ages of 16-24 who will drive social change by leading well-managed, sustainable projects and programs that strengthen and leverage community assets, while meeting community-identified needs.

Finally, nonprofits are given an organizational capacity building opportunity to get projects done that may not otherwise be addressed. YWD interns can provide support in areas such as marketing, communications, data analytics and reporting, program development and coordination, just to name a few.

## Is the YWD Program a VCSJ program?

The Volunteer Center of South Jersey began overseeing the Jersey Cares program in 2021. VCSJ officially merged with, and became a program of Jersey Cares in 2023.

**DO YOU THINK YOUR ORGANIZATION WOULD BE A GOOD FIT  
FOR THE YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM?**

[Click Here](#) to fill out our YWD Participation Interest form!