

# THE CAMPAIGN FOR SUMMER JOBS

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## *Campaign for Summer Jobs Applauds State Summer Youth Employment Investment; Calls for Minimum Wage Match*

For Immediate Release

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The Campaign for Summer Jobs is pleased that the Governor has included level funding of \$25 million for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) in the State FY 2013- 2014 budget. SYEP is often the first employment experience for youth in New York City, with many positive benefits including the development of soft skills, exposure to educational and career options, positive academic and school attendance correlations and an increased sense of independence and accomplishment. In addition, SYEP is a key source of financial support for disadvantaged youth and their families, with most youth spending their earnings on clothing, food, savings and household expenses.

However, while participants in SYEP will undoubtedly greet the news of the Governor's plan to increase the State minimum wage to \$8.75/hour with great excitement, without an increase in State funding for SYEP the number of youth able to participate in the program will necessarily shrink. Given that the overwhelming expenditure in the SYEP program is participants' wages, absent an increase in the State budget, a minimum wage increase to \$8.75 will result in the loss of roughly 4,300 jobs for youth in New York City this summer alone.

The Campaign for Summer Jobs supports the Governor's plan to increase the minimum wage, but urges the inclusion of an additional \$6 million for the Summer Youth Employment Program to ensure that at least the same number of youth in New York City served last year - approximately 29,000- are able to participate in the summer of 2013. As it stands now, over 100,000 youth in New York City are already turned away from the program each summer for lack of funding, so it is critical that the Governor's plans for a minimum wage increase also include a commensurate increase in SYEP.

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*Since 1999, the Campaign for Summer Jobs has advocated for adequate funding to support summer jobs for tens of thousands of New York teens. The Campaign is a coalition of nearly 100 citywide and community based organizations working to permanently fund the summer youth employment program in New York State. United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) and the Neighborhood Family Services Coalition (NFSC) co-chair the Campaign for Summer Jobs.*