



## Worcester Youth Opportunities Office Holds Youth Worker Symposium

The 1st Annual Worcester Youth Worker Summer Symposium took place between June 26th and June 30th, offering critical professional development training to Recreation Worcester Summer staff members and other youth workers from across the city. The symposium was led by the City of Worcester's Division of Youth Opportunities, and coordinated with community partners such as the Greater Worcester Foundation, UMass Medical, the Worcester Education Collaborative, Worcester Public Schools, Worcester Community Action Council, the Boys and Girls Club, GE Martial Arts, and the WRTA to provide workshops on topics such as youth development, trauma informed practices, working with youth with disabilities, conflict resolution, emotional safety, mental health, and role modeling. In addition to the 20+ hours of professional development, the symposium offered financial literacy workshops with local financial institutions so that the youth workers can open their own accounts and learn about the importance of saving money for the future. More than 80 youth workers attended this first symposium and were able to select the workshops they attended based upon their roles as youth staff and their individual interests.

The Division of Youth Opportunities hopes to continue this initiative in the future in order to best equip the front line staff who are making a direct change in the lives of Worcester's youth.