**PHONE ADVOCACY**

**SYEP**

**June 2020**

My name is *[[your name]]* from *[[your town]]*, I represent *[[your business/organization]]*, and I care about youth employment issues in New York State so I'm calling on you to support the release of funding of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families set aside for Summer Youth Employment Program presently held for review by the NYS Dept. of Budget. This program introduces youth into the workforce, helping them acquire skills that improve school performance so they can become responsible adults.

In February, Governor Cuomo said young people have the chance to earn a paycheck while building valuable skills that will have a positive impact well into adulthood. He supports the program because it's a smart investment in the next generation of our workforce that will pay dividends for all New Yorkers.

The program is slated to start in early July so I urge you to have the Dept. of Budget release the $44 million in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families set aside funding to create summer jobs for nearly 19,000 low income young adults, at a time of record unemployment. The North Country’s programs are ready to engage young adults in real work experience, right now! This program has operated for decades, and if it doesn't run this summer New York is making the choice to leave young adults behind as part of the recovery.

Simply put, work works, when it comes to better outcomes for our youth.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate your support of this very important program.

Name, Title