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## **Report Recommends Stronger Private Sector Role for Summer Youth Employment Program**

**Washington D.C.** – The District’s summer jobs program serves more young people per capita than similar programs in eight major cities, but other programs have greater levels of private and federal support, according to a [report](#) released today by the D.C. Auditor.

“We hope this comparison with summer jobs programs in other cities will be useful to the D.C. Council and the Bowser administration as they continue efforts to connect D.C. youth with meaningful summer work experiences that help them start on their career paths,” said D.C. Auditor, Kathy Patterson.

In comments on the draft report, Department of Employment Services Director Deborah Carroll said her team is already working on many of the report’s recommendations, including steps to expand private-sector involvement in placing youth in summer jobs and introducing unsubsidized job placements into the program. Last year, the program was renamed the Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP) to honor Mayor Marion Barry for establishing and championing the program.

The Auditor’s report reviewed summer youth employment in eight other large cities: Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle.

The report’s ten recommendations include diversifying the program’s funding base by expanding private fundraising and considering use of federal grant funds; expanding the role of the private sector in program development, and greater tailoring of program activities to meet diverse needs of D.C. youth. In Baltimore, Boston and Los Angeles, for example, business groups helped place youth in unsubsidized private-sector positions that could lead to full-time employment. Business and non-profit organizations also assisted with private fundraising.

A component of Chicago’s summer youth employment program, which led to sharp reductions in violent crime arrests by providing youth from high-crime neighborhoods with intensive mentoring and other supports, suggests the potential of services designed explicitly for high-risk youth.

The District’s program served more than 13,000 youth between the ages of 14 and 24 last summer, and the Council recently extended eligibility for 22-24 year olds for two additional years. Six of the eight cities studied included young people up to 24. Four of eight cities limited participation to low-income or otherwise disadvantaged youth.

The report also found that the executive branch has not complied with statutory requirements, enacted in 2010, to commission an annual, independent evaluation of MBSYEP. The DOES response indicated the

administration is working with the city administrator on contracting with a research institution for the required independent evaluation.

Read the complete report [here](#). For more information on the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, visit [dcauditor.org](http://dcauditor.org) or call 202- 727-3600.