

Project C.O.O.L.

Employing Grand Rapids Youth



Project C.O.O.L.'s summer internship program provides valuable work experience, interview skills, job etiquette and college prep to local teens.

In recent years, high unemployment rates have affected individuals in our community both young and old. While it may not seem like a concern for high school students, it has become more common that out-of-work adults are filling positions that traditionally served as a teen's summer or after-school job. Recognizing the value of youth employment, Project C.O.O.L. lends these teens a hand through its summer internship program.

Project C.O.O.L.'s eight-week summer employment program matches youth ages 14-18 with a local employer in a field they are interested in. The program provides placement, training and payment to the teens at their new summer job, as well as mentoring throughout the process.

In addition to the extra cash and work experience, teens gain interview and job etiquette skills, attend workshops to reinforce those skills and build self-esteem, and visit a local college to learn more about higher education. Through the program, the young people not only get a glimpse of a potential career, but learn and put into practice the steps they will need to get there.

Grant Facts

Organization: Project C.O.O.L.

Grant amount: \$75,000

Grant purpose: To help fund a summer internship program for Grand Rapids youth

Website: www.projectcool.org

Impact: Employed 130 youth ages 14-18 in 2010

Areas served: Kent County

This is Community Leadership

Providing our youth with summer work, job training and opportunities to learn more about college helps ensure a talented and educated workforce for the future.

Project C.O.O.L. helps our future leaders achieve long-term success, both academically and professionally, and promotes the economic prosperity of our community.

Ways You Can Help

To help ensure the success of this grant you may give to address any of the needs listed below. Contact Project C.O.O.L. at 616.233.4777 to learn more.

- Volunteer to become a mentor
- Donate updated office equipment or accounting software
- Provide year round employment-\$100,000

To ensure the Community Foundation can make grants like this one in the future, please consider a gift to the [Fund for Academic Achievement](#).

Please call 616.454.1751 to learn the benefits of Community Foundation giving and how gifts can be made.