

Summer Primetime programs upcoming for DSS Youth Bureau

Several programs begin in June as part of the Erie County Department of Social Services Youth Bureau's "Summer Primetime," after the announcement is made for the allocation of grant money for such programs. The application process took place in Spring 2014 and involved the utilization of a Request For Proposal (RFP) by youth serving, not-for-profit agencies and Local Youth Bureaus in Erie County.

Prioritized program areas include, but are not limited to, Academic Enrichment; Cultural Enrichment, including arts, music and science; Career Enrichment; Youth Leadership; Community Service; and Civic Engagement. Supervised recreation may serve as a component of a program, but cannot run as a program by itself.

As part of the Summer Primetime model, agencies are encouraged to provide services for a period of six to ten weeks to at-risk youth. Program start times and dates vary per area. "At-Risk Youth" are stated as being any Erie County youth between the ages of 6 and 20 and fall under one or more of the following categories:

- Living within a family below 200% or more of federal poverty guidelines
- At risk of becoming a Person In Need of Supervision (PINS)
- Juvenile delinquent or youth charged with committing a crime
- Victim of child abuse, domestic violence, maltreatment and/or neglect
- Exhibiting self-destructive behavior
- School dropout
- Youth in need of safe places, caring adults, and structured activities
- Youth with 3 or more hours of idle time per day
- Lack of parental support or positive role model
- Homeless youth or youth who has run away from home
- Considered for placement outside the home

For additional information on Summer Primetime programs, please contact the Youth Bureau at 716-923-4000.