

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 May and involved the utilization of a Request For Proposal (RFP) by youth serving, not for profit agencies 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 Civil 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 eight to 12 weeks to at-risk youths. Program start times and dates vary per area. "At-Risk Youths" are stated as being any Erie County youth between the ages of 6 and 18 and are described as one of the following:

- Living within a family below 200% of poverty
- At risk of becoming Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS)
- Juvenile delinquents or youth charged with committing a crime
- Victims of child abuse, domestic violence, maltreatment and/or neglect
- Exhibiting self-destructive behavior
- School dropouts
- Youth in need of safe places, caring adults & 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 have 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.