

# THE INSIDE STORY



## **Summer Youth Employment/Violence Prevention Effort**

For several years, Allegheny County has provided jobs and training to hundreds of at-risk youth, ages 15 to 22, in 23 targeted neighborhoods, through the Summer Community Service Project.

The program was created in 2006 by youth-serving agencies to address the violence in their communities and to decrease neighborhood rivalries in 10 Pittsburgh neighborhoods. During summer 2006, 262 youth participated in the project, and there were no incidents of violence among young adults between the ages of 15 and 22 in public housing communities and virtually no incidents between rival neighborhoods while the project was in operation.

The effort was a collaboration of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, YouthPlaces, Voices Against Violence, Homewood-Brushton YMCA and One Hood. The five partner organizations have worked on the program's key components, which include: identifying 15- to 22-year-olds of highest risk; implementing service projects in communities; designing mediation strategies to decrease violence between neighborhoods; creating training sessions to promote skill development and violence prevention; incorporating case management and follow-up steps; and facilitating hands-on skill development and career readiness training.

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