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Get a job

Programs offer teens summer work opportunities

By **ERICA DRZEWIECKI**
STAFF WRITER

It will take the outreach of many different hands to get local teenagers into the workforce this summer. Where self-motivation or family encouragement fall short, agencies and employers across the region are standing up for youth.

Several initiatives are currently in the works, well ahead of the day at the end of June when schools set students free.

Since the late 1980s over 12,000 high

school students have participated in New Britain's Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program. Since merging with Bristol's Community Action Organization in January 2017, the Bristol HRA is now hoping to offer the program to students there as well.

The state would grant funds to Capitol Workforce Partners to contract with social service groups across Central Connecticut to provide the five-week program. Last year the grant was not awarded, and programs at New Britain's Human Resources Agency

and Opportunities Industrialization Center did not happen. This spring these agencies are working with local leaders to make sure as many teens as possible can participate, whether or not state funding comes through.

"We are trying to pull together an opportunity for employers to invest in youth this summer," OIC Executive Director Paulette Fox said.

The New Britain Chamber of Commerce joined hands with HRA and OIC to ask

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