



Hartford Foundation
FOR PUBLIC GIVING

*Greater
Hartford's
community
foundation
since 1925*



Hartford Foundation President and CEO Jay Williams speaks at a press conference about the Summer Youth Employment and Learning program, along with program partners and students. (Photo courtesy Capital Workforce Partners)

1,200 Young People Gain Work Experience Through 2025 Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program

The 2025 Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program (SYELP) — an initiative led by Capital Workforce Partners along with many public and private sector partners — is providing summer work experience to 1,200 young people, including 800 in Hartford.

For years, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has worked to [increase Employment Opportunities](#) for Greater Hartford residents. As a long-time funder of SYELP, we continue to take an evolving approach to how we support this program. This year, [we awarded a \\$400,000 grant to expand SYELP in Hartford](#). Our grant will create high-quality,

paid work-based learning for Hartford youth, that also connects to mental health services for students who need them. There is a focus on serving Opportunity Youth; young people ages 16-24 who are not in school or working. SYELP includes an integration with the Hartford Public Schools credit recovery program to help young people get reconnected with their education.

SYELP offers opportunities in fields like retail, education, and healthcare. Participants gain real-world work experience, resume building, professional development, and often, their first paid job.

Other partners in this program include the State of Connecticut and City of Hartford.

"The Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program is more than just a way to keep youth busy during the summer; it's an investment in the future of Hartford," said Mayor Arunan Arulampalam. "By providing our young people with hands-on experience and critical career readiness skills, we are building a talent pipeline right here in our city."

In the News

- [Hartford Foundation partners with City and State to employ 800 youths this summer](#) (CT News Junkie)
 - [Hartford provides \\$1M for summer youth jobs program](#) (CT Public)
 - [800 Hartford youth gaining job experience via summer program](#) (Hartford Business Journal)
 - [How \\$4.4M in combined investments help hundreds of CT young people get job experience](#) (*Hartford Courant*)
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Love Your Block 2025

The Hartford Foundation has once again teamed up with the City of Hartford for [Love Your Block](#), the annual program that helps Hartford residents clean up and beautify their neighborhoods, one block at a time. This year, we awarded more than **\$165,000** in total grants toward **16 projects**.

"Love Your Block is effective because it recognizes that residents are the most knowledgeable about neighborhood needs," says Hartford Foundation President and CEO Jay Williams. "Love Your Block ensures that they have the tools and resources they need to make their visions a reality."

[Read about Love Your Block and the projects happening this year.](#)

In the News

- [Hartford's revitalization projects continue as organizations receive funding \(NBC Connecticut\)](#)
 - [Hartford announces Love Your Block grants \(WTNH\)](#)
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MakerspaceCT Summer Program Gives Students Knowledge For Life

Kimaylia has attended summer camp at **MakerspaceCT** for the past three years. In her first summer, she built working prosthetics that were donated. Last year, she returned as a paid intern, helping other students finish their projects.

This year, she conceived, designed, and built a Bluetooth speaker lamp from scratch using a 3D printer she gets to keep, [thanks to a grant from the Foundation supporting Summer Camps](#).

Educator Julie Gauthier has watched Kimaylia grow each year and is excited for what's ahead. "I love watching students realize they can solve problems using the knowledge they're developing — that they can build anything they want, share it with friends, and even create their own communities around it."

Kimaylia laughs. "I like challenges, and I like failing — just to know I can learn from it. They made a whole box of my failed designs before I got my lamp. Before this camp, I made things — crochet and jewelry. Now, in five years, I see myself in medicine or engineering."

Video: Summer Programs

The Hartford Foundation has supported summer programs for decades. Last year, we visited three summer camps and created this video.



Social Enterprise Accelerator Participants Raise Money For New Ventures

The Hartford Foundation's **Social Enterprise Accelerator (SEA)** program was launched in 2018 to help nonprofits create new revenue-generating ventures. To date, nonprofits participating in SEA have raised \$13 million. The latest cohort of SEA participants began the process last October and announced their ventures earlier this year. Now, the Foundation is offering up to **\$120,000 in matching grants** as these organizations raise money to get their ideas off the ground. [Read about SEA and the four newest ventures.](#)



Equality Fund Awards Inaugural Grants

Earlier this month, the Hartford Foundation awarded the first-ever series of grants from the **Equality Fund**, a fund created to support the wellbeing of

Greater Hartford's LGBTQIA+ community. The 8 grants total \$200,000 and will support a variety of organizations and programs across the region. Previously, the Equality Fund commissioned DataHaven's [LGBTQIA+ Resident Wellbeing study](#) to illustrate the LGBTQIA+ community's quality of life in Greater Hartford.

Grant Opportunities for Nonprofits

Our [Grant Opportunities web page](#) features available and upcoming Requests for Proposals.

We recently released an RFP for Round 2 of our [2025 Basic Human Needs Emergency Assistance grants](#).

We are also partnering with Gallery for Good to create a 2026 calendar promoting local artists. [Gallery for Good is accepting artist submissions on their website](#) until August 31.

[Sign up to receive notification emails](#) every time a new grant opportunity is announced.



Anthony Byers

Education Pioneer

100 Influencers of Greater Hartford: Anthony Byers

Anthony Byers has dedicated his career to unlocking opportunity through education. As Executive Director of Hartford Youth Scholars (HYS), he leads a program that supports over 250 Hartford students, achieving a 99% high school graduation rate and an 88% college completion rate within six years, far outpacing the national average for first-generation college students.

As part of our goal of increasing employment opportunities for residents of Greater Hartford, the Hartford Foundation has made several grants to support the work of Hartford Youth Scholars, including a \$250,000 two-year grant in 2023 and several Nonprofit Support Program grants over the past three years to support the organization's growth and resilience. The organization's record of success shows that they help students persist in their education and eventually have a better chance at gaining well-paid, meaningful employment.

"I believe education is the great equalizer," Byers says. "When we create systems that support students all the way through college and beyond, we change lives, we change families, and we change communities."

To celebrate the Hartford Foundation's 100th Anniversary, we are sharing 100 Influencers of Greater Hartford on our social media channels throughout the rest of 2025. Follow us on social for more!



Visit our website: hfg.org
Questions? Email hartfordfoundation@hfg.org.



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