



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

# CamdenCorpsPlus

A DISCONNECTED YOUTH DEMONSTRATION PROJECT



# CamdenCorpsPlus

A Disconnected Youth Demonstration Project



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NJLWD has been awarded **\$1,994,350** by the USDOL to serve the disconnected, out-of-school youth residing in Camden, NJ.

Following the successes of current Camden youth initiatives & with the partnerships of current community organizations, the CamdenCorpsPlus program will help engage and connect Camden City youth with training and employment opportunities.

▶ Partner Organizations:

- ▶ Camden Mayor's Office
- ▶ Camden Youth One-Stop
- ▶ The Work Group
- ▶ Camden Youth Court Forum
- ▶ YouthBuild - Camden
- ▶ Camden Youth Outreach Services
- ▶ Camden Special School Services District
- ▶ Local Employers



# The Camden Challenge



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- ▶ Camden, NJ is now one of the most poverty-stricken and unsafe cities in our country, with:
  - ▶ A crime rate of **68 per 1,000** residents
    - ▶ **1 out of 15** will become a victim of crime
  - ▶ A staggering **52%** of Camden's youngest residents (under the age of 18) are living in poverty
  - ▶ Only 5,027 of the 10,304 youths (ages 16-24) are in the labor force
  - ▶ An overall Unemployment Rate of 18.7%
  - ▶ **Youth Unemployment Rates of 21.3% (ages 16-19) and 15.9% (ages 20-24)**

Source: NJLWD Office of Research and Information



camden  county  
NEW JERSEY  
Making It Better, Together.

# The Camden Solution: 3 Phases, 1 Goal



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- ▶ A 12-month intensive program targeting:
  - ▶ 113 out-of-school youths (ages 16-24) living in Camden
- ▶ 2 Sub-Grantees:
  - ▶ Lead Agency | Training Provider
- ▶ 3 phases focused on building career pathways



# Phase 1: Education & Work Preparation

(Months 1-6)



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- ▶ 3 days per week of education and training in:
  - ▶ **Integrated Basic Skills & Occupational Training**
    - ▶ English as a Second Language (ESL) & Basic Skills (GED/H.S. Equivalency)
    - ▶ Occupational training in retail & hospitality, construction, & health care
  - ▶ **Career Readiness & Work Ethics**
    - ▶ Customer Service/Communications
    - ▶ Career Awareness/Planning
    - ▶ HUD Certified Financial Literacy
- ▶ 2 days per week of community service
  - ▶ Youth will gain hands-on experience by carrying out projects in partnership with the Camden Special Services District
    - ▶ 12 hours per week, with \$10/hr stipend



# Phase 2: (Months 7-9)

## Work Sampling



- ▶ 2 days per week of education and training
- ▶ 3 days of sampling various occupations & jobs
  - ▶ Participants will receive a \$10/hr stipend for 18 hours a week

Letters of support received from Camden City employers:



- ▶ Holtec International
- ▶ PCM
- ▶ The Philadelphia 76ers



- ▶ Eastern Metal Recycling
- ▶ Brandywine Realty Trust

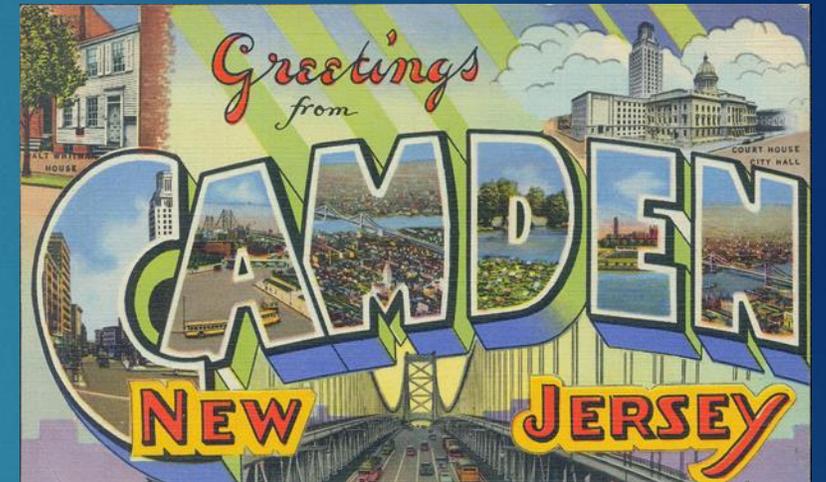


# Targeted Industries & Employers

## Industries w/ the Most Job Openings Over the Past Year: City of Camden



- ▶ This chart shows job opportunities that require a High School diploma only, and are low-skilled, entry level positions
  - Ideal for CamdenCorpsPlus graduates



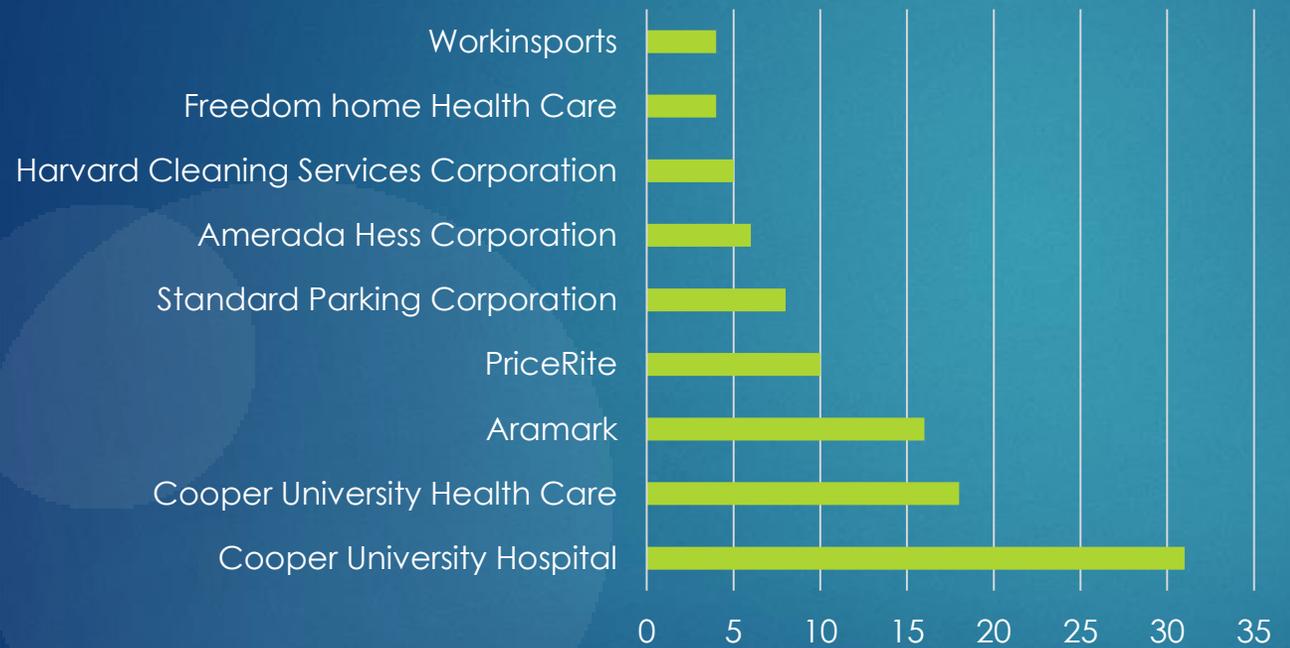
Source: NJLWD Office of Research and Information

# Phase 3: (Months 10-12)

# Internship



## Employers w/ Most Job Openings Over the Past Year: City of Camden

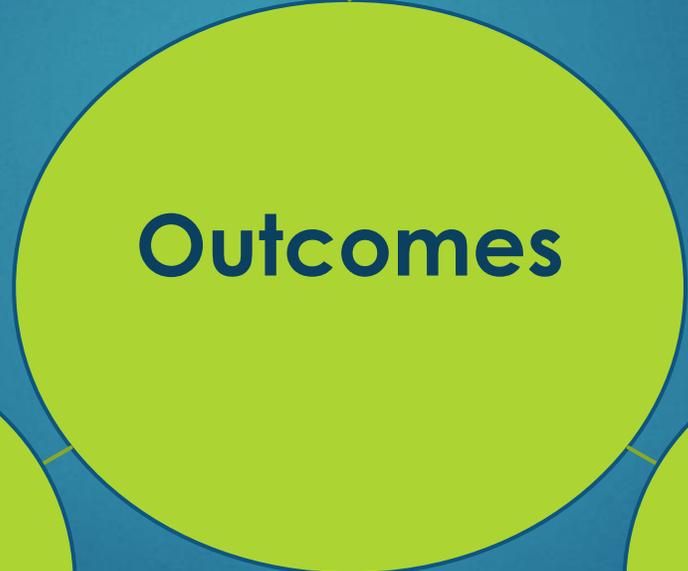


- ▶ This chart shows job opportunities that require a High School diploma only, & are low-skilled, entry level positions

- 5 days per week placement into a paid internship
  - Subsidized with an on-the-job-training grant to participating employers
    - Planned incentive is \$1,785 per participant

# Anticipated Outcomes

## Minimum Standard Goals



**Employment Retention**  
of those placed in  
employment  
**70%**

**Enter Unsubsidized  
Employment/Post-  
Secondary Education**  
**65%**

**Receive  
Credential/Degree**  
of those placed in  
training/ed.  
**50%**



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# “New Jersey, Come See for Yourself.”



NLWD Commissioner Hal Wirths at the Camden Youth One-Stop ribbon cutting.



U.S. Secretary of Labor, Thomas Perez visits Camden YouthBuild.



President Barack Obama visits Camden, NJ.