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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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MAYOR REDD, CONGRESSMAN NORCROSS & A HOST OF PARTNERS ANNOUNCE CAMDEN CORPS PLUS DISCONNECTED YOUTH PROGRAM

CAMDEN, NJ – Mayor Dana L. Redd, joined by Congressman Donald Norcross, Camden County Freeholder Johnathan Young, City Council President Frank Moran, NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) Chief of Staff Gary Hasenbalg, Rutgers-Camden Chancellor Phoebe Haddon, Center for Family Service (CFS) President/CEO Richard Stagliano and representatives from the Camden County One Stop and Camden County College, today announced that the City of Camden received a \$1.9 million USDOL grant that will establish the Camden Corps Plus Disconnected Youth program in the City.

“I am just so incredibly excited about today’s announcement and happy for the youth of Camden,” Mayor Dana Redd said. “The Camden Corps Plus initiative will provide our young people with an alternative and more importantly an opportunity to develop the skills they need to obtain a job. We have strong committed partners at the table who are willing to do what it takes to ensure these young people have a pathway to a successful future. I encourage individuals to apply for this program and take advantage of this exceptional program.”

Camden Corps Plus is an innovative partnership between government, higher education, community based organizations and employers. This program will advance economic development in education and workforce development to benefit the disconnected youth of the City of Camden. The Camden Corp Plus program will also be a key component of the Mayor’s National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, while supporting the primary goals of Camden’s Promise Zone designation. The Promise Zone designation will help provide resources and support services for the Camden Corps Plus program.

“Camden Corps Plus will put deserving students on the pathway to successful careers,” Rep. Norcross said. “I’ve said time and again, there’s no one-size-fits all approach to education and job training. Much like the apprenticeship program I completed as a young man, Camden Corps Plus will help groom students for promising futures. This investment in our youth is the collaboration of leaders in government, higher education, and the community—all coming together for a common goal. I’m proud to be a partner in that effort, making good on Camden’s designation as a federal ‘Promise Zone,’ which infuses federal funds into communities like my home city of Camden.”

Over the course of one year (12 months), 113 eligible youth will receive individualized education and mentoring focused on integrated and contextualized adult basic education to receive their high school diploma and occupational training in areas such as technology, nursing, construction, manufacturing and culinary arts to gain the skills, education and experience to transition into employment.

To be eligible for the Camden Corps Plus program, participants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a City of Camden resident
- Must be an out-of-school youth between the ages of 16 – 24
- Lacks a high school diploma or equivalency
- Willingness to complete training and obtain employment; and
- Must be registered at the Camden Youth One Stop

Key partners for the Camden Corps Plus Program include Center for Family Services, Rutgers University—Camden, Camden County College, Camden County Youth One Stop, Camden Workforce Development Board, and the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

“Camden Corps Plus is an innovative program to provide intensive basic skills instruction, job training and mentorship to disadvantaged youth in the City of Camden,” Commissioner Harold J. Wirths of the NJLWD said. “The selection of Camden by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of only seven cities for this unique pilot program complements the sweeping actions, reforms and programs already put into place by Mayor Redd, Governor Christie and a large New Jersey partnership to restore this great city.”

“The Camden Corps Plus program will connect these individuals with the education, internships and jobs they will need to succeed in the future,” said Camden County Freeholder Jonathan Young. “This important partnership will have a long lasting impact on the program participants and the economic development of Camden City.”

“Rutgers University–Camden is proud to partner with Mayor Redd and the Center for Family Services on the Camden Corps Plus program,” Chancellor Haddon said. “As part of New Jersey’s comprehensive public research university, Rutgers–Camden is committed to applying its expertise and innovative thinking toward the challenges that face New Jersey’s families. Rutgers–Camden is a national model for civically engaged universities, in no small part due to our ongoing work that is helping families and communities prepare for success in education at every level. We look forward to working with Camden County College and our other partners as, together, we help our city’s youth.”

“We are excited to be a partner in the new Camden Corps Plus program,” President/CEO Stagliano said. “This as an opportunity for Camden City youth to be reconnected to both high quality education and the supports needed to be successful academically, personally and professionally. Through innovative partnerships like these, we can ensure a holistic approach and realize the promise of Camden's youth.”

All eligible participants will receive a stipend for if they meet certain program criteria for attendance and participation. In addition, those who successfully complete all of the program components will receive: (1) high school diploma equivalency; (2) industry recognized credentials through occupational training providers; (3) meaningful work experience; (4) paid internships; (5) mentoring and case management support services; and (6) Job Placement

Information sessions will be held throughout the month of June across the City of Camden for all potential eligible applicants.

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