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For the 2019 Grow Detroit's Young Talent kick off, I was proud to be joined by a number of Detroit employers, foundations, philanthropists and community organizations to launch the fifth year of the summer jobs program.

Over the last four years, this program has transformed the prospects for Detroit youth seeking a summer job experience. Growing from 5,500 summer opportunities in 2015, GDYT has now provided over 30,000 summer jobs for Detroit youth. And it provides much more than just a paycheck. Youth who participate in GDYT learn valuable work-readiness skills, the value of hard work, and opportunities to explore career pathways in Metro Detroit. They learn self-sufficiency and for many of our youth, become a contributor to the family economy. Research from the University of Michigan Youth Policy Lab validates that GDYT youth participants are more likely to stay in school and graduate!

In 2019, the program will find summer work experiences for over 8,000 Detroit youth. As we strive every year to increase the quality of the GDYT program experience for youth and employers, we rely ever more heavily on the generosity, commitment and goodwill of Detroit businesses and individuals. And this is why I am writing to you today and asking for your support.

As a business, there are several ways you can support Grow Detroit's Young Talent:

1. Become an Employer Partner by sponsoring a six-week paid work experience (up to 120 hours) at your workplace for \$1,800 per youth participant
2. If you cannot financially support a full sponsorship, a 50:50 match of \$900 per youth is available to support the six-week paid work experience (up to 120 hours) at your workplace
3. Be recognized as an Affiliate Partner by directly hiring youth through an existing employment opportunity or summer employment program that you already operate
4. Make a financial contribution to the GDYT program to support summer youth work experiences

If you would like to make a personal donation, a dollar-for-dollar match from the Marjorie S. Fisher Fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is available. This dollar-for-dollar match is also available to Metro Detroit employers.

After four successful years, there is now an expectation from our youth that this program will be there for them to help them as they transition from academia to employment. I hope you will consider contributing to the program, either by hiring a youth or making a tax-deductible donation to support job opportunities for Detroit youth ages 14-24.

Full details of how to support GDYT are available at [GDYT.org](http://GDYT.org). On behalf of the City of Detroit, and particularly the youth of this great city, thank you.

Best,

Michael E. Duggan, Mayor