The Department of Education has joined the White House’s efforts to engage organizations nationwide to create new and promote existing summer jobs for low-income youth. These summertime opportunities yield experiences for the youth of America to learn life and work skills, laying the groundwork for pathways to educational and professional success.

As a Department of Education partner, we need your help in meeting President Obama’s goal of having 250,000 jobs in the Summer Jobs+ Bank by Friday, March 16, 2012, and growing that number through the end of May 2012. Youth employment is a critical element of success for young people; unfortunately, youth employment numbers, especially for those most at risk, are far too low. Here is how you can help change that cycle and create opportunities for low-income and disconnected youth:

**Commit to creating new pathways to employment in 1 of 3 categories for youth ages 16 - 24:**

**Pathway 1: Life Skills** - Provide youth work-related soft skills, such as communication and time management. This includes resume writing or interview workshops and mentorship programs.

**Pathway 2: Work Skills** - Provide youth insight into the working-world to prepare them for employment. This includes job shadow days and unpaid internships.

**Pathway 3: Earn and Learn** - Provide youth on-the-job skills in a learning environment while earning wages for their work.

**Action Items:**

1) Can you offer new, never-before-offered career opportunities for youth 16-24 during the summer?

   ➢ If you can, go to: [http://webapps.dol.gov/DOLEvents/Event/Register/17/Summer-Jobs-Commitment-Registration](http://webapps.dol.gov/DOLEvents/Event/Register/17/Summer-Jobs-Commitment-Registration), enter your organization or company’s name, the number of new pathways/opportunities you can commit to, and the pathway type you are providing.

   ➢ Then email Kate Herbek ([Kate.Herbek@ed.gov](mailto:Kate.Herbek@ed.gov)) to let us know that you have gone online and filled out the form, and the number of new pathways to employment you expect to create.

2) Can you post your existing summer employment opportunities for youth ages 16 – 24 at the Jobs Bank website?

The Summer Jobs+ Bank will be a one-stop-shop for youth looking for summer job opportunities. If you are unable to create new pathways/opportunities, but have *existing ones*, enter them in the Job Bank:

   ➢ Go to: [http://webapps.dol.gov/DOLEvents/Event/Register/17/Summer-Jobs-Commitment-Registration](http://webapps.dol.gov/DOLEvents/Event/Register/17/Summer-Jobs-Commitment-Registration), and enter your organization or company’s name, the number of pathway opportunities you can provide, and they type of pathway it is.

Your partnership in this initiative is invaluable. Thank you for being part of creating summer jobs, internships, and professional opportunities to ensure the future success of America’s youth!