

**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION  
AUTHORITY**



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**Budget Committee**

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**Illinois Criminal Justice  
Information Authority**

Peter M. Ellis  
*Chair*

Hon. Anita Alvarez  
*Vice Chair*

Jack Cutrone  
*Executive Director*

**Meeting Notice**

***Budget Committee***

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority  
300 West Adams  
Suite 200, Large Conference Room  
Chicago, IL 60606

**Agenda**

▶ Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Approval of the General Revenue Funds / Illinois Community Youth  
Summer Jobs Program

- ▶ Old Business
- ▶ New Business
- ▶ Adjourn

This meeting will be accessible to persons with disabilities in compliance with Executive Order #5 and pertinent State and Federal laws upon anticipated attendance. Persons with disabilities planning to attend and needing special accommodations should contact by telephone or letter Mr. Hank Anthony, Associate Director, Office of Administrative Services, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, 300 West Adams Street, Suite 200, Chicago, Illinois 60606 (telephone 312/793-8550). TDD services are available at 312-793-4170.



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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Budget Committee Members

**FROM:** Jack Cutrone, Executive Director, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

**DATE:** July, 26, 2012

**RE:** Governor Quinn's Illinois Community Youth Summer Jobs Program

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**Governor Quinn's Illinois Community Youth Summer Jobs Program**

**Program Description:** Several agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor have been asked to contribute funding to a summer youth employment program including ICJIA, the Violence Prevention Authority, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Natural Resources. The program will supply employment for approximately 1,900 young people from areas with high crime and violence, high unemployment, and high social disorder. ICJIA has been asked to contribute \$1.7 million of its new state general review grant funding toward that effort.

**Premise:** For every year that a teen is employed, their income rises about 15 percent during their twenties. Summer jobs can also help youth pay for costs that would otherwise fall to their parents. 13 percent of teens that had a summer job in 2009 spent part of their earnings on household expenses, while 35 percent purchased clothing, reducing the burden on parents and guardians. Youth who work are less likely to drop out and are more likely to graduate from high school. Additionally, employment significantly changes youth engagement with deviant and risky behavior. Girls who have jobs are less likely to become pregnant and boys are less likely to get involved in property crime and drug use. Youth with job experience are less likely to skip class, drink alcohol, and have feelings of hopelessness. The University of Chicago Crime Lab will track the community impact of summer job opportunities on youth outcomes.

**Public Safety:** A similar program in Boston, the "Summer Employment Initiative, Youth Violence Prevention Collaborative, Workforce Development & Education Working Group," was the subject of a study by Dr. Gia Barboza of Northeastern University. The study assessed the effects of youth employment on participants' social

skills, attitudes, and behaviors – specifically those behaviors linked by research to be predictors of youth violence. Results indicate that participants self-reported that six months post-program, they had:

- Decreased deviant behaviors associated with criminal pathways, such as authority conflict, physical aggression, weapon carrying, and stealing.
- Decreased risky behaviors associated with future criminality, such as alcohol use, having sex, and depression due to idleness.
- Facilitated social skills, including communication and professionalism, which mediate aggressive behavior.
- Improved attitudes toward attending school.
- Increased the perception that youth have options, such as employment, which may reduce feelings of hopelessness and despair.

**Goals:** The Community Youth Jobs Program targets Chicagoland communities that have been the hardest-hit by violence. Youth will be provided with temporary, full-time employment with 501(c)(3) non-profit entities. Organizations must provide an orientation that includes showing youth how to open a checking or savings account and encouraging them to do so. The Community Youth Jobs Program aims to achieve documented outcomes: violence prevention, a reduction in risky behavior, an increase in educational achievement. Employment placements must engage youth and offer them opportunities to learn hard and soft job skills including:

- Career exploration and social growth.
- Financial literacy/personal banking.
- Professional behavior and communication.
- Real-world labor expectations like arriving to work on time.
- Increased awareness of services offered by local community-based organizations.
- Appropriate dress and demeanor.

Menial labor is discouraged and political campaign work is not permitted.

Structure:

- 6 week program serving youth 14-18 years old.
- Youth will be paid the federal minimum wage of \$8.25/hour for a 30-hour work week.
- 10 percent of hires can be ages 19-24 to function in a supervisory role.
- 19-24 year olds will be paid \$9/hour.
- Preference should be given to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)-eligible youth, youth on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), youth in foster care, and court-involved youth.

Youth may not have other employment and these positions are not eligible for unemployment benefits.

Staff will be available at the meeting to answer any questions.