



ABCD Press

From the Office of Public Information

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.

178 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111

(617) 348 - 6241

Fax: (617) 482 - 4859

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Susan Kooperstein
617-348-6241
617-875-3619 (cell)
Randy Miller
617-348-6244

**ABCD KICKS OFF SUMMERWORKS JOBS PROGRAM
FOR LOW-INCOME BOSTON TEENS ON APRIL 15!**

Program Calls for Increased Funding to Serve City's Most At-Risk Teenagers

Youths Invited to Pick Up Summer Job Applications and Meet With Employers

The 2008 ABCD SummerWorks Kick-Off and Information Fair will take place on **Tuesday, April 15 from 2 to 5 p.m.** at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury. Youths from every city neighborhood are invited to come and speak with SummerWorks employers and college representatives and other youth serving agencies. Last year close to 1,000 youths attended the kick-off.

ABCD SummerWorks provides teenagers aged 14-to-21-years-old with jobs, education, and mentoring. It is the only youth jobs program that specifically serves low-income, at-risk youngsters, including the typically underserved 14-year-olds and 18-21-year-olds.

Youth advocates, state senators and representatives, city councilors and community activists will call for release of funds as well as additional public and private donations to serve the city's most at-risk, vulnerable teenagers. Several hundred young people are expected to attend the kick-off.

Last year, the 43-year-old ABCD SummerWorks program placed approximately 1,100 teen workers in jobs at over 150 non-profit organizations including hospitals, health centers, museums, day camps, government agencies, settlement houses and child care centers. **More than 3,000 teenagers applied for those 1,100 positions.**

SummerWorks youths also participate in work-readiness and career-oriented workshops and are mentored by adults from the public and private sectors. Many leaders in government, business and education got their start with an ABCD SummerWorks job.

SummerWorks is part of ABCD's Youth Explorations program which brings together ABCD youth programs in education, employment, career exploration and recreation to create year-round initiatives focused on meeting the needs of the city's most at-risk young people.

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About ABCD:

ABCD serves more than 100,000 low-income Boston-area residents through its central offices and a decentralized network of Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs), Head Start centers, Family Planning sites and Foster Grandparent sites. Programs and affiliations include Fuel Assistance; Child Care Services; Head Start; Child Care Choices of Boston; Education; Career Development; Housing and Homelessness Services; Health Services; Family Planning; Urban College of Boston; University High – an Alternative High School; Ostiguy High School for high school students in recovery; Weatherization; Foster Grandparents; Elder Services; Intergenerational Programs; a Multi-cultural Independent Living Center serving people with disabilities; management of the Combined Federal Campaign, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, City of Boston, and Keane Inc. employee giving campaigns; advocacy and consumer services.

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