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Michigan Works Youth Program Expanded

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BENTON HARBOR - This summer, more than 600 tri-county young people will gain six weeks of work experience through the Michigan Works! Summer Jobs Experience Program.

This is the fifth year Michigan Works! has offered the program, and this year the organization will triple the number of working youth thanks to additional funding from the economic stimulus package.

The summer jobs program began in 2004 and was only offered in Benton Harbor. Two years ago the program was expanded to Cass and Van Buren counties and work-readiness training and career exploration components were added.

"Each year we've expanded and improved this program," stated executive director, Todd Gustafson. "This isn't just about helping young people earn extra spending money; it's about preparing our future workforce."