

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (DOES)

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

FISCAL YEAR 2026

Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP) – Pathways to STEM

Application Release Date: March 27, 2026

Application Submission Deadline: April 27, 2026

Pursuant to its role under Section 2 of the “Workforce Job Development Grant-Making Authority Act of 2012” (D.C. Law 19-269; D.C. Code § 1-328.05), the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) will issue a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Program (MBSYEP) Pathways to STEM Grant. The RFA will be online on the District Grants Clearinghouse and on the DOES website at the following page: <https://does.dc.gov/page/grant-opportunities>

The Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP) is a locally funded initiative sponsored by DOES that provides District youth ages 14 to 24 with enriching and constructive summer work experiences through subsidized placements in the private and government sectors.

DOES, through its Office of Youth Programs, is seeking applications from qualified and reputable organizations who can effectively develop and administer a high quality, structured program focused on exposure to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering; and Mathematics (STEM) and providing related classroom instruction to District youth who are interested in becoming professionals between the ages of 16-18 years old participating in MBSYEP. The six-week program will include a week-long college tour, intensive professional development, training and a hands-on internship in the financial industry

Eligibility: DOES will make these grants available through a competitive process. Eligible applicants include public and private non-profit and for-profit organizations eligible to do business with the District government, including but not limited to community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, public, charter or alternative secondary schools and post-secondary institutions. Applicants shall have demonstrated effectiveness providing the requested services and meeting the needs of the target population.

Available Funding for the Award: Up to \$150,000.00 is available in total for award through this RFA. DOES intends to issue up to one (1) grant award. The MBSYEP Grant is funded 100% through local funds from the District of Columbia.

DOES will use the applicant’s grant proposal to identify the number of participants the applicant plans to serve and determine an award amount. However, DOES maintains the right to adjust the grant award and amount based on funding availability. Determinations regarding the number of

competitive grants to be awarded will be based on the quality and number of applications received and available funding. Successful applicants may be awarded amounts less than requested.

A review panel or panels will be convened to review, score, and rank each application for a competitive grant. The review panel(s) will be composed of external neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge, or related experiences. Each application will be scored against a rubric, and applications will have multiple reviewers to ensure accurate scoring. Upon completion of its review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). The Director of DOES or her designee will make all final award decisions.

Length of Award: The award period for this grant starts on the date of the grant award notification and ends on September 30, 2026, with three option years contingent upon funding availability.

Pre-Application Conference: All interested applicants are encouraged to attend the virtual pre-application conference on April 9, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Please email OGAGrants@dc.gov if you will be attending the pre-application meeting to receive the meeting invite link.

Contact: For additional information regarding this grant competition, please contact:

Vanessa Black
Department of Employment Services
Office of Grant Administration and Resource Allocation (OGARA)
Email: OGAGrants@dc.gov

Deadline for Applications: The deadline for application submissions is April 27, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Late or incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the review panel.