



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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MEDIA RELEASE

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**SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH APPLICATIONS FOR THE SIXTH
ANNUAL MAYOR LEE HARRIS' SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE**

Young adults ages 18-24 will receive a living wage of \$15/hour, learn new skills, and grow their professional network.

Shelby County, TN – Applications for the sixth annual Mayor's Summer Work Experience will be accepted by the Shelby County Office of Education and Youth Services starting tomorrow, December 1, 2023. Young adults in Shelby County, ages 18-24, are eligible for an exciting eight-week summer work experience. Those interested can apply starting tomorrow at www.shelbycountyttn.gov/mswe.

The Mayor's Summer Work Experience program helps participants learn new skills, gain financial independence, and grow their professional network. In addition, program participants will learn key career enhancement strategies while attending a weekly paid professional development course. The summer intern program suits those interested in various fields, from public safety to public health, government administration, and community outreach. Participants will intern across various divisions within the Shelby County Government and will be selected by a random lottery.

Mayor Lee Harris' guarantee of a living wage for all Shelby County Government employees extends to the Mayor's Summer Work Experience participants. Interns will receive \$15 an hour and a \$100 bonus for perfect attendance. Those selected for the program will need to be available to work Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. from June 3 through July 26.

Participants must also be available on Fridays for personal development sessions from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Applications will open from December 1 through December 31, 2023.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “After last year’s program, Shelby County Government hired seven participants to full-time county jobs. We are enthusiastic about providing even more opportunities for young people in Shelby County. I hope those interested in a government and public service career will apply for the program and come ready to learn the skills needed to become future leaders and agents of change, excellence, and integrity.”

Reginald Milton, Deputy Administrator of the Office of Education and Youth Services: “The MSWE program continues to be a remarkable success. It is an integral experience that helps to make Shelby County a thriving place for all residents. We are proud of our interns’ achievements and look forward to inspiring young minds in the future.”

Dr. Bernard Williams, Coordinator of the Office of Education and Youth Services: “I am ready to welcome the next generation of change-makers to Shelby County Government. The Mayor’s Summer Work Experience is a great opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience working in government and public service. It’s not just about experiences; it’s a stepping stone to professional opportunities and personal growth.”

Brianna Burkett, Juvenile Court Clerk’s Office: “The best part of the MSWE, for me personally, was working alongside magistrates doing expungements. The program gave me insight into the criminal court and gave me the experience needed for my current employment in the Juvenile Court Clerk’s office.”

Here are more participant testimonials from last year’s program:

- *“The most impactful part of the program was meeting new people and building relationships with my coworkers. This experience helped me step out of my comfort zone with my shyness.”*
- *“I felt inspired, empowered, and encouraged to be the best I could be. I now want to give back to the youth in my community.”*
- *“This program provided me a space to truly be myself and created pathways to discovery.”*

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