



City of New Bedford  
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford  
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Date: June 18, 2014  
For Immediate Release

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### City of New Bedford Launches 2014 Learn and Serve Summer Youth Program

**New Bedford, Massachusetts** – The City of New Bedford announced today that applications for the City’s 2014 Learn and Serve Summer Youth Program are now available. Applications are available for downloading on the City’s website ([www.newbedford-ma.gov](http://www.newbedford-ma.gov)) and hard copies are available at the local libraries. Applications must be completed and returned to the Department of Community Services in City Hall, Room 220 by 3:00pm on June 30, 2014.

Learn and Serve, is a six-week, 12-hour-per-week project-based learning and community service program for 14-15-year old New Bedford residents. The program duration is from July 14, 2014 to August 21, 2014. Loosely modeled after the highly successful Leadership South Coast Program, the Learn and Serve Program will engage five teams of ten teens in meaningful, real-world projects that build basic work skills such as teamwork and collaboration, task management, goal-setting, and responsibility; encourage leadership development; allow for deep engagement in a particular content area; and foster an ethic of civic engagement and community service. The program is administered by the City of New Bedford’s Department of Community Services, in collaboration with New Directions South Coast, Inc.

The program allows teens to explore a diverse array of skills such as basic research, design, program development, and subject areas such as farming and food, healthy lifestyles, and safe and beautiful environments. Participating youth who successfully complete the program will receive a \$300 stipend at the end of the summer.

“It is critically important that we come together as a community to provide New Bedford youth with constructive outlets for their energy and talent during the summer months. Children enrolled in programs like this learn about a variety of topics, gain real-world skills, and complete concrete projects of lasting value for their community. The Learn and Serve Summer Youth Program is a great opportunity to engage New Bedford’s eager and talented young people,” said Mayor Jon Mitchell.

The Learn and Serve Summer Youth Program is entirely privately funded, through the donations of our local corporate and philanthropic communities. Fundraising for the program is ongoing, and donations are most welcome. Donations can be made through New Directions South Coast, 1213 Purchase St., New Bedford, MA 02740.

For more information about the Learn and Serve Summer Youth Program, please call Lynne LaBerge at (508) 997-4511 ext. 2361 or via email at [llaberge@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:llaberge@newbedfordschools.org).

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