



*The Work Force strives to foster the personal and professional growth of teens in public housing by helping them to gain the competencies they need – at home, school, and work – to create their own pathways to educational and economic success.*

## **About us:**

***With solid foundations come more productive and prosperous futures...***

The Work Force is a comprehensive after-school educational enrichment and work-readiness program for **low-income teens in Cambridge public housing**. Holistic in design, the program provides participants with sustained networks of learning and support over a critical **five-year** span: from the eighth grade through high school graduation. Our goal is to help our participants to acquire the wide range of skills necessary for long-term success. This is achieved through weekly classroom workshops on life skills, professional competencies, academic skill building, and post-secondary planning. **Teens are PAID** for participation in class workshops or an exploratory job placement through our program. The Work Force provides each teen with:



## **Locations at four sites serving a total of 200 youth annually:**

- Jefferson Park Family Development (North Cambridge)
- Newtowne Court/Washington Elms Family Development (Area IV/ "The Port")
- Roosevelt Towers Family Development (East Cambridge)
- Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS)



## **Case Management & Educational Supports:**

- **Five-years of comprehensive support** for students and their families in 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Strong partnerships with Cambridge schools with a record of increasing family and student engagement
- One-to-one tutoring, homework centers, computer labs, and academic success workshops offered at all four sites

## Matched College Savings Program:

- Deposit only savings account opened for every student beginning sophomore year
- Student and family savings **matched dollar for dollar, up to \$1500 (\$3000 total!!!)**
- Financial education incorporated into all workshops for students
- Family financial education series offered to all Work Force families



## Youth Employment:

- Provide two 14 week after-school Exploratory Jobs cycles to youth in grades 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> at variety of **local employers, from Harvard and MIT to non-profit after school programs, tech start-up ventures, and other private business partners**
- Provide opportunities for youth to interact with professionals from a variety of fields through career fairs, mock interviews, networking events, and individual mentoring
- Individualized summer employment and internship opportunities

## Outcomes

- **100% high school graduation**
- **90-95% matriculation in post-secondary programs**
- **50% post-secondary program completion in five years (class of 2009)**

