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EAST HAVEN USES GRANTS TO HIRE YOUTH FOR THE SUMMER

East Haven has taken advantage of grant monies from the State of Connecticut and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program by hiring approximately 25 youths to work in various town departments during the summer. The focus of the grants is to give job opportunities to children from low-income households. Youths have been hired in the Tax Office, Social Services, the Library, and Public Works, among other departments. Some of the grant money is also being used to help offset the cost of the Parks & Recreation department's summer hires, provided the employees meet the grant program requirements.

“This is a very valuable experience for the kids – it gives them the chance to work, meet new people, and make a difference in their community,” said Mayor April Capone. Some of their work is visible around town – such as those employed by Public Works, tending to the sidewalks of Main Street – and some is more behind the scenes, for example assisting with the day-to-day operations of the Hagaman Memorial Library. “These types of internships help our teens learn about responsibility, work ethic, and planning a career,” Capone said.

Overseeing the grant program operations is James Albis, East Haven's Community Development Coordinator. Mr. Albis works in concert with the Workforce Alliance, based in New Haven, who allocates the funding received from the State and TANF and reviews youth applications for eligibility. In addition to the work they do with these particular grants, the Workforce Alliance is a great resource for job seekers and employers in many southern Connecticut communities. For more information, please visit www.workforcealliance.biz.