



## **Department of Finance Legislative Summary**

**Ordinance No: 591-2019**

Authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into one or more amendments to Contract No. PS 2017 – 205 with Youth Opportunity Unlimited for the continuation of services and expansion of the Cleveland Youth Summer Employment Program to include youth diversion employment; and to change the contracting director from Community Relations to Finance.

### **Mayor Frank G. Jackson's Fresh Start Diversion Program**

As part of the Mayor's commitment to helping youth and young adults turn roadblocks into building blocks, the City of Cleveland's Offices of Community Relations and PIOYYA, in collaboration with Youth Opportunities Unlimited, created the Fresh Start program. The program is designed to provide youth ages 16-18, charged with misdemeanor or low level felony offenses, with essential wrap-around support services and access to training that will help them develop the knowledge and skills required to thrive and live productive lives.

### **Key components of the program include:**

- Academic needs assessment; and tutoring support in literacy and mathematics to help youth improve core academic skills necessary for long-term employment;
- Out of school youth GED preparation support;
- Paid 10-12 weeks of job readiness and life skills training;
- Career exploration, career assessment and career planning; support implementing career plan;
- Subsidized youth employment after-school and weekends for 15 hours per week for up to 20 weeks;
- Assigned Job Coach that will visit worksites monthly to provide coaching and guidance to youth and supervisors to ensure positive experience for all parties and collect time documentation;
- Mentor support ; and
- Monthly support sessions for youth to discuss issues, positively reinforce successes and provide a sense of unity and cohesion

**Current Contract  
Amount:**

\$245,685.92 General Fund