



# Not too Late to Find a Summer Job

## *IDES Resources Can Help*

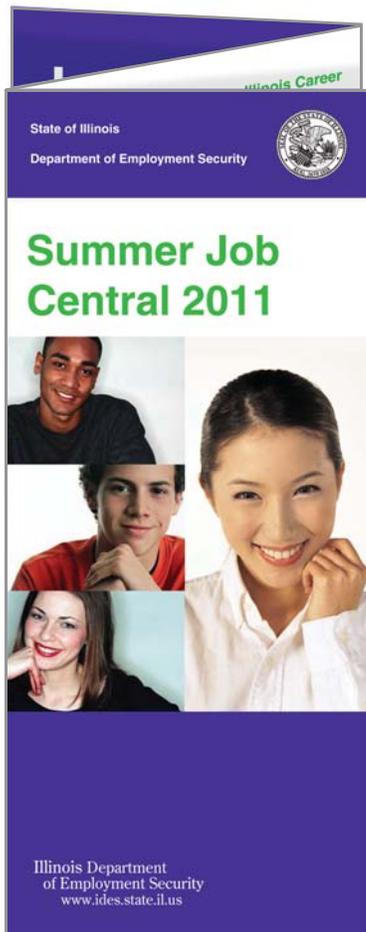
*By Lola Lucas*

**T**he school year is winding toward a close. Is there still time to get a summer job? The short answer is yes—but hurry.

Teens who want to earn money can use the direct approach: ask neighbors if they need a garage cleaned out or their lawns mowed, or if they need a sitter for an evening. Help Wanted signs are often posted in windows at the mall or at fast food restaurants. Although the job market has been tight, partly because adults have taken many of the jobs that teens used to fill, opportunities remain for the

persistent. In fact, recent news articles point to an increase in summer job hiring for this year, so the odds have improved.

“Summer Job Central” is a downloadable brochure produced each spring by the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Look for it in the center of the Illinois Career Resource Network (ICRN) page at [www.ILWorkInfo.com/icrn](http://www.ILWorkInfo.com/icrn). It has suggestions for teens looking for jobs at camps, resorts and amusement parks. It even offers tips for teens desiring international adventure. The brochure also has a section on government-run



summer programs as well as sites for volunteering.

A summer job is a good way to discover if a career is a good fit. Whether deciding on a career in retail, hospitality or healthcare, those who try out a job first, before investing in training or college, could end up saving money in the long term. Sometimes paid as well as unpaid summer jobs or internships can lead to an offer of full-time work after graduation. Summer jobs look great on resumes, provide students that all-important credential of experience, and can help students earn funds for college.

“Summer Job Central,” in fact, lists a resource that offers tips on teaching teens to save some of the money they earn. It also provides information on job safety and child labor laws.

In addition to “Summer Job Central,” a few other tools in the Illinois Career Resource Network can help youth from fifth grade through college learn about the world of work. Through the network’s Career Information System (CIS), Career Click and CIS Junior web tools, users can access Illinois-specific information on wages, growth prospects and educational requirements of jobs as well as job descriptions. Also available through CIS are helpful tips on job hunting and resume writing.

Seasonal work can pave the way to a more productive adulthood. “Summer Job Central” helps employers and students make the connections they need to find each other.

*Lola Lucas is an Illinois Department of Employment Security Career Resource Specialist.*

## IDES Career Resources:

### Summer Job Central

An IDES brochure offering teens tips for finding summer jobs.

### Illinois Career Resource Network

An online portal to Illinois job trends, job hunting and resume writing tips, and educational programs.

Access resources at

**[www.ILWorkInfo.com/icrn.](http://www.ILWorkInfo.com/icrn)**