



ARRA SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM - 2009 ASHLEY HOBBS-CURTIS' SUCCESS STORY

Ashley Hobbs-Curtis came to South Central Michigan Works! as a 20-year old youth who was married with 2 daughters. She had a high school diploma and a certificate in Health Occupations she received at the Jackson Area Career Center. She had volunteered at various companies in the community but had no other work experience. Ashley also faced many barriers as she was homeless, lacked transportation, and needed childcare for her children before she could begin employment.

Ashley saw a billboard advertisement for the South Central Michigan Works! Summer Job Connect, a summer youth employment program. Ashley was enrolled into the AARA Summer Youth Program with South Central Michigan Works! on June 2, 2009. She attended the Summer Youth Work Employment Seminar which provided information to assist her in gaining employment. She learned how to complete an employment application. Additionally she was given assistance on completing a resume and she learned how to respond to an employer's questions properly during an interview. South Central Michigan Works! assisted Ashley in job search/job placement skills and transportation.

Ashley began her summer youth work experience at Jackson Community College on June 29, 2009. She worked in the President's Office as an Administrative Assistant where she learned many clerical duties such as filing records, answering phones, and scanning and sorting mail. The overall experience was a huge success as it allowed Ashley to gain valuable work skills and obtain a steady paycheck. It also has inspired and enabled her to continue on with her long term goal as she attends Jackson Community College studying for her Associates Degree in Applied Science/Medical Assistant.