



For Immediate Release
June 2017

Contact:
Tania Dall
Director of Communications
Youth Empowerment Project
tdall@youthempowermentproject.org
Cell: 504-909-1737

Youth Empowerment Project's Summer Programs receive major funding from W.K. Kellogg Foundation

New Orleans, LA – The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) has received a \$252,000 grant to help fund the organization's extensive summer programming from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich.

"YEP is extremely grateful for the continued investment of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in our summer employment training programming, ensuring young people earn money and learn critical skills during the summer months. Because of the Foundation's commitment to YEP, we will be able to better prepare 50 young people this summer for their High School Equivalency exams, provide employment readiness programming to 25 teens and ensure a healthy and fun space to mentor children in our Kid's Xpress Summer Camp," said YEP Executive Director, Melissa Sawyer.

YEP's New Orleans Providing Literacy to All Youth (NOPLAY) Summer Scholars, Teen Summer Employment Training (SET) and Summer Camp Programs all focus on providing young people ages 7-24 with a safe space to enjoy out-of-school time and, in some cases, learn valuable job skills.

YEP's Summer Camp provides teens and young adults with employment opportunities. Camp Counselors receive intensive training which includes CPR and First Aid certification, crisis de-escalation, team building, mentoring and youth development. Thanks to this recent W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant, YEP was able to hire 12 Junior Counselors who will serve as the backbone for YEP's 2017 Kids Xpress Summer Camp. Those same counselors will provide recreational activities to youth such as sports, arts and crafts, music, swimming and field trips. YEP's free summer camp will serve approximately 93 New Orleans youth during a 6-week session.

"YEP is excited to be able to provide this job opportunity to some of the young adults in the city, and watch them gain an appreciation for improving their skills and giving back to their community. During these summer months YEP is excited to help cultivate the next generation of New Orleanians that understand the value of creating fun, safe and supportive spaces for children in the city" said YEP Director of Programs Darrin McCall.

NOPLAY Summer Scholars is a 5-week session where 20 youth receive high school equivalency instruction and intensive job readiness instruction. YEP's third summer initiative is called Teen SET which provides 25 youth between the ages of 13-16 with critical life skills, career and college exploration, financial literacy, educational and employment focused trips and employment readiness training.

ABOUT YEP: Founded in 2004, the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) is a non-profit which engages underserved young people through community-based education, mentoring and employment readiness programs. In 2016, YEP served 1201 young people through a total of 11 programs at 6 sites. To learn more visit: www.youthempowermentproject.org or follow YEP on social media: @YEPNOLA

About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (GENERAL FOUNDATION INFORMATION) *The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children*

should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life. The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico

###