

Earn & Learn



BUILD YOUR TALENT PIPELINE AND INVEST IN MILWAUKEE'S FUTURE WORKFORCE

Since 2007, Employ Milwaukee's Earn & Learn program has provided over 41,000 Milwaukee youth ages 14-24 with meaningful, paid summer work experiences that build job readiness, professionalism, and career exposure. Earn & Learn helps young people take that essential first step into the workforce while helping businesses cultivate the next generation of talent. **New this year, Employ Milwaukee is offering sponsorship opportunities to deepen impact for Earn & Learn partners and participants** — expanding access to meaningful summer employment while showcasing employers' commitment to Milwaukee's future workforce.



A MODEL OF SUCCESS

Earn & Learn is a Summer Youth Employment Program – a nationally-recognized, evidence-based model. In a 2022 evidence review from J-PAL Poverty Action Lab, findings were presented from thirteen randomized evaluations of Summer Youth Employment Programs across four cities (Boston, Chicago, New York and Philadelphia), and found benefits for youth during and beyond their summer experience. Youth who were part of a Summer Youth Employment Program were **3 to 5 times more likely to be employed** during summer than those not offered a job through a summer youth employment program. Earn & Learn provides employment opportunities otherwise not available to participants and boosts earnings for youth who may otherwise have difficulty finding summer employment.

WHY PARTNER WITH EARN & LEARN?

- **Build a local talent pipeline** - Introduce motivated young adults to your industry early and help shape the region's future workforce.
- **Promote community leadership** - Demonstrate your company's commitment to economic opportunity and youth success. *Nearly 70% of sponsorships go directly into the hands of youth and young adults through wages!*
- **Enhance employee engagement** - Offer your team a chance to mentor and inspire the next generation.
- **Increase brand visibility** - Be recognized as a leader in youth workforce development across Employ Milwaukee's media channels and community events.

680

Milwaukee youth connected to a paid job experience in summer 2025

90%

completed all 7-weeks

83%

aged 14-17 years old

17%

aged 18 and older

5%

aged 14-24 & not enrolled in school nor employed

IMPACT & OUTCOMES

In 2025, youth received an average wage of **\$12.21 per hour which is 168% higher than Wisconsin's minimum wage** and sits within the range of typical entry-level youth occupations such as retail, food service and cashier roles. In addition to wages, Earn & Learn youth receive:

- ✓ Engaging career readiness and financial literacy workshops
- ✓ 1.5 school credits at Milwaukee Public Schools (if enrolled) with employer verification of program completion
- ✓ Guided support in opening their first banking account, as many participants are unbanked

These additional benefits to youth maximize their Earn & Learn work experience beyond wages. For nearly 10 years, over 3,000 young people on average annually started registration forms, showing the wide interest in the program by motivated young adults and showing Earn & Learn's reputation in the community as an effective, reliable and positive experience for young adults.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

NEW THIS YEAR: TWO OPTIONS FOR BUSINESSES TO PARTNER:



WORK SITE SPONSOR

Host one or more Earn & Learn participant(s) for a full 7-week paid work experience at your workplace (\$2,500 per participant).

Benefits include:

- Access to pre-screened youth participants for your workplace.
- Employ Milwaukee remains the employer of record for the Earn & Learn participant saving your business the work of managing payroll, taxes, etc.
- Digital toolkit to promote your company's participation in Earn & Learn, building your company's brand as a community-minded employer.
- Opportunity to build a youth talent pipeline for your business.

READY TO INVEST IN MILWAUKEE'S FUTURE?

Your partnership creates meaningful work experiences that help local youth gain confidence, purpose, and career direction.

___ Yes, I would like to become a **Work Site Sponsor** (\$2,500 per participant). Scan the QR code to complete an Employer Application to be vetted as a work site.



PROGRAM CHAMPION

Designed for employers who want a deeper impact to enhance their community investment in youth talent pipelines.

\$5,000

- Complimentary tickets to Employ Milwaukee employer events in 2026
- Recognition as a Program Sponsor on Employ Milwaukee's Earn & Learn webpage and social media.

\$15,000

Includes all \$5,000 Sponsor benefits, plus:

- Priority consideration for co-branded pilot projects or special recognition in Employ Milwaukee's annual report and media releases related to Earn & Learn.
- Recognition as Program Sponsor in press materials and at major events.

\$25,000

Includes all \$15,000 Sponsor benefits, plus:

- Customized recruitment session or industry spotlight with youth participants during a career exploration session (e.g., host a site tour, workshop, or panel during Earn & Learn).
- Feature story highlighting your company's workforce leadership, shared via Employ Milwaukee's website and social channels.

___ Yes, I would like to contribute as a **Program Champion** at the (circle one or list a different amount) level.

\$5,000 \$15,000 \$25,000

Other Amount: _____

Name, Title: _____

Company: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail this form with a check to: Employ Milwaukee, Attn: Annemarie Probst, 2342 N. 27th St. Milwaukee, WI 53210.

For ACH or Credit Card payments, scan QR code to our Donate page. (Select "Earn & Learn" in the Purpose drop down)



The deadline to complete a sponsorship form is March 30, 2026.

Contact Marcia Blackman, Planning, Development and Communications Manager at marcia.blackman@employmilwaukee.org or 414-270-1730 with any questions.



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