SMART WORKS

ABOUT
Community-Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes will be encouraging young professionals to stay in the Southern Tier and to help address the growing student-debt crisis. If you are a graduate with a four-year degree or higher and student-debt, the Community Foundation will reward your volunteerism and professional investment in the Southern Tier with a monthly student loan payment program called Smart Works. The intent is to ease young professional’s financial burden by making monthly student loan payments to a lender, thereby having more money to invest locally as well as have the power to reach your personal and financial goals faster than ever.

The Community Foundation hopes that this program gives young professionals a solid reason to remain in or move to the area.

HOW IT WORKS
Smart Works is a student-debt repayment program for young professionals living and working in the Southern Tier. If selected for enrollment in Smart Works, participants will receive a $7,200 * annual and renewable benefit for up to ten years in the form of monthly student loan payments (up to $600) paid directly to their lender(s). Smart Works program participants must provide at least 4 hours of monthly meaningful volunteer service to a local non-profit of their choosing. "Meaningful volunteer service" is an official commitment or dedication to a particular nonprofit or organization. This can include, but is not limited to, serving on a Board of Directors, becoming a youth mentor, or consistent, scheduled volunteering at a local non-profit. (Please note, all volunteer activities must be approved and hours will be tracked during your time in the program.) Smart Works enrollment requires that you attend at least four quarterly meetings focused on reaching your budgeting goals and guiding your volunteering efforts.

*Payments affiliated with the program are taxable income.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Must live and work in Chemung, Steuben, Schuyler, and/or Yates County
- Live in a household with an income no greater than $96,000
- Preference given to workers in the non-profit sector and businesses with fewer than 100 employees
- Must have a four-year degree or higher
- Must provide 2 reference letters
- Candidate must pass a credit and criminal background check
- If selected, must agree to attend mandatory quarterly educational and community service-driven meetings

Applications will be accepted year-round. Go to www.communityfund.org/initiatives-trainings-programs to apply.

Please note that applications accepted during 2017 are for the pilot program launch of Smart Works. The pilot program has an extremely limited number of spots available.

Questions? Send an email to info@communityfund.org or call 607.739.3900