

## 2017 - 2018 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

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175	1	A	2

**Budget Action Title:** Request OED to explore ways to increase the number of internships the City offers through the Mayor's Youth Employment Initiative

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: González, M. Lorena

Councilmembers:

Staff Analyst: Asha Venkataraman

Date		Total	SB	TB	LG	BH	LH	RJ	DJ	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

### Statement of Legislative Intent:

This SLI requests that the Office of Economic Development (OED) explore ways to increase the number of internships the City offers through the Mayor's Youth Employment Initiative (MYEI). The MYEI began in 2015 in partnership with dozens of private employers and provided 2,000 internship and employment opportunities to Seattle's youth.

The program is steadily expanding while supporting internships for 2,700 young people in 2016 and targeting an increase to 3,000 in 2017. The MYEI has focused on developing private-sector partnerships to provide young people with employer-funded employment opportunities. Though the City does have many youth internships, the external focus differs from the model utilized by other cities in the United States in which the city primarily works to create internships within executive departments. This type of model capitalizes on the breadth of functions performed by city departments to offer youth employment opportunities in a variety of roles under the City's purview.

As OED continues to develop external partnerships and increase the number of private-sector youth-employment opportunities, it would be prudent to explore the capacity of the City's executive departments to develop internal internship programs for our youth.

The development of internal internship opportunities could focus on increasing the placement of hard-to-fit applicants in quality internships, and aligning with Seattle's commitment to the creation of the Green Pathways Program by supporting employment opportunities in green careers for people of color and from under-served communities.

This effort could further expand the number of quality employment opportunities our youth are able to access and experience while also preparing the next generation of workers and leaders for careers in both the private and the public sectors.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):** Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development and Arts Committee

**Date Due to Council:** June 1, 2017