

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 2021

Contact: Melissa Canu

Melissa.Canu@ICF.com

Phone: (571) 373-5442

Cybersecurity Youth Apprenticeship Initiative (CYAI) to partner with MySecureKid to train youth tech workers in northern Virginia

Washington, D.C. –The Cybersecurity Youth Apprenticeship Initiative (CYAI) will partner with MySecureKid, a nonprofit based in Arlington, Virginia, to provide information technology (IT) registered apprenticeship programming to youth ages 16 and 17 with a focus on girls.

Statement from Mark Ouellette, Project Manager at CYAI:

“There are more than [450,000 job openings nationally in cybersecurity, with nearly 50,000](#) of those openings in Virginia. MySecureKid’s registered apprenticeship program helps to meet this critical demand by connecting Northern Virginia youth with in-demand skills, diversifying the talent pipeline for local employers, and creating long-term career opportunities in cybersecurity.”

Statement from Quiana Gainey, Founding Director, MySecureKid:

“Motivated by a desire to increase diverse representation in the healthcare IT and cybersecurity space, MySecureKid is excited to create jobs in the DMV for underserved populations. Our hope is to educate and empower disenfranchised individuals who have systematically been left out of the industry while transforming the local economies in which MySecureKid resides. One of the main reasons we love Green Valley area in Arlington, VA is because of the diversity and the people who reside in the area.”

Background

MySecureKid and CYAI partnered to provide new opportunities for highly motivated youth to receive hands-on training and mentorship. MySecureKid’s youth apprenticeship will allow participants to earn a salary while they apply what they learned in the classroom to an actual workplace. MySecureKid provides training, certification, and hands-on experience, coupled with soft skills training, career development, mentoring, and other support services.

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[Cybersecurity Youth Apprenticeship Initiative \(CYAI\)](#) is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Office of Apprenticeship (OA). CYAI promotes sustainable development of cybersecurity apprenticeship programs for youth aged 16-21 and is administered by [ICF](#). The goal of the initiative is to create at least 900 new cybersecurity apprenticeships for youth by 2024.

[MySecureKid](#), a global 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, provides registered apprenticeship programming, cybersecurity best practice training, coding workshops, career days, virtual and in-person summer camps, and supplemental technical training programs to disadvantaged youth. Though programs primarily serve the needs of children and youth, MySecureKid also offers programming geared toward adult women and military veterans from underserved communities.

