



**CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.**  
**MOUNT VERNON YOUTH BUREAU**

**SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD**  
*Mayor*

City Hall, One Roosevelt Square  
Mount Vernon, NY 10550  
(914) 665-2344 – Fax: (914) 665-1373  
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**DEBBIE BURRELL-BUTLER, MBA**  
*Executive Director*

**DENA T. WILLIAMS, MPA**  
*Deputy Director*

December 30, 2025

Honorable Members of the City Council  
**Through the Office of the Mayor**  
City Hall – One Roosevelt Square  
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Dear Honorable Members:

This letter respectfully requests that the City Council enact legislation enabling the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services allowing the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau to accept funds of **\$30,000.00** for the Youth Bureau's **EmpowerMED** Program. The Program is scheduled to begin in February 2026 in partnership with the Mount Vernon Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein, Bronx location.

The purpose of the EmpowerMED Program is to dramatically expand students' awareness of the diverse array of careers in medicine and healthcare beyond the most visible ones. This will be accomplished by interaction with professionals across the spectrum from surgeons and radiologists to epidemiologists, clinical lab scientists, respiratory therapist, and hospital CEOs. Exposure of such will help students find a potential fit they may never have known exists, especially in high demand, high growth, technical, and supportive roles. The Mount Vernon Youth Bureau alongside with the Montefiore Hospitals will create a structure immersive experience that levels the play field, which will provide 24 high school juniors and seniors with the confidence, vocabulary, and understanding to navigate through the medical field which aid in reducing barriers for first generation, low income or unexposed minority students.

Funds are to be accounted for in revenue code A3389.1 with appropriations in budget codes: A7340.101 (Salaries), A7340.402 (Travel), A7340.405 (Contracted Outside Services), A7340.407 (Leasing & Printing), A7340.458 (Misc.), A7340.467 (Program Supplies), A7340.803 (FICA). This is a reimbursable grant which requires no matching obligation.

Please note, the award letter dates August 11, 2025, but was mailed to the Executive Director in December 2025, which resulted in the referral letter being submitting at this time. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at (914) 665-2347 or by email at [Dburrell@mountvernonny.gov](mailto:Dburrell@mountvernonny.gov).



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*Deputy Director*

Sincerely,

*Debbie Burrell-Butler*

Debbie Burrell-Butler  
Executive Director, MBA

**Enclosed: Award Letter**

**CC:** Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mayor  
Darren Morton, Comptroller  
Brian Johnson, Corporation Counsel