

We are asking for Full-time hours with benefits for Dennis Okyere, who currently works P/T as the lead at Rye Rec Aftercare and Summer Horyezons summer camp.

Dennis's background:

- NCAA Division I football athlete
- Attending UNH on a football scholarship, graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications
- Joined Rye Rec October 2021 part-time while working at Carl's Meat Market in Kittery
- August 2022, became Rye Camp Supervisor
- Coaches Rye Rec soccer and basketball.
- Now also coaching track and field, leading his team to success at the NH Rec Annual Track Meet.
- Key role in organizing the Rye Rec summer programs.
- Because he is still only P/T at Rye Rec, still working a second job at Carl's
- Was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the Town for his actions in July of this year when he helped his Portsmouth neighbors during a fire and alerted first responders the home was clear saving potential injury to those first responders. This is the kind of person we want teaching, coaching, and mentoring our kids

Dennis is currently at 30 hours - The additional 10 hours are easily filled. Per Dyana (Rye Rec. Director):

- planning events and activities for the afterschool program and the summer camp program
- taking on the coordination and set up of the youth sports which include:
 - basketball,
 - soccer and
 - ski program

The work supports the additional 10 hours, and the Fulltime position with benefits. But beyond that, we have a unique and rare opportunity to keep an employee who has demonstrated over and over again his work ethic, dedication and commitment to Rye and our kids. This Town has been saying for years we need to attract and keep families – this is part of how we do that. We need a strong aftercare program and sports programming not only to help families in Rye but to help raise, strong, kind, independent kids.

Letting this slip simply because it requires additional funding is a major loss to the working families in Rye. We are telling you loud and clear, this is important to us, to our community, and to our kids.

According to Youth.gov¹:

“Effective afterschool programs can support social, emotional, cognitive, and academic development, reduce risky behaviors, promote physical health, and provide a safe and supportive environment for children and youth.”

“Other benefits include: Social and Emotional Learning; Academic Support; School Participation; Safety; [and] **Supporting Working Families.**”

¹ <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/afterschool-programs/benefits-youth-families-and-communities>