



SFY 2024-2025 Youth at Work Opportunity Grant

Legislative Report

12/11/2024

Department of Employment and Economic Development
Office of Youth Development

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Table of Contents

- Background 1
- Impact for SFY 2024..... 2
- Overview of Request for Proposals Process 2
- Program Activities 2
- Selection of Grantees..... 3
- Project Descriptions and Success Stories..... 5
- Program Data and Outcomes..... 14

Minnesota Youth at Work Opportunity Grant

Background

Minnesota Statutes ([116L.562](#)) authorize the youth competitive grants directing DEED to “award grants to eligible organizations for the purpose of providing workforce development and training opportunities to economically disadvantaged or at-risk youth ages 14-24.” The total amount of funding appropriated is

\$7,448,000 each year; \$6,698,000 from the Workforce Development Fund and \$750,000 from the General Fund. SFY22-23 legislation permits DEED to retain five percent of these funds for administration and monitoring, making the total amount available for grants equal to \$7,075,600 per year.¹

The Youth at Work RFP identified the following priorities, impact areas, and goals for all proposals:

- Provide summer and/or year-round work experience and introduction to career pathways for economically disadvantaged or at-risk youth, ages 14 through 24 (including those who are out-of-school and/or involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, residing in MFIP households, youth with disabilities, and youth from communities of color who are under-represented in the workforce; homeless and/or runaways); and,
- Increase exposure to in-demand jobs important to regional economies; and,
- Introduce and promote career pathways and skill acquisition (academic and work readiness) through project-based instruction; and,
- Promote mastery of work readiness competencies and 21st Century skills, as demonstrated through workplace portfolios and other assessments; and,
- Provide high-quality worksites and overall participant and employer satisfaction.

Based on the language in M.S. [116L.562](#), priority is provided to programs that:

1. Provide students with information about education and training requirements for careers in high-growth, in-demand occupations;
2. Serve youth from communities of color who are under-represented in the workforce; or
3. Serve youth with disabilities.

Under M.S. [116L.562](#), Subd. 2, “eligible applicants/organizations” means a local government unit, nonprofit organization, community action agency or a public school district. In addition, applicant agencies:

1. Must have demonstrated effectiveness in administering youth workforce programs and must leverage non-state or private sector funds.
2. Must be youth-serving organizations with significant capacity and demonstrable youth development experience and outcomes to operate a youth workforce development project.
3. If a program is not operated by a local unit of government or a workforce development board, the grant recipient must coordinate the program with the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB).

¹ [Minnesota Session Laws – 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 53, S.F. 3035, Article 20 Sec. 2 Subdivision 3\(l\)](#)

Impact for SFY 2024

- 7,511 Individuals served (19% increase from SFY 2023)
- 76% of participants receiving services identified as BIPOC
- 64% were from families receiving public assistance
- 50% obtained high school diploma, GED, remained in school, obtained a certificate or degree, or returned to school
- 26.7% Entered post-secondary education, vocational/occupational skills training, an apprenticeship, or military service.

Overview of Request for Proposals Process

- The RFP was posted on DEED's website in January 2023 under [Grant and Contract Opportunities](#).
- The DEED Communications team proactively notified individuals, organizations, the Governor's Workforce Development Board, Councils of Color, and an extensive list of interested parties regarding the release of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Youth at Work Competitive Grant. The Youth Development team shared the Youth at Work RFP with the Shared Vision for Youth interagency workgroup and their networks. Also, pursuant to State law, the State Register included information about RFPs available through DEED including the Youth at Work Competitive Grant.
- The RFP directed potential applicants to submit all questions on the RFP in writing via e-mail to a specified DEED contact. All questions submitted in writing were answered on a weekly basis and published on DEED's [Grant and Contract Opportunities](#) website.
- DEED's Office of Youth Development hosted an Informational Webinar about the Youth at Work funding opportunity. A link to the recorded webinar was available on demand on DEED's [Grant and Contract Opportunities](#) webpage.
- DEED's Office of Youth Development received **80** proposals requesting **more than \$26 million dollars**. Approximately **71%** of funds requested focused on the Twin Cities area; **23%** of funds focused on Greater Minnesota, and 6% of funds targeted Minnesota statewide. Approximately **61%** of available funds were awarded to the Twin Cities area and **37%** allocated to Greater Minnesota, and 2% to Twin Cities and 2% for statewide projects.

Program Activities

The Youth at Work Opportunity Grant provides grantees with the flexibility to provide youth with a variety of programming opportunities.

The definitions are broad and the following information provides example activities that align with each category:

1. **Employment Preparation** – activities including resume writing, job searching, labor market information, soft skills training, job shadowing, business tours, etc.
2. **Job Training** – activities that support youth in receiving industry-recognized credentials, industry-specific certifications, and digital literacy skills development.
3. **Internships or Work Experiences** – Paid experiences in which youth can apply technical and soft skills.
4. **Financial Literacy** – trainings, workshops, and curriculum in which youth learn about financial literacy concepts.
5. **Academic Support** – activities that support youth from dropping out of secondary school including earning academic credit, literacy and numeracy skills development, and tutoring.

6. **Post-Secondary Education Support** – activities that help youth explore post-secondary options, college tours, application, and financial aid assistance.

Selection of Grantees

Over \$25.5 million in funding requests were submitted to DEED. Only \$7,075,600 was available for grant awards in the SFY 2023-24 funding cycle. All proposals were read and scored by a team of Community and State-level reviewers. The following 47 organizations were recommended for funding:

Organization	Area Served	SFY 2024 Grant Award	SFY 2025 Grant Award
Achieve Twin Cities	Minneapolis/St. Paul	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00
African Community Services	West Metro	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
African Immigrant Community Services	Hennepin/Ramsey (7 county metro area)	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
American Indian OIC	South Minneapolis	\$176,059.00	\$176,059.00
Anoka County	Anoka County and surrounding areas	\$147,150.00	\$147,150.00
Appetite for Change	North Minneapolis	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Banyan Community	South Minneapolis	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Brooklynk (Grantee is Brooklyn Park Econ. Dev. Authority)	Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00
Career Solutions (WDA 17)	Benton/Stearns Counties	\$115,816.00	\$115,816.00
Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization (CAIRO)	Benton/Stearns Counties	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
City of Duluth	Duluth	\$236,800.00	\$236,800.00
City of Minneapolis (WDA 10)	Minneapolis	\$775,000.00	\$775,000.00
City of St. Paul Right Track	St. Paul	\$775,000.00	\$775,000.00
Cloquet Public Schools	Carlton, Southern St. Louis County, City of Cloquet, Fond du Lac Reservation and Fond du Lac Service Area	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
CLUES	Metro	\$134,555.00	\$134,555.00
CMJTS (WDA 5)	WDA 5 – Central MN	\$188,000.00	\$188,000.00
Construction Careers Foundation	Hennepin/Ramsey	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Cookie Cart	Minneapolis/St. Paul	\$82,972.00	\$82,972.00
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School	Metro	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00

Organization	Area Served	SFY 2024 Grant Award	SFY 2025 Grant Award
Dunwoody College	Metro, North Minneapolis, Cedar Riverside	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
East Side Neighborhood Services	Minneapolis	\$89,713.00	\$89,713.00
Elpis Enterprises	Hennepin and Ramsey Counties	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Face to Face*	Ramsey and Dakota County	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Faribault Public Schools	Rice County	\$83,712.00	\$83,712.00
Goodwill Easter Seals	Willmar, St. Cloud, and the Twin Cities Metro Area	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Greater Bemidji	Headwaters Region including Red Lake, Leech Lake, and White Earth Reservations	\$197,500.00	\$197,500.00
HIRED	Ramsey and Dakota County	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00
Karen Organization Minnesota	Metro, Ramsey County	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
Keystone Community Services	St. Paul	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00
MAHUBE-OTWA	Mahnomen, Hubbard, Becker, Otter Tail, Wadena Counties	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Merrick Community Services	St. Paul and surrounding Ramsey communities	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	MLBO Catchment Area (Districts overlapping Aitkin, Mille Lacs, and Pine Counties)	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
NEMOJT - WDA 3	Northeast MN - 7 county region	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Pine Technical College	Pine Mille Lacs, Chisago, Kanade, Isanti County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Project for Pride in Living	Hennepin County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Project Legacy	Olmsted, Winona, Bemidji, Fergus Falls, Hennepin, and Ramsey Counties	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
Red Lake Nation	Red Lake Nation	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
Reve Academy	Minneapolis	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Rural CEP	WDA 2 - 19 Counties	\$110,000.00	\$110,000.00

Organization	Area Served	SFY 2024 Grant Award	SFY 2025 Grant Award
RWDA 5 (MN Valley Action Council for SC Workforce Council)	Upper and Lower Sioux Communities, 23 Counties in Southwest/South Central MN	\$448,323.00	\$448,323.00
Somali Community Resettlement Services	Olmsted, Rice, and Hennepin Counties	\$100,000.00	N/A
Studio 180	South Minneapolis	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Tree Trust	Beltrami County, Red Lake Nation	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Urban Boatbuilders	Ramsey/Hennepin County	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Urban Roots	St. Paul	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Wildflyer Coffee	Hennepin/Ramsey County	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
Workforce Development Inc. (WDA 8)	Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona Counties in Southeast Minnesota	\$225,000.00	\$225,000.00
Total:		\$7,075,600.00	\$6,975,600.00

Project Descriptions and Success Stories

Achieve Twin Cities - \$125,000. Achieve's Career and College Readiness (CCR) program clears the path for high school students to begin purposeful, life-sustaining careers after graduating high school. We partner with MPS and SPPS districts to provide individualized, student-centered postsecondary advising and coordinate CCR resources and activities.

Contact: Danielle Grant, dgrant@achievetwincities.org

African Community Services - \$50,000. Youth Self-Empowerment will provide career exploration and training for Somali youth. It will include opportunities to find training and employment. Participants will also be supported with remedial classes through community college or GED program. ESL courses will also be leveraged to improve participants' language skills.

Contact: Hassan Omar, homar@africans.org

African Immigrant Community Services (AICS) - \$100,000. This project will provide job readiness workshops, support services, advocacy, IT training and certification. Internship and job placement will be a priority for the youth served under this program.

Contact: Mohamed Ahmed, m.ahmed@aicsmn.org

Success Story - Saamiya, a student who recently moved to the United States from the UK to live with her father. Initially receiving other services from AICS, Saamiya learned about our Youth at Work program and was eager to join, hoping it would help her familiarize herself with the U.S. and their learning styles. She enrolled in the Digital Marketing training and internship with Hadia Media and successfully completed both. Saamiya received career guidance, built her resume, and applied for jobs. She eventually secured her first job as an administrative assistant at a group home. Saamiya is thrilled to begin her new career journey in the United States and plans to apply for colleges for the fall semester.

American Indian OIC - \$176,059. Through hands-on experience and career pathways exposure, youth of color will be prepared to pursue education and employment in fields that have current and projected labor demand in the Twin Cities.

Contact: Joe Hobot, joeh@aioic.org

Success Story – Elisa, a 19-year-old Native youth enrolled into the YAW program and was very motivated to share her dream of completing High School and go to college. Aside from all the many challenges she was facing in her family and personal life, she was determined to achieve her high school diploma. When discussing her work plan and goals, she felt she really needed keep her attention on school for now and see how things went and then move forward to a possible internship and then onto a job for the summer. She started to attend our Thursday youth evening programming where she completed the financial literacy training, O’Net work readiness training, the U of M school of dentistry pathway career night, as well as many other work readiness sessions that happened during those evening programming nights. She also started driver’s education and will be attending more work readiness career sessions in the coming months, especially the Apprenticeship information session that will coming up in this next quarter where she will participated in learning all about apprenticeship opportunities and pathways. Elisa is doing well in HS and will be going on the college tours. In the meantime, staff are spending time with her to chart out a college plan since she is currently taking college classes while in HS and plans for a job for the summer and staff and her will work on other goals she may have.

Anoka County - \$147,150. Assist youth in gaining marketable skills through meaningful, paid work experiences/internships and/or training that results in industry recognized credentials that align with high-growth, demand-driven career pathway opportunities.

Contact: Nicole Swanson, nicole.swanson@co.anoka.mn.us

Appetite for Change - \$100,000. Appetite for Change will provide training, employment, and leadership opportunities for BIPOC youth in North Minneapolis through the Youth Training and Opportunity Program (YTOP). Youth will learn skills that will help them succeed in a variety of careers, primarily in the food industry, IT, and healthcare sectors.

Contact: Tasha Powell, tasha@afcmn.org

Banyan Community - \$60,000. ASPIRE is an intensive high school academic support program focused on tutoring support, mentoring, family engagement, college readiness, and graduation from high school. Students benefit from one-on-one tutoring, mentoring, accountability, and parental involvement. Contact: Carl Schlueter, carl@banyancommunity.org

Brooklynk - \$125,000. Youth at Work funds will be used to coordinate partnerships that prepare employers to engage the next generation of workers and to connect young people in the Brooklyns facing barriers to employment with the skills experiences and professional social networks needed to develop their pathway to college and career.

Contact: Breanne Rothstein, breanne.rothstein@brooklynpark.org

Career Solutions - \$115,816. Provide youth with intensive services through case managed support. Youth will have the opportunity to build, demonstrate, and document work readiness skills through experiential learning opportunities and work experiences. Contact: Tammy Biery, tammy.biery@csjobs.org

Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization (CAIRO) - \$150,000. MySTEP is a project designed to provide black immigrant and refugee youth in Central Minnesota with targeted career exploration and preparation opportunities. The goals of the project are to provide access to high-quality education and training opportunities, increase soft skills, and personal development, improve employability, and foster a supportive and inclusive community among program participants. Through MyStep, underserved black immigrant and refugee youth will gain the skills, knowledge, and

experience necessary to succeed in high-growth and in-demand occupations, ultimately creating a more equitable workforce in Minnesota.

Contact: Abdikadir Bashir, bashir@cairomn.org

City of Duluth - \$236,800. Increase work readiness and employment skills of economically disadvantaged and at-risk youth, emphasizing GED/diploma completion, work readiness training, paid work experience, and career pathways.

Contact: Elena Foshay, efoshay@duluthmn.gov

Success Story - Naomi was referred to YES Duluth by Life House in April of 2023. At the time of enrollment, Naomi was unhoused, had not completed high school, was unemployed and is the mother of two special needs children. With the support of GED stipend payments and support services through Youth at Work, Naomi completed her GED credential, with Life House as the primary case manager and YES Duluth supporting the efforts. Near the completion of her GED, Naomi's YES Duluth counselor began working on a transition plan from Life House being the primary case manager to YES Duluth taking the lead. Naomi has been working closely with YES Duluth this year to explore career pathways and post-secondary training options that fit the needs of her family. With her YES Duluth counselor, Naomi has completed her FAFSA, found an online training program in the health care professional field, enrolled in college, and has a clear path for training and career progression.

City of Minneapolis (Step Up) - \$775,000. Step up brings together Minneapolis young people with Twin Cities employers through internships and training that build careers and lead to a diverse, skilled, and equitable workforce.

Contact: Deb Bahr-Helgen, deb.bahr-helgen@minneapolismn.gov

City of St. Paul (Right Track) - \$775,000. Young people will develop work readiness skills through job training and work experience. Youth will explore potential career pathways and develop relationships with adults and build their own professional networks. Paid work experiences and financial literacy training will also be provided to youth participants.

Contact: Andy Rodriguez, andy.rodriguez@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Success Story – Summer began her journey with Right Track in 2019 and has engaged in internships the past five summers. During her time in Right Track, Summer has had multiple work experiences, allowing her to explore different career fields and gain insights into her strengths and interests. In the summer of 2024, she interned at the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA) where she handled administrative tasks, processed appeals, and completed special projects. This internship opened doors for Summer, leading to a full-time position as a Court Scheduler at the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). As Sumer says, "Right Track did impact my career choice. With the diverse work environments that I have worked in, I have acquired new knowledge and skills. I am grateful to have joined Right Track as a participant over the years. The program has helped provide me career-readiness and gain self-awareness about myself. I wouldn't be where I am today without the program and my summer internships."

Cloquet Public Schools - \$100,000. Expand CTE course offerings and include partnership with Fond du Lac Ojibwe School for increased secondary opportunities in the CTE field for targeted Native American participation.

Contact: Teresa Angell, tangell@isd94.org

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) - \$134,555. CLUES is proposing to expand its existing Clubhouse to Careers Pathways (C2C) programming which operates through its Teen Tech Center. This intensive ten-month after-school program provides classroom and workforce training twice per week followed by optional paid internships during the summer with our area partners.

Contact: Ruby Lee, rlee@clues.org

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS) - \$188,000. Improve work readiness and career pathway awareness through Operation Exploration (OE), in innovative hands-on career exploration camp focusing on in-demand career pathways-healthcare, trades, manufacturing, and/or information technology. Youth will earn credentials or certificates of completion based on industry camp. After OE, based on individual needs, youth will participate in a work-based learning experience, service-learning project, and/or credentialed training. In addition, help homeless youth and youth with disabilities develop independent living skills necessary to increase self-reliance and stability.

Contact: Dina Wuornos, dwuornos@cmjts.org

Success Story – Porter, a senior at Annandale High School is a hands-on learner who struggles with classroom work and had never thought much about going to college. After career exploration and discussion with his Career Navigator at CMJTS, he completed a college application and was accepted into the high-demand Electrical Line Worker Program at M State in Wadena. He is now taking a PSEO class which is saving him \$500 in future tuition. Porter also enrolled in the Heavy Equipment Operator Program at Wright Technical Center and has already earned the OSHA 10 certification. Currently, Porter is working at Lundeen bros. in Annandale earning \$15 per hour while working on earning his Commercial Driver’s License. Porter is looking forward to starting college!

Construction Careers Foundation - \$50,000. Minnesota Trades Academy provides high school students with hands-on skill building, personal development, and knowledge of how to access jobs in the construction industry. Students participate in a paid \$15/hr 8-week summer internship and gain opportunity to earn OSHA 10 certification. Trades Navigators will develop close relationships with youth to help identify barriers to success.

Contact: Pat Wagner, pwagner@ontrackforlife.com

Cookie Cart - \$82,972. Cookie Cart will provide 30 BIPOC youth the opportunity to participate in paid work experiences and career readiness training to build employment, life, and leadership skills needed for success in future employment.

Contact: Cynthia Fraction, cfraction@cookiecart.org

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School - \$100,000. Cristo Rey will further maximize career readiness for 450 underserved youth of color by teaching and utilizing technical skills across 4-year business curricula and Corporate Work Study Program and maximizing student performance and company satisfaction through the use of client relations managers.

Contact: Jason Morrison, jasonmorrison@cristoreytc.org

Dunwoody College - \$150,000. This project will build career pathways for under-served and under-represented students leading to certificates or associate degrees and career attainment in high-growth, in-demand careers.

Contact: Rich Wagner, rwagner@dunwoody.edu

East Side Neighborhood Services - \$89,713. FutureConnect targets youth affected by disparities and prepares them for sustainable employment by providing work readiness, career exploration, and connections with community -minded employers who need promising, effective workers.

Contact: Mary Anstett, manstett@esns.org

Elpis Enterprises - \$50,000. The employment readiness training program and career pathway support offers 500 or more hours of employment readiness training, career exploration, and career pathway guidance. Our social enterprises are the starting point for careers related to manufacturing, production, construction, and business services as well as back office and administration aspects of high growth sectors. Paid work experiences are provided to youth participants.

Contact: Paul Ramsour, paul@elpisenterprises.org

Success Story - Terriannah, attended a Hands on Hope networking and met a representative from Minneapolis Kids. During the summer she interviewed with that organization, and in early September she was hired for the school year to work as a teaching assistant at \$19 per hour. Terriannah started her internship with an interest in working with children, and the many woodworking field trips she participated in only solidified that interest. She gained more experience by teaching kids how to build birdhouses and bird feeders, and by the time she left Elpis, Terriannah had gained a lot of confidence in her abilities. She was able to benefit directly from her internship in working with kids and from the networking opportunities she received at Elpis, which led her directly to her job.

Face to Face - \$100,000. This project will provide work experience, job-readiness training, education assistance, and wraparound supports so that youth can pursue their career aspirations.

Contact: Hanna Getachew-Kreusser, getachew-kreusser@face2face.org

Success Story - Sara has had a great month in the program and at SafeZone, starting her internship at a local salon in order to learn the hairstyling business. She also made a business pitch to the Director of Youth and Family Services to do some hairstyling at SafeZone for youth to help build up her portfolio.

After new positions opened up to work as a Peer Educator at SafeZone, Sara also applied and was accepted to that part-time position. As a Peer Educator, Sara supports her peers at SafeZone who are looking for education, resources, and referrals regarding their substance use. Sara's work has provided a positive influence in the space, not just building her own resume but also supporting other youth on their own journeys. Sara has expressed interest in opening her own business in the future, and we are supporting her as she explores her options after her internship concludes. We've helped her create business cards and connected her to resources like Bridgemakers so that she can continue to pursue her career interests around business.

Faribault Public Schools - \$83,712. Leveraging a community-wide coalition of more than 20 partners committed to supporting youth efforts, Building Bridges will provide advising, mentoring, academic support, career exploration, and career pathways to at least 50 Faribault youth who have dropped out of school since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Contact: Jamie Bente, jbente@faribault.k12.mn.us

Success Story - Leslie dropped out of high school and repeatedly declared to family, friends, and school partners that she was never going back. After learning about the Faribault Education Center (FEC) and the "Building Bridges" program, Leslie's mom brought her into the FEC. The Navigator met with Leslie and helped outline for her the variety of different options she had to complete schooling. Struggling with anxiety, Leslie decided to try returning through the online GED program. She received a computer, and this quarter completed the final coursework. She has now earned her GED! Even more exciting, Leslie now has confidence in her academic abilities. She shared with her Navigator that she wants to go into the medical profession. Her Navigator helped her sign up for a career pathway program and the local phlebotomy program. Despite her social anxiety, Leslie has opted to attend classes in-person – and she recently signed up as a volunteer at a local Blood Drive (based on the recommendation of her Navigator). It has been inspiring to see Leslie gain confidence and the impact that this is having on her ability to access opportunities for her future.

Goodwill Easter Seals - \$100,000. Explore, Learn, and Earn in Vocational and Academic Training Experiences (ELEVATE) is a comprehensive learn and earn career exploration model where youth discover their interests, connect with employers from in-demand occupations and participate in paid work-based learning.

Contact: Jim Durdle, jdurdle@gesmn.org

Greater Bemidji - \$197,500. Introduce youth to technical skills and employment. Participants create an individual development/employment plan including options to learn about employer expectations, work readiness, careers in high demand occupations and technical training in mechatronics. Work experiences are also provided to participants.

Contact: Dave Hengel, dhengel@greaterbemidji.com

Hired - \$125,000. Hired will provide youth with workforce skills training and experiences for careers in high-demand occupations. The work will position the youth away from further justice involvement and toward work, careers, and a future where they can build equitable wealth. Activities include pre-employment skills, work readiness skills training, career exposure, introduction to career pathways, and credentials. Barriers will be eliminated through support services and individual coaching.

Contact: Julie Brekke, Julie.Brekke@hired.org

Success Story - A participant came out of a chemical dependency treatment program and reached out right away to get reconnected with Hired counselor. He is still going to be completing some outpatient obligations but is very excited and motivated to get back to work. He's stated he appreciates the Hired counselor and how the Youth at Work program has been able to help support and get him back on the right track.

Karen Organization of Minnesota - \$90,000. The What's Next training program will provide training, individualized coaching, and service-learning opportunities for refugee youth ages 14-24 to identify their skills, career interest, pursue work experiences in their desired fields, and develop leadership skills.

Contact: Eh Tah Khu, ekhu@mnkaren.org

Keystone Community Services - \$65,000. Increase youth competitiveness for future educational and employment opportunities by providing meaningful paid internships with opportunities for leadership and personal development.

Contact: Mary McKeown, mmckeown@keystoneservices.org

MAHUBE-OTWA - \$50,000. Support enrolled youth parents and their families on an employment pathway toward life-sustaining wages as part of a two-generational approach to move families out of poverty.

Contact: Liz Kuoppala, lkuoppala@mahube.org

Merrick Community Services - \$100,000. Mpower's mission is to develop foundational life skills, offer career exploration opportunities, and build pathways to meaningful and lucrative careers.

Contact: Daniel Rodriguez, droduiguez@merrickcs.org

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe - \$100,000. The MLBO Aanjibimaadizing Department will use Youth at Work funding to provide summer internships and parallel ten-week job training classes.

Contact: Tammy Wickstrom, tammy.wickstrom@millelacsband.com

Success Story - Youth were paired with a career mentor in fields of work the youth expressed interest in. Some of those fields included DNR Fisheries, Population Health Management, Aanji Auto Garage, Aanji Maintenance Department, Ge-Niigaaniziig, and the District II Representative's office. The interns were on the job with their career mentors on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Some of the interns had the opportunity to work additional hours with their mentor. On Thursdays, interns worked on a Community Service projects such as building dog houses for community members and learning to make moccasin patterns for the moccasin making courses being offered in the community. The interns built four dog houses for community members over the summer. With an additional 33 being built after the summer. These dog houses were given out free to any tribal elder or tribal member who wanted one. They learned to measure out cuts,

use a drill, use a chop saw, and use a jig saw. They cut out 20-30 patterns for moccasins and even learned how to sew them together. The program also taught the youth the importance of balancing work and fun. Three of these youth received high school credits for their internship experience this summer.

Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training (NEMOJT) - \$100,000. Services will be provided to youth in tandem with WIOA and MYP programming. Programming will include career awareness activities, career camps, postsecondary and industry tours. Apprenticeship opportunities will be available for youth through union contractors. Other paid work experiences with local employers will be available to youth participants as well.

Contact: Marie Domiano, marie.domiano@nemojt.org

Pine Technical College - \$50,000. The Alternative College Pathway Program will provide students with career exploration advising and student needs assessments. Students will also complete introductory credit-based course offerings in 5 high growth or in-demand occupations. Life skills training and resources will be offered to participants as well.

Contact: Wendy Walburg, wendy.walburg@pine.edu

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) - \$50,000. The overarching goal of PPL's Youth Employment Strategies is to implement employment focused resources and services to the Opportunity youth served at PPL's contract alternative schools and the students served in our LEAP network to improve their education, employment, and overall life outcomes through our Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) course work and access to earn and learn work experiences through apprenticeship opportunities.

Contact: Amy Anlauf, amy.anlauf@ppl-inc.org

Project Legacy - \$200,000. The goal of Project Legacy is to assist low-income, marginalized BIPOC youth and young adults enroll in college and get a post-secondary degree or certificate to increase opportunities for employment, higher wage earnings, job retention, and opportunities for career growth. In addition, all participants receive access to assistance securing a job post-degree or certificate attainment.

Contact: Karen Edmonds, karedmonds.mn@gmail.com

Red Lake Nation - \$300,000. Youth will participate in work readiness training that includes career exploration activities, postsecondary education exploration, and paid 12-week work experiences. Wraparound case management services will be provided to youth in addition to intergenerational cultural activities focused on family wellbeing.

Contact: Jerry Loud, jloud@redlakenation.org

Reve Academy - \$50,000. Youth at Work funds would be used to support expansion of Reve Academy's career readiness pathway programs. These are focused on school partnerships, internships with business and entrepreneurial opportunities. Funds will also focus on expanding a pilot program that began in 2021. Focus is on digital skill building, project management, and mentorship of youth.

Contact: Brad von Bank, brad@reveacademy.org

Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Programs (RMCEP) - \$110,000. The primary goal in this initiative will be to provide a recognized credential in one of the identified career pathways and pair the training with a related work-based learning experience. Each youth participant who is placed in work-based learning will be mentored for development of employability skills.

Contact: Tina Jaster, tinaj@rmcep.com

Southwest MN Private Industry Council and South-Central Workforce Council/Minnesota Valley Action Council (RWDA 5) - \$448,323. RWDA 5 Youth at Work Project will focus on eliminating barriers contributing to economic disparities by supporting at-risk BIPOC and disabled youth in completing high school education, preparing for the world of work through work readiness skills training, exploring in-demand occupations through labor market information and career events, learning positive work habits through work experiences and helping identify career goals and the pathway to that career while building a talented pipeline of workers for local employers.

Contact: Amanda Mackie, amanda@mnavac.org

Somali Community Resettlement Services – \$100,000. Youth will be provided career counseling including information on specific career paths that are in-demand – and needed within the Southeast region of the state. Participants will have an opportunity to speak directly with local employers and tour various businesses. SCRS will focus on high school completion (diploma/GED) but also explore secondary education pathways. Youth will have the opportunity to job shadow or participate in a paid work experience.

Contact: Abdullah Hared, anhared@somalcrs.org

Studio 180 - \$50,000. Work with high school seniors to provide construction trades programming. In addition, mentorship, financial literacy, career development and planning will be provided to youth.

Contact: Art Erickson, art@studio-180.org

Tree Trust - \$100,000. Tree Trust will provide paid career readiness training and technical workforce training in skilled trades and green industry. Participants can earn industry recognized credentials, academic credit, and technical skills. Project-based learning and case management model will be utilized.

Contact: Jared Smith, jareds@treetrust.org

Success Story - Will joined Tree Trust's Branches program as he was interested in pursuing a career in tree care. He earned a Tree Care Industry Association Intro to Arboriculture and Safety Certificate and a First Aid and CPR Certificate at Tree Trust. Will also gained valuable experience learning how to care for trees throughout their lifecycle. He learned proper planting and pruning techniques, chainsaw operation, general trail maintenance, and landscaping. Will is enjoying his current role in tree care for YTS Companies, LLC. He uses skills learned in Branches, including operating a chipper, blower, and chainsaw. Will desires to continually advance his career through promotion to different roles in the tree care industry.

Urban Boatbuilders - \$100,000. The apprenticeship program provides paid employment training to underserved youth facing barriers to employment. In addition to building boat, youth engage in weekly workshops and training ranging from self-advocacy in the workplace to financial literacy.

Contact: Marc Hosmer, info@urbanboatbuilders.org

Urban Roots - \$100,000. Urban Roots will offer career readiness training and educational offerings reaching 85 youth per year. Programming will offset the costs of our paid internship program not covered by Right Track and other sources. Three program tracks are offered to youth and provide them with paid work experience and community interaction. Participants who explore the food/culinary track will earn a ServSafe certificate.

Contact: Hayley Ball, hayleyball@urbanrootsmn.org

Wildflyer Coffee - \$200,000. Participants will participate in a 4-month paid work experience and receive customer service training. Employment support specialists will work with youth to ensure they are on track to complete programming successfully. Mental health supports are offered to youth throughout programming.

Contact: Carley Kammerer, carley@wildflyercoffee.com

Workforce Development, Inc. - \$225,000. Viewing Your Future will provide youth and young adults from underrepresented communities with Virtual Reality Career Exploration in high-growth, in-demand occupations. Youth will have the opportunity to explore various career pathways through a virtual reality headset that puts them directly in the career field. Once youth have identified a career path, they will have the opportunity to engage in work experiences, work-based learning, and career pathways programming.

Contact: Jinny Rietmann, jrietmann@wdimn.org

Program Data and Outcomes

The following chart shows the various demographic, activities, and programmatic outcomes of Youth at Work participants. The number of individual participants served reflect youth participants who received services through a case management style of service delivery. Group services reflect youth who did not receive case management services, but rather received programming received in a group setting like participation in a job fair or college tour. There are some youth who received both individualized and group services while enrolled in their respective Youth at Work program.

DATA ON PARTICIPANTS SERVED – INDIVIDUAL SERVICES - (Cumulative for SFY 2024)

Total Individual Participants Served		7,511	
Total Group Services		6,639	
Total Individual and Group Services		14,150	
Demographic Data for Individual Services		Number of Individual Services	Percent of Individual Services
Gender	Female	3,902	52.0%
	Male	3,500	46.6%
	Other	109	1.5%
Age	14 – 15	1,107	14.7%
	16 – 17	2,204	29.3%
	18 – 21	3,925	52.3%
	22 – 24	228	3.0%
Ethnicity / Race	Hispanic/Latino	1,351	18.0%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	231	3.1%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	1,142	15.2%
	Black or African American	2,500	33.3%
	White	2,112	28.1%
	Multiracial	487	6.5%
	Not Disclosed	306	4.1%

Demographic Data for Individual Services		Number of Individual Services	Percent of Individual Services
Education Level	0 – 12 th Grade	6,754	89.9%
	High School graduate or equivalent	520	6.9%
	Post-Secondary Education	112	1.5%
	Not Employed at Program Enrollment	1,146	15.3%
Other Demographics	Basic Skills Deficient	1,592	21.2%
	Potential Dropout	292	3.9%
	Economically Disadvantaged	5,457	72.7%
	Youth with a Disability	1,099	14.6%
	Limited English Proficient	1,060	14.1%
	Pregnant or Parenting	147	2.0%
	Offender	195	2.6%
	Homeless or Runaway Youth	336	4.5%
	Foster Youth (or aged out of foster care)	118	1.6%
	Youth from Families Receiving Public Assistance	4,824	64.2%

**PROGRAM SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, AND OTHER RELATED ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL SERVICES -
(Cumulative for the SFY)**

	Number of Individual Services	Percent of Individual Services
Received Education, Employment Preparation, or Work Readiness/Job Training Activities (Includes Training in ABE/Remedial, Basic Skills, Classroom, Labor Market Info, Life Skills, and Occupational Skills)	945	12.6%
Received Work Experience, Internship, or Apprenticeship Activities	2,554	34.0%
Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	94	1.3%
Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities	4,698	62.5%
Received Mentoring Activities	296	3.9%
Received Support Services	40	0.5%
Financial Literacy	50	0.7%

INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL SERVICES - (Cumulative for the SFY)

	Number of Individual Services	Percent of Individual Services
Attained Work Readiness and/or Education Goals	4,149	55.2%
Received Academic Credit or Service-Learning Credit	342	4.6%
Obtained High School Diploma, GED, Remained in School, Obtained a Certificate or Degree, or Dropout - Returned to School	3,776	50.3%
Entered Post Secondary Education, Vocational/Occupational Skills Training, Apprenticeship, or Military	2,004	26.7%
Entered employment	88	1.2%
Retained employment, increased wages, or advanced career	-	0.0%
Completed Program Objective	5,090	67.8%