

**MINNESOTA BLUEPRINT FOR SHARED VISION FOR YOUTH  
Interagency Projects Supporting Positive Outcomes for At-Risk Youth**

**Vision:** “By age 25, Minnesota’s young people will be ready for the responsibilities and rewards of economic self-sufficiency, healthy family and social relationships, community involvement, stable housing and life-long learning.”

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *State and local agencies will collaborate to assure that Minnesota’s neediest youth will acquire the talents, skills, and knowledge necessary to ensure their healthy transition to successful adult roles and responsibilities.*

Outcomes				
Improve Transition Outcomes for Juvenile Offenders	Improve Transition Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care	Improve Transition Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities	Prevent and End Homelessness	Reduce High School Dropout Rates
Strategies				
<p><b>Anoka County Juvenile Corrections</b></p> <p>Increased referrals of youth on probation or transitioning from the Juvenile Center. Empowers provides counseling &amp; guidance to both juvenile and adult offenders on seeking employment with a criminal background. JTC has a current staff person who serves as a liaison with Corrections.</p>	<p><b>Anoka County Social Services – Foster Care Unit</b></p> <p>Increased collaboration with county social workers to identify and serve youth aging out of the foster care system and assist them with the application process to the program. In addition, attend IEP meetings and work with the designated team of professionals providing support to disabled foster youth.</p>	<p><b>Northwest Metro CTIC (Community Transition Interagency Committee)</b></p> <p>Improved collaboration through a special education cooperative interagency committee for youth with disabilities, beginning at grade 9 or age equivalent, and their families. ACJTC’s DRC is an active member of this committee.</p>	<p><b>Job Corps</b></p> <p>Expand relationship with St. Paul Job Corps Center providing young adults with resources that would benefit them after completing a Job Corps training program. Job Corps has a high population of low-income, HS dropouts, and homeless youth. Increase information to staff as well to better understand which youth would qualify for certain programs.</p>	<p><b>Area School District Targeted Mailings</b></p> <p>Provide program information to schools for them to send to students that drop out of school. Increase partnerships with different programs that help individuals who have already dropped out of school.</p>

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<p><b>Compass Program</b> Increased outreach to educational programs with high population of youth offenders or those dismissed from typical academic setting for behavioral reasons.</p>	<p><b>Area School District Case Managers and Work Experience Coordinators</b> Build stronger school and community partnerships to connect youth with resources beyond secondary school structure. Anoka County's Outreach to School efforts is the structured approach to establishing these connections.</p>	<p><b>Hope4Youth Outreach and Hope Place Case Management</b> Identify needs and coordinate services to youth that have a disability. Currently 50% of the youth at Hope4Youth and Hope Place self-attest that they have a disability.</p>	<p><b>Emma B. Howe YMCA and Safe StaY Program</b> Ongoing and regular communication between Empowers Program and YMCA staff to identify potentially homeless and homeless youth and help connect them with available community resources.</p>	<p><b>Job Corps:</b> Increase connections to youth that are unable to successfully complete their Job Corp training. Provide linkages for these youth to connect with Empowers to develop a personalized employment and training plan.</p>
<p><b>Hope 4 Youth Outreach and Hope Place Case Management</b> Increased efforts to identify and serve ex-offenders. Currently 40% of the young people at Hope4Youth and Hope Place have some sort of record or are on probation.</p>	<p><b>On-Site Youth Team</b> Collaborating with partners serving youth in quarterly meetings and coordination of Anoka County staff from Minor Parent Program, Anoka County Foster Team, ACCAP Child Care, Economic Assistance, and Public Health. This is an opportunity to continue to discuss the Empowers Program with these programs that work with youth.</p>	<p><b>Vocational Rehabilitation Services</b> Increased partnership with VRS located onsite at the Blaine Human Service Center. Provide vocational rehabilitation services in helping transition youth with disabilities to self-sufficiency. Youth Counselor and the DRC maintain regular contact to streamline referrals.</p>	<p><b>Hope4Youth &amp; Hope Place</b> Provision of weekly on-site intense case management with youth living at Hope Place.  Continued weekly on-site outreach efforts at Hope4Youth to provide resources and information about jobs and training.</p>	<p><b>Hope4Youth Outreach &amp; Youthlink at Hope Place</b> Expanding our outreach to potential high school drops outs through our new partnerships with Hope Place and Youthlink. Currently 50% of the youth serviced by Hope4Youth don't have their High School Diploma or GED.</p>

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<p><b>TRIO - Educational Opportunity Center (EOC)</b>            Coordinating with TRIO representatives to identify potential youth applicants; and refer college bound youth for assistance. Located onsite at CareerForce in Blaine and ARCC, TRIO provides additional assistance with filling out FASFA and college applications and connecting students with other supports at the college.</p>		<p><b>Career Connections Referrals</b>            Supporting individuals that don't meet the TABE cut scores for Career Pathways because of learning disabilities/development disabilities. Youth are enrolled in Empowers and offered other trainings and support that can accommodate their limitations.</p>	<p><b>Metro North Adult Basic Education</b>            Build on partnership with Metro North to increase referrals and identify youth that that could use support to get their Diploma /GED.</p>	<p><b>Area Learning Centers</b>            Strengthen network with ALC's in service area to increase blending of resources and additional assistance to 'super seniors' and those students at risk of dropping out.</p>
		<p><b>Anoka County Disability Units (DD Unit, Children's Mental Health, etc.).</b>            Assisting youth with disabilities ages 18 – 21 by giving them the opportunity to have an OJT through Employment for All.</p>	<p><b>Stepping Stone Shelter</b>            Refer homeless youth ages 18 – 24 who need temporary shelter. ACJTC instructors facilitates job search workshops two times a month and maintain regular contact with shelter staff to identify and connect with youth to training and employment services.</p>	<p><b>Anoka County Libraries Spark Program.</b> Spark is an after-school program where a large portion of their students fall into one or more categories that make them eligible for our programs. Staff work with youth to assist them with completing homework and do some exploration in STEM training and even IT/Coding training.</p>