

**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>SOAR Career Solutions</b>            YES Duluth partners with SOAR to provide counseling &amp; guidance to both juvenile and adult offenders. SOAR offers re-entry services for individuals coming out of incarceration as they transition back into society.</p>	<p><b>Lutheran Social Services</b>            Lutheran Social Services’ Oh No! Eighteen (ONE) program serves youth, ages 16-20 who are in or have aged out of foster care. YES Duluth continues to strengthen the partnership with LSS through employment and education support especially as youth transition out of foster care.</p>	<p><b>Vocational Rehabilitation Services</b>            YES Duluth works closely with Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) and will co-enroll participants when possible.</p>	<p><b>Life House</b>            YES Duluth works with staff from Life House that specialize in serving homeless youth and/or working to prevent homelessness - to educate them on YES Duluth program offerings and solicit referrals of youth in need of training and employment assistance.</p>	<p><b>Duluth Adult Education</b>            YES Duluth works with DAE to provide support for their youth and young adults pursuing a GED or adult diploma, and offers employment and training services to these learners, as appropriate. DAE provides GED test prep, GED testing, CASAS/TABE testing and Accuplacer prep. YES Duluth provides stipends and incentives to youth who complete their GED or HS diploma.</p>
<p><b>Opportunity Youth of Duluth (OYOD)</b>            YES Duluth partners with SOAR and Life House to implement OYOD. The Duluth-based OYOD project leverages the assets of each partner to serve youth and young adults who are most at-risk. SOAR (re-entry services) and Life House (homeless)</p>	<p><b>St. Louis County Social Services, Foster Care</b>            YES Duluth collaborates 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.</p>	<p><b>ISD 709 – Bridge, ESY, &amp; T12 &amp; Special Ed Work Based Learning</b>            YES Duluth works with school counselors, and staff involved with the work based learning, BRIDGE and T12 programs for youth with disabilities. Staff also participate in Transition Resource Fairs at</p>	<p><b>Lutheran Social Services</b>            YES Duluth works with the Center for Changing Lives. Operated by Lutheran Social Services, the Center provides services and housing for youth who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless.</p>	<p><b>Area Learning Center</b>            YES Duluth works with the Area Learning Center to increase blending of resources and additional assistance to ‘super seniors’ and those students at risk of dropping out.</p>

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serve as the primary entry points for program participants; YES Duluth facilitates placement in community-based employment and provides supports for those who are ready.		local high schools to promote services to youth with disabilities.		
<b>Juvenile Probation Officers</b> YES Duluth has connected with the Juvenile Probation department, namely the coordinator of the youth community service program. Youth and young adults working with this program are being referred to YES Duluth for assistance with transition planning including credit recovery, GED completion, work experience, and other work readiness/job seeker services.		<b>Pre-ETS</b> YES Duluth provides Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to students with disabilities in grade 9 through age 21 that are attending secondary school and potentially eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS). This has impacted our reach in the schools due to eligibility requirements that are not restricted by income criteria, yet includes 504 plans and medical records as qualifiers.	<b>Opportunity Youth of Duluth (OYOD)</b> YES Duluth partners with SOAR and Life House as part of OYOD. The Duluth-based project leverages the assets of each partner to serve youth and young adults who are most at-risk. SOAR (re-entry services) and Life House (homeless) serve as the primary entry points for program participants; YES Duluth facilitates placement in community-based employment and provide supports for those who are ready.	<b>ISD 709 Area High Schools</b> Within area high schools, YES Duluth staff work closely with Integration Specialists from the Office of Education Equity as well as promoting and supporting cross referrals with the Check & Connect program at Denfeld High School.
		<b>Interagency Coordinating Council of Duluth (ICCOD)</b> YES Duluth attends the ICCOD meetings to collaborate with members and coordinate transition services for individuals with disabilities. Staff participate in the ICCOD/Northern Lights Interagency Council (NCL) Mentoring Day.		<b>Duluth Youth Agency Coalition (DYAC) –</b> YES Duluth is an active member of DYAC. In response to the negative impacts on student success during the pandemic, DYAC has formed an Education committee that specifically addresses drop-out recovery city-wide. Recent initiatives include an online ‘youth program finder’ which serves a streamlined tool for youth and caregivers to easily locate a nearby youth program and the marketing campaign “Education Matters. Don’t Give Up.”