

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>MVAC assist adjudicated youth with expunging their criminal record and/or utilization of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Minnesota Bonding Program in their job search.</p> <p>Partners include: Probation/Correction, In/Out-Patient Treatment Facilities, Mental Health Professionals and School Counselors/Social Workers.</p>	<p>Youth Intervention Program MVAC has been providing specialized services to youth in foster care through the Youth Intervention Program which was funded by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs. This program serves foster care youth between ages 16-24 with an emphasis on youth transitioning out of foster care. The purpose of the program is to provide career and life skills curriculum to explore, identify and attain positive educational, career and life goals.</p>	<p>Pre-Employment Transition Services MVAC is a Limited Use Vendor for Pre-Employment Transition Services with Vocational Rehabilitation Services for youth with disabilities. MVAC staff provide job exploration, post-secondary education options, workplace readiness training and work-based learning experiences through one-on-one or group presentations as authorized by Vocational Rehabilitation Services.</p> <p>Partners include: Local School Districts, Community Interagency</p>	<p>Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) MVAC provides services to stabilize families or individuals in their current housing unit or re-house without a day of homelessness. The program also assists families or individuals who are homeless find permanent housing and maintain that housing. Youth ages 14-21 are a priority group to receive these services. There is specific funding set aside for this age group as well as additional support services.</p>	<p>MVAC provides programming to in-school youth to encourage them to stay in school and complete their high school diploma or equivalent.</p> <p>The work experience is used as a “carrot” to motivate youth. When students are in school and successfully meeting their requirements, they can participate in work experience. For some youth that are having a negative experience in the classroom setting, a work experience can be an area where they</p>

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	<p>Partners include: Human Services/Children's Services, Corrections/Probation, Foster Care Agencies, Foster Parents, Mental Health Professionals, and School Counselors/Social Workers.</p>	<p>Transition Committees (CTIC), MRCI WorkSource, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, State Services for the Blind, State Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Social Security Administration, SMILES, Goodwill Easter Seals and PACER.</p> <p>South Central College Uniquely Abled Academy provides specialized training to youth with Autism to become a Computer Numerical Control machinist. South Central College is piloting the Uniquely Abled Academy at the Faribault Campus this summer and plans to offer the program in our area in the summer of 2023.</p> <p>Partners include: MRCI, SMILES, LifeWorks, Minnesota Valley Action Council and Mankato Public Schools</p>	<p>Homework Starts with Home MVAC provides liaison services through the Homework Starts with Home program with Mankato Public Schools. Homework Starts with Home focuses on addressing homelessness and housing instability for school age students and their family. MVAC staff connects with school social workers, counselors, shelters, human services, CareerForce programs and other community services to provide wrap around services to the youth and their family.</p> <p>Homeless Response Teams The Homeless Response Team is facilitated by MVAC staff and includes a variety of members of the community such as police officers, social services, homeless shelter staff, school staff and others. The teams meet on a quarterly basis to discuss homeless issues in the community.</p>	<p>excel. Youth that successfully complete a work experience can earn academic credit. School districts receive a summary of the youth's work preparation and work experience activities and award academic credit ranging from .5 -7 credits.</p> <p>Staff also talk to youth about other options to obtain their high school equivalency through GED and Adult Diploma programs.</p> <p>Skills for Success in Employment, Education and Life services has been a very effective way to reinforce the importance of completing high school. There are topics that cover demand occupations including the education requirements and wages. There are also topics that cover post-secondary planning.</p> <p>MVAC partners with local school district counselors/social worker and</p>

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			<p>Project Community Connect is a free event that is organized by the Blue Earth County Homeless Response Team each year for people experiencing poverty. The goal of the event is to reduce poverty and homelessness in South Central Minnesota by providing a way for people in need to access services. The event is a “one-stop shop” approach where over 90 organizations will provide needed services in one location to engage people who need the services but don’t normally participate or who don’t know the services exist. Some of the services offered include legal services, medical/dental services, housing resources, veteran services, financial literacy, free HIV testing, free lunch, haircuts, photographer and ID & birth certificate vouchers. Transportation, interpreters and childcare is available for attendees. Over 900 guests attend the event annually.</p>	Adult Basic Education.

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			Lutheran Social Services MVAC also coordinates services with homeless youth programs including the Street Outreach Program, which provides advocacy and community connection and the REACH Drop-In Center, which is a gathering place for homeless youth.	