

Minnesota's Partners for Youth Career Pathways Project

Minnesota's Youth-Focused Disability Employment Initiative (MN DEI)

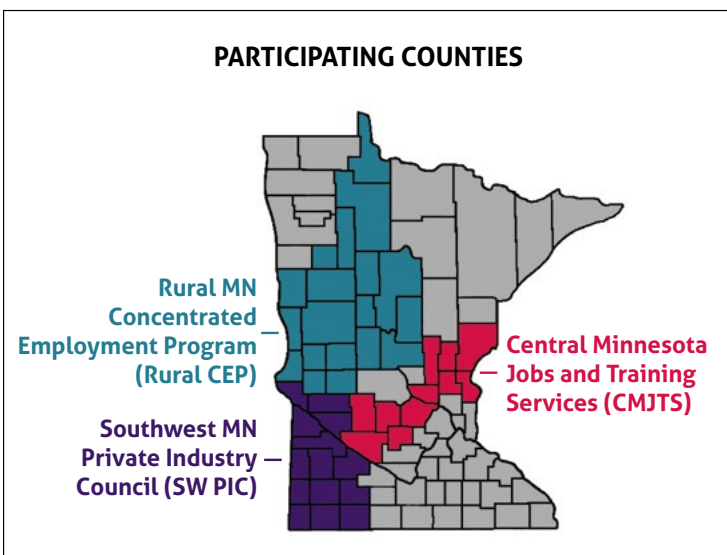
is working to increase the number of youth with disabilities served through Minnesota's youth workforce system. This includes youth who are currently out of school and who may have spent time in foster care, become teen parents, dropped out of school, experienced homelessness, or have been involved with the juvenile justice system.

Partners for Youth Career Pathways takes a creative, team approach to helping youth with disabilities ages 14 to 24 prepare for employment. This may include job training, education, employment and benefits planning services, and vocational rehabilitation services. The project is a partnership of workforce, community-based, disability organizations, and Minnesota's Department of Employment and Economic Development (MN DEED). This new way of working together to provide services and supports is available to youth in three select regions of the state.

*Are you or a
young person
you know trying
to find or stay
on a pathway
that leads to
a successful
career?*

Counties Participating in the Partners for Youth Career Pathways Project Activities

Rural MN Concentrated Employment Program (Rural CEP): Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, Wilkin



Contact: Nancy Stensgard (DRC), (w) 218-847-0716;
NancyS@rmcep.com

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS):
Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Pine, Renville, Sherburne, Wright

Contact: Tera Brooks (DRC), 763-710-0999, tbrooks@cmjts.org

Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council (SW PIC):
Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, Swift, Yellow Medicine

Contact: Leah Hastad (DRC), 507-706-0199;
LHastad@swmnpic.org

The three workforce sites cover 21% of Minnesota's population and serve 44 counties throughout the state.

Disability Benefits Counseling

Access to benefits counseling will help youth and families better understand how work income may impact Social Security benefits (such as SSI) so they can make well-informed choices. More Workforce Centers will become Ticket to Work Employment Networks.

Disability Resource Coordinators (DRC)

Knowledgeable staff will help youth and their teams identify and locate needed resources, accommodations, and supports.

Integrated Resource Teams (IRT)

IRT teams will be used to coordinate the efforts of workforce, educational, and community-based organizations as they work together to provide needed resources.

Specialized Staff Training

MN DEI will increase the capacity of Minnesota's youth workforce system to serve youth with disabilities, especially those with additional challenges or from diverse cultures.

Family-Friendly Information

Youth and their families will receive helpful information, advocacy and referral through a partnership with PACER Center.



The Guideposts to Success and Career Pathways

Youth-focused, individualized planning is at the heart of the project.

The Guideposts for Success are used by the project to help identify what all youth, including youth with disabilities, need to make the move from school to adulthood successfully. They are rooted in high expectations and the understanding that a youth with a disability is a youth first, and a youth with a disability second. This approach considers the needs of youth in multiple areas: education, career development, adult service systems, youth leadership, and family involvement.

Career Pathways are a combination of education and training, employment experiences, and support services that lead to employment in a specific industry or occupation. Through Career Pathways, students gain the knowledge, skills, and credentials needed to find employment and advance in their careers in Minnesota's high demand industries.

For more information on **MN DEI** and how youth can become involved, please contact:
Cory Schmid, Project Lead at cory.schmid@state.mn.us

You may also contact **PACER Center** for additional information at:
952.838.9000 or 888.248.0822 (National Toll Free) or by email at transition@PACER.org