

SFY 2023 EMERGE Community Development

Final Report

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Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
Employment and Training Programs Division

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## Introduction

The 2021 Minnesota Legislature ([Laws of Minnesota, 2021, Chapter 10, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3(ff)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2021/1/Session%2BLaw/Chapter/10/)) appropriated state funds to EMERGE Community Development for State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 2022 and 2023. The SFY 2023 allocation available to EMERGE was $237,500 after DEED retained $12,500 (five percent of the appropriation) for administrative purposes.

The legislation directed the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to grant funds to EMERGE to address employment and economic disparities for low-income, unemployed, or underemployed individuals who are primarily East African. Funds are used for operations and administrative costs of the Cedar-Riverside Opportunity Center and its on-site partners in support of career pathways and certified credentials, workforce readiness, financial readiness, and employment placement and retention services.

## Summary of Goals and Objectives Presented in the Work Plan

The funding supports EMERGE’s workforce development services and activities at the Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center which are designed to:

1. Increase re-engagement of the community and increase enrollment in workforce development programs and services over the program year. During the fall of 2022, activities included a Computer Lab Open House event and a “Welcome Back” and “Youth Fun Day & Back-to-School Giveaway” celebration which engaged 190 community members.
2. Reach more area residents by extending hours of operation for an additional eight hours in the evening and weekends. This is in addition to the weekday operations between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.
3. Increase access to employment, training and education by connecting youth and adults to workforce training and services. Career coaches assist individuals with creating an Individual Service Strategy (ISS) with short-term and long-term education and employment goals. Coaches also make referrals to other EMERGE services such as career training, transitional employment, reentry services, benefits navigation, and financial coaching.
4. Provide area residents with workforce training, education, and services focusing on:
* Work readiness and foundational skill building workshops which offer work readiness assessments, digital literacy and financial literacy training, and resume writing classes.
* Job Clubs for employment search and peer support.
* The Youth Career Services Center, which offers career exploration camps, career assessment, and youth-focused workshops with local partners.
* Career training and certification in occupations paying $20 per hour or more.
1. Assist individuals with employment placement and retention with the goal of local residents obtaining and retaining living-wage employment at target wages of $15 per hour or more.

## Participant Data

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Participants Served: Individual Services (cumulative)** | **Project to Date:**7/1/2021 – 9/20/2023 |
| **1. Total Number of Group Participants Served**  | **329** |
| **2. Total Individual Participants Served** | **444** |
| **(1) Gender** |
| (1) Male | 206 |
| (2) Female | 132 |
| **(2) Age** |
| 1. Under 14
 | 181 |
| (2) 14-15 | 176 |
| 1. 16-17
 | 374 |
| 1. 18-19
 | 19 |
| 1. 20-21
 | 46 |
| 1. 22-24
 | 74 |
| 1. Above 24
 | 9 |
| **(3) Ethnicity/Race** |
| 1. Hispanic/Latino
 | 4 |
| (2) American Indian or Alaska Native | 7 |
| (3) Asian/Pacific Islander | 13 |
| (4) Black, African American, or African | 319 |
| (5) White | 31 |
| (6) **Other** or Multiracial | 56 |
| **(4) Education Level** |
| (1) 8th grade and under | 36 |
| (2) 9th Grade-12th Grade | 43 |
| (3) High School graduate or equivalent | 212 |
| (4) Post-Secondary Education | 134 |
| (5) Other or Unknown | 5 |
| **(5) Other Demographics** |
| (1) Limited English proficient | 181 |
| (2) Participants who receive Public Assistance | 176 |
| (3) Low-income persons (from family earning less than 200% of poverty) | 374 |
| (4) Participants who report a disability | 19 |
| (5) High school drop-out | 46 |
| ~~(~~6~~)~~ Participants who are justice involved | 74 |
| (7) Pregnant or parenting youth | 9 |
| (8) Person from first generation Immigrant family | 74 |
| (9) Homeless Participant/Runaway  | 40 |
| (10) Not employed at program enrollment  | 318 |
| (11) Veteran | 158 |
| **(6) Program Services, Activities, and Other Related Assistance** |
| Received Education or Job Training Activities | 201 |
| Received Work Experience Activities | 12 |
| Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities | 13 |
| Received Post-Secondary and Career Guidance and Planning Activities | 284 |
| Received Support Services | 163 |

## Performance Outcome Data

During the past year, over 300 participants were enrolled in programming and 209 individuals received employment and other social service information at the Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center.

Over one hundred (132) individuals participated in work readiness training, digital and financial literacy, and career exploration workshops through 4 Cornerstones, Future U, Resume Workshop, Career Advancement or Classroom training. Additionally, 106 participants received over 550 hours of case management and coaching from EMERGE and the Cedar-Riverside Opportunity Center staff.

Of these individuals served, 31 obtained employment at an average starting wage of $19.74 per hour. One participant, "V", is a returning participant. She completed her CNA certification with Emerge, became employed and returned to complete the Phlebotomy program. She received her State and National certification for Phlebotomy and found new employment at a livable wage.

**COVID Impact on Programming**

During this year, COVID lead to some occurrences of staffing shortages due to its impact on job recruiting, however it did not otherwise have an effect on this program.

## Expenditure Data

Expenditures from July 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023:

| SFY 2023 Budget Category | SFY 2023 Budget | SFY 2023 Expenditures to date |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Administration | $21,649 | $21,649 |
| Direct Services/Project Staff | $206,851 | $206,851 |
| Support Services | 9,000 | 9,000 |
| Total | $237,500 | $237,500 |

### New Grant Funds

EMERGE received a $475,000 in state direct appropriation grant funds for SFY 2024, covering the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. EMERGE staff expects all state grant funds for the SFY 2024 will be 100% expended within the allowable grant time period.