

SFY 2023 Pillsbury United Communities

Final Report

11/15/2023

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, Article 1, Section 1, Subdivision 3 (kk)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2021/1/Session+Law/Chapter/10/)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2021/1/Session+Law/Chapter/10/)) appropriated $500,000 state funds to Pillsbury United Communities for each of State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 2022 and 2023. The legislation directed the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to grant funds to Pillsbury United Communities to provide job training and workforce development services for underserved communities.

The SFY 2022 allocation and SFY 2023 allocation available to Pillsbury United Communities was $475,000 each year after DEED retained $12,500 (five percent of the appropriation) for administrative purposes.

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

The funding supports Pillsbury United Communities (PUC’s) development and implementation of career pathways training and education programming for youth, 16-24 years of age, to prepare them for successful careers in Minnesota’s future workforce. The grant funds services and activities to achieve the following goals and objectives:

1. Develop educational and training programming, policies, common career competencies and curriculum, evaluation tools, and partnerships for PUC’s Career Pathways project.
2. Hire a Career Pathways Program Director and program staff to implement and manage the project, including marketing to targeted youth, development of an internship program, organization of education and training classrooms and work sites.
3. Train enrolled youth in common career competencies (financial literacy, safety, work readiness skills in communication and conflict resolution) during the summers of 2022 and 2023.
4. Implement Career Pathways Academies in the second year of grant; provide enrolled youth GED classes or education support towards a diploma in addition to training and work-based internships. Academies will likely focus on the following career clusters: 1) Engineering, Construction and the Trades; 2) Life Sciences and Services; and 3) Business and Technology.
5. Placement assistance in post-secondary education/training and/or entry-level employment.

## Partnerships

Pillsbury United Communities has two founding partners, Minneapolis College and the Minneapolis Building Trades. Additional partnerships include Dunwoody College of Technology (list any high schools, ABE programs, internship employers, etc.)

## Participant Data

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Participants Served: Individual Services (cumulative)** | **Project to Date:**  7/1/2021 –  9/30/2023 |
| **1. Total Number of Group Participants Served** | **15** |
| **2. Total Individual Participants Served** | **15** |
| (1) Male | 6 |
| (2) Female | 9 |
| (3) Gender Non-Confirming | 0 |
| (1) Age 16-17 | 0 |
| (2) Age 18-19 | 6 |
| (3) Age 20-21 | 7 |
| (4) Age 22-24 | 2 |
| (1) Hispanic/Latino | 3 |
| (2) American Indian or Alaska Native | 0 |
| (3) Asian/Pacific Islander | 1 |
| (4) Black, African American, or African | 11 |
| (5) White | 0 |
| (1) 8th grade and under | 0 |
| (2) 9th Grade-12th Grade | 1 |
| (3) High School graduate or equivalent | 14 |
| (4) Post-Secondary Education | 0 |
| (1) Limited English proficient | 0 |
| (2) Participants who receive Public Assistance | 5 |
| (3)Low-income | 12 |
| (4) Participants who report a disability | 3 |
| (5) High school drop-out | 3 |
| (6) Participants who are justice involved | 2 |
| (7) Pregnant or parenting youth | 2 |
| (8) From 1st Generation Immigrant family | 0 |
| (9) Homeless Participant/Runaway | 3 |
| (10) Not employed at program enrollment | 7 |
| (11) Veteran | 0 |

| **Program Services, Activities, and Other Related Assistance** | 7/1/2021 –  6/30/2023 |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Received Education or Job Training Activities | 6 |
| 1. Received Work Experience Activities | 1 |
| 1. Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities | 8 |
| 1. Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities | 13 |
| 1. Received Mentoring Activities | 6 |
| 1. Received Support Services | 6 |

## Outcome Data

During the past year, PUC planned and developed a comprehensive career-pathways project model for targeted youth living in Minneapolis and the metro area. Outreach and recruitment in the spring of 2023 resulted in six youth being enrolled in programming. Participants received employment and training services, including work readiness training, digital and financial literacy, career exploration, support services and case management and guidance from PUC staff.

| **Indicators of Performance** | 7/1/2021 –  6/30/2023 |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Attained work readiness or education goals | 0 |
| 1. Received academic credit or service-learning credit | 6 |
| 1. Obtained high school diploma, GED, remained in school, obtained a certificate or degree, or dropout: returned to school | 0 |
| 1. Entered post-secondary education, vocational/occupational skills training, apprenticeship, military, job search or employment | 4 |
| 1. Completed program objective | 0 |

**COVID Impact on Programming**

COVID had no significant impact on programming.

## Expenditure Data

Expenditures from July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2023:

| Budget Category | SFY 2022 Budget | SFY 2022 Expenditures to date | SFY 2023 Budget | SFY 2023 Expenditures through 9.30.23 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Administration | $43,182 | $43,182 | $43,182 | $11,483.40 |
| Direct Services | $431,818 | $431,818 | $431,818 | $114,833.98 |
| Total | $475,000 | $475,000 | $475,000 | $126,317.38 |

### New Grant Funds

PUC received an additional $475,000 in state direct appropriation grant funds for the period July, 1 2023 to June 30, 2024 (State Fiscal Year 2024). Currently, PUC is planning to expend all SFY2023 by March 31, 2024 and plans to begin SFY2024 expenditures by January 2024. PUC staff expects all state grant funds for the SFY 2022-2023 biennium will be 100% expended within the allowable grant time period.

## Success Stories

One participant is a single mom who graduated high school but hadn’t considered post-secondary options since she graduated in 2019. Caring for her child had been a major barrier in preventing her from exploring college for herself. Pillsbury United Communities (PUC) staff helped her enroll her child in Head Start to launch his early-childhood education and allow her the childcare support she needed to attend school. PUC staff also helped her obtain her driver’s license. This student has successfully enrolled in the Dental Assistant degree program at Hennepin Technical College. She is loving college and is communicating regularly with her PUC Program Manager for support and coaching as she completes her degree program.