

**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><u>Youth Intervention Program (YIPA)</u></b></p> <p>WDI provides targeted services to youth involved with the criminal justice system, mostly youth who are in a diversion program, by providing career development and job search curriculum (Blueprint for Success curriculum), and Independent Living Skills classes.</p> <p>Partners Include: Local county Human Services, Red Wing Youth</p>	<p><b><u>Youth Intervention Program (YIPA)</u></b></p> <p>WDI provides targeted services to youth in foster care and aging out of foster care through our Independent Living Skills partnership.</p> <p>Partners Include: Local county Human Services, Red Wing Youth Outreach Program, K-12 schools and Alternative Learning Centers.</p>	<p><b><u>Pre-ETS services</u></b></p> <p>Our co-enrollment and partnerships have increased our opportunities and education for serving youth with disabilities. Working closely with community disability employment services and our on-site partners has brought improved services and amore solidified and organized approach to offering services</p> <p>Partners include: Vocational</p>	<p>WDI has historically served on these teams of professionals who meet on a regular basis and discuss homeless youth and services for homeless youth in each area. Solutions vary across county but in some areas, housing developments and grant proposals have resulted from these teams.</p> <p>Several county Homeless Response Teams work together to hold a</p>	<p><b><u>Cradle to Career</u></b></p> <p>Two locations in our WDA are working with Cradle to Career to build lasting solutions to reducing high school dropout rates. WDI participates in these workgroups and has provided data on employment and disengagement with teens populations.</p> <p>Partners include: Rochester Public Schools, Red Wing Public Schools, various community</p>

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<p>Outreach Program, Corrections/Probation/Court Services, Juvenile Detention Centers, K-12 schools and Alternative Learning Centers.</p>	<p><b><u>Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders</u></b></p> <p>Providing Independent Living Skills for youth aging out of foster care, through the Healthy Transition to Adulthood funding.</p> <p>Partners include: Rice, Steele, Freeborn, Mower, and Houston Counties, area schools.</p>	<p>Rehabilitation Services, Disability Resource Center, school district staff, employers, YIPA, DEED, Minnesota Family Investment Program/DHS, Adult Basic Education, Community Transition Interagency committees (CTIC's), PACER, Minnesota Academy for the Deaf, Opportunity Services, and Southeast Minnesota Center for Independent Living (SEMCIL).</p>	<p>yearly Project Community Connect events for families, individuals, and youth to gain resources, free services, and career opportunities.</p> <p>Partners include: Human Services, K-12 schools and Alternative Learning Centers, Adult Basic Education, Housing and Re-Development Authority, School Homeless Liaisons, County Social Services, Women's Shelter, Corrections.</p>	<p>organizations at the table and multiple employers</p>
<p><b><u>ReEntry Employment Specialist Training</u></b></p> <p>WDI hosted the first of its kind in Rochester two years ago, and we have now offered two sessions. 75 participants completed and are now certified Reentry Employment Specialists to serve the youth in our region.</p> <p>Partners include: WDI, Federal Medical Center,</p>	<p><b><u>Healthy Transitions to Adulthood (HTA)</u></b></p> <p>Providing independent living skills training and homeless prevention services to youth and young adults, ages 14-21, who are currently in an out of home placement or who have experienced out of home placement for 30 days or longer</p>	<p><b><u>MaxAbility Taskforce</u></b></p> <p>The MaxAbility Employment Taskforce is charged with maximizing career success for people with employment barriers and to develop opportunities for businesses to meet their hiring needs. MaxAbility does this through its Southern Minnesota Disability Employment Network. The network connects businesses,</p>	<p><b><u>Empowerment Center/Gage East</u></b></p> <p>Multiple agencies with shared goals and values have co-located to provide programming and also housing for youth and young adults. Services are more accessible to a neighborhood in need. Services include access to respite/childcare, growth plan for each person, job training, youth development and enrichment,</p>	<p><b><u>We Want You Back Initiative</u></b></p> <p>This initiative brings professionals from across the region out and visits high school dropouts at their homes on a particular Saturday to entice them into returning to school. Area professionals go out in teams and discuss programs and services available.</p>

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Dodge/Fillmore/Olmsted (DFO) Corrections, Juvenile Detention Center, Olmsted County Jail, National Institute of Corrections.	Partners include: Rice, Steele, Freeborn, Mower, and Houston Counties, area schools	<p>service organizations, and individuals with disabilities to improve employment conditions and reduce barriers to employment for those with disabilities.</p> <p>Partners include: Mayo Clinic, Disability Employment Network, WDI, and Rochester Chamber of Commerce Foundation.</p>	<p>mental, chemical, and physical health support, referrals to community resources, and parent support to improve bonding and parenting skills.</p> <p>The center is also part of a campus that includes a 55-unit apartment complex for homeless families and youth ages 16-21.</p> <p>Partners include Family Service Rochester, Lutheran Social Services – LINK, Olmsted County, WDI, Rochester Public Schools, Project Legacy, Tot’s Program – Center City Housing</p>	Partners include: K-12 schools, United Way, Human Services, other youth serving organizations.
			<p><b><u>Healthy Transitions to Adulthood (HTA)</u></b></p> <p>Providing independent living skills training and homeless prevention services to youth and young adults, ages 14-21, who are currently in an out of home</p>	<p><b><u>Tackling Obstacles and Raising Hopes (TORCH) Program</u></b></p> <p>The Northfield TORCH program is a collaboration to address the issues of the achievement gap. Programs are available to all traditionally under-served students including</p>

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			<p>placement or who have experienced out of home placement for 30 days or longer</p> <p>Partners include: Rice, Steele, Freeborn, Mower, and Houston Counties, area schools</p>	<p>first-generation college students and low-income students. The program offers tutoring and academic advising, as well as ACT preparation, leadership opportunities, career exploration, and PSEO credit programs.</p> <p>Partners include: Healthy Community Initiative, Northfield Public Schools, Northfield Promise, MN Office of Higher Education, WDI, various community organizations</p>

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<p><b><u>Minnesota Correctional Facility – Red Wing</u></b></p> <p>WDI has been working in partnership with MCF-Red Wing developing programming with MCF-RW to work with their individuals transitioning out of the facility. We now have a part-time staff person (Bridge Mentor) housed on-site. We have developed soft skills courses, transition services, and college credit programs at the facility.</p> <p>Partners include: WDI, MCF-Red Wing, several metro-area providers taking referrals upon release, Department of Corrections, Minnesota State College Southeast</p>	<p><b><u>Healthy Transition and Homeless Prevention funding</u></b></p> <p>WDI was chosen as a provider for this in 5 of our counties in SEMN, where we offer independent living skill building, career development, and work readiness skills to youth in foster care and youth who have aged out of foster care.</p> <p>Partners include: WDI, Social Services agencies in five counties, youth-serving organizations in five counties, homeless programs for youth including Empowerment Center.</p>	<p><b><u>Bridges Rental Assistance</u></b></p> <p>This program provides housing assistance for individuals with a mental illness. The Bridges program helps individuals and families that include at least one adult with a serious mental illness pay for privately owned rental housing. This help continues until you become eligible for another housing program, such as the Section 8 housing choice voucher program, or until you move into another type of housing.</p> <p>Partners include: Rice County, WDI, Section 8 housing,</p>	<p><b><u>Continuum of Care/Regional Homeless Advisory Committee</u></b></p> <p>Active planning and implementation of regional initiatives including Youth Resource Day and Career Day events, targeting homeless youth in the region. Events locally include “Youth Connect,” Triton Career Day, and “ZED Career and Resource Fair,” where youth and young adults can learn about community resources, receive actual free services, and learn about career opportunities.</p>	<p><b><u>Dropout Recovery Services</u></b></p> <p>Institutionalized connections to high school administrators who get us in contact with students who have been dropped from their school roster after 15 consecutive days of non-attendance.</p>

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<p><b><u>Previously Incarcerated Taskforce (sub-committee of Workforce Development Board of SEMN)</u></b></p> <p>Goal: Increase employment of previously incarcerated individuals            Objective 1: Educate more employers each year of risk reduction and advantages when hiring formerly incarceration individuals            Objective 2: Establish a sustainable and systematic process within the community to help support successful employment of previously incarcerated individuals</p> <p>Partners include: WDI, local WDB, 10-county wide partners of corrections, social services, and employers</p>	<p><b><u>Workforce Academy</u></b></p> <p>Workforce Academy pairs work-readiness and independent living skills training with paid work experiences. We offer a special cohort of this program specifically for youth who are transitioning out of foster care.</p>	<p><b><u>Work Skills Challenge Day</u></b></p> <p>This event was created through the combined efforts of Transition and Work Based Learning Coordinators in SEMN. The focus is for students to gain real life experiences and skills for their future job search and life after school. This was put on hold due to the pandemic with plans to re-visit when safe to do so.</p> <p>Partners include: School districts of Southland, Lyle, Grand Meadow, Leroy, Alden, and Glenville, along with over 10 sponsoring organizations</p>	<p><b><u>Ruth's House</u></b></p> <p>Provides temporary housing for women and children dealing with domestic abuse, often young mothers ages 16-24.</p> <p>Partners include: Rice County Social Services, Hope Center, United Way</p>	<p><b><u>Austin Assurance Scholarship</u></b></p> <p>This program reduces dropout rates by providing a free scholarship through the Hormel Foundation for any high school student in Austin, MN. Students have to complete volunteer hours to qualify. Schools are hoping this sparks interest in staying in school.</p> <p>Partners include: Hormel Foundation, Austin Public and Private schools, Riverland Community College, Austin Aspires, United Way.</p>
<p><b><u>Americorps VISTA site:</u></b></p> <p>WDI was chosen as an Americorps VISTA site and we have employed</p>		<p><b><u>Workforce Academy</u></b></p> <p>Workforce Academy pairs work-readiness and independent living</p>	<p><b><u>Updated Support Services Policy</u></b></p> <p>Previously our support service policy prohibited spending on</p>	

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<p>a Re-Entry Coordinator in past years. This person's work is to build collaborations, referral processes, analyze assets and gaps in programming. Through this, we have offered multiple training events and collaboration events throughout the past year.</p> <p>Partners include: WDI, Previously Incarcerated Taskforce, local jails, MN State Correctional Facilities, social services, probation and parole services.</p>		<p>skills training with paid work experiences. We offer a special cohort of this program specifically for youth referred to work with us through VRS and Pre-Ets programming.</p>	<p>apartment security deposits. To better serve people experiencing homelessness we revised our policy to allow for security deposit payments for homeless individuals and those leaving foster care.</p>	
<p><b><u>RAP (ReEntry Assistance Program)</u></b></p> <p>WDI participates in a community group dedicated to working with offenders coming out of jail. Meetings are held with the group and the offender prior to release to establish plans and supports for post release.</p>				

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<p>Partners include: WDI, Mower County Jail staff, Human Services, Welcome Center Staff</p> <p>Jail Coursework: Freeborn County WDI Career Counselors offer career counseling services on a monthly basis at the Freeborn County Jail to prepare offenders for employment post release.</p>				
<p><b><u>River Region Manufacturing Pathway to Prosperity</u></b></p> <p>WDI is offering Manufacturing 101 courses at five detention centers along the river region in SEMN, including Goodhue County, MCF-Red Wing, Wabasha, Winona, and Caledonia. This course includes essential skills training, connection to business and industry, and a full-time Career Navigator.</p> <p>Partners include: Adult Basic Education, Winona CareerForce,</p>				



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Minnesota State Colleges, detention center, probation, and parole staff, and multiple area employers.				
<p><b><u>Pathways Home Grant</u></b></p> <p>WDI received the Pathways Home Grant through the Department of Labor. This grant gives us the opportunity to serve individuals that are currently incarcerated and will be leaving incarceration to return home to South East Minnesota. This work will continue through December of 2023. Young adults can be served on this grant and we have current youth co-enrolled in this program.</p>				