**DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE (DEI)**

**Quarterly Narrative Report**

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| Grantee Name: Minnesota Partners for Youth Career Pathways |
| Address: 332 Minnesota St. Ste. E200 |
| City/State/Zip: St. Paul, MN 55101 |
| Grant Number : MI29688 |
| Date Report Submitted: 2/13/2017 |
| Report Period: 10/1/16-12/31/16 |

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| **Summary of Grant Progress:** Describe the status of your state’s implementation of the grant against the DEI workplan. Include major activities that address grant requirements (e.g., Integrated Resource Teams, Asset Development, Customized Employment, Self-Employment, Blending and Braiding Resources, or Guideposts to Success, as applicable). If grantees have nothing to report, that should be specified. |
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| On December 8th, 2016, Minnesota held a DEI Kick-Off meeting to welcome all three implementation sites and the PACER Center to the round 7 DEI project. During the first quarter of the grant period, Minnesota’s state team worked to get contracts in place with the three implementation sites and the state-level TA provider the PACER Center. The PACER Center received feedback on their proposed change to the Individual Learning Plan for out-of-school youth that was written into their workplan. PACER Center staff decided to shift the focus of the ILP to an Individual Planning Tool and guide (for DRCs) that will better support the work of IRTs. The revised tool will still be Guideposts-based. The change allows the tool be used in conjunction with Individual Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 Plans rather than an additional form to be completed. DEED staff concurred with the PACER Center staff that this change would be a great improvement to the activities PACER plans to complete. DEED staff will work with PACER staff to complete a modification to the State Workplan and activities in the coming months.Rural CEP and Southwest PIC began the process to hire their respective DRCs. CMJTS already had their DRC hired and on board for the round 7 Youth DEI project. |

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| **Development and Implementation of Effective Practices and Program Model Strategies:** Identify any innovative strategies the state has undertaken or implemented to achieve DEI objectives. If grantees have nothing to report, that should be specified. |
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| Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Programs, Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council, and Central Minnesota Jobs and Training and Service have all incorporated IRTs into their regular youth programming. They have implemented a best practice identified in Minnesota’s round 3 Youth DEI grant. In doing so, the capacity of the Workforce Development Areas are increasingly becoming more accessible for youth with disabilities as well as all youth who receive services at the AJCs in Minnesota. |

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| **Key Issues and Technical Assistance Needs:** Identify any specific barriers, lessons learned, or opportunities during implementation of DEI strategies in your state. If grantees have nothing to report, that should be specified. |
| At this point, Minnesota’s State Team has not identified any areas where technical assistance is needed. We anticipate the Rural CEP and Southwest PIC will seek assistance throughout the process of becoming active Employment Networks. CMJTS will provide peer support and guidance for both sites as CMJTS is already an active Employment Network.Minnesota is volunteering to host a national convening of all round 7 DEI grantees. This would allow program staff to garner new best practices from other DEI states across the country. Minnesota would seek technical assistance on planning and implementing the national convening. |
| **Significant Activities, Accomplishments, and Success Stories**: Describe significant activities, accomplishments, and/ or success stories on the implementation of the Career Pathway elements or how different systems are working together to benefit the customer. If grantees have nothing to report, that should be specified. |
| For the past three years, Rural CEP has incorporated the Guideposts for Success into their regular youth programming. Additionally, the Rural CEP team is working with Northwest Minnesota Private Industry Council (NWPIC) on regional planning strategies, and NWPIC has started to implement some DEI strategies gleaned from Rural CEP’s successes into NWPIC’s regular youth programming.CMJTS has begun outreach to ticket holders and offered an informational session to ticket holders. CMJTS has developed a ‘Ticket Team’ that is trained on how to do TTW and currently there are 7 members that comprise the Ticket Team. Since 2013 they have generated more than $50,000 in tickets.ADD INFORMATION ABOUT TTW FROM RURAL CEP |
| **Short-term Grant Goals (three - six months):** Describe plans and activities covering the next three to six months that address the workplan and objectives of the grant. |
| At the State-level, the top priority is ensuring all the contracts are in place so implementation sites can access funds and enroll youth participants. CMJTS set the goal of enrolling 20 youth by June, 2017. State Team is working to update the DEI website with the current DEI Fact Sheet, Minnesota’s round 7 proposal, round 7 DEI overview PowerPoint, and other related resources.The number one priority for the three implementation sites is to hire their Disability Resource Coordinators by February 13th, 2017.PACER Center plans to design a fact sheet geared towards families that describes Minnesota’s DEI project. This will be used at parent/family activities PACER hosts throughout the state of Minnesota. PACER Staff will also connect with each DRC to discuss local needs of DEI personnel and conduct a Needs Assessment of implementation site staff and key stakeholders. Additionally, PACER staff will develop and pilot a new workshop for families of out-of-school youth with disabilities on MN career pathways opportunities.

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