

SFY 2022 EMERGE Community Development

Progress Report

11/30/2022

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+Law/Chapter/10/)) appropriated state funds to EMERGE Community Development for State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 2022 and 2023. The SFY 2022 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 2021, activities included a Computer Lab Open House event and a “Welcome Back” and “Youth Fun Day & Back-to-School Giveaway” celebration which engaged 85 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 with short-term and long-term education and employment goals. They 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. Coaches 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:**  7/1/021 –  6/30/2022 | |
| **1. Total Number of Group Participants Served** | | **85** | |
| **2. Total Individual Participants Served** | | **235** | |
| **(1) Gender** | | |  | |
| (1) Male | | 102 | |
| (2) Female | | 132 | |
| (3) Gender Non-Confirming | | 1 | |
| **(2) Age** | | |  | |
| (1) Under 14 | | 8 | |
| (2) | 14-15 | 3 | |
| (3) | 16-17 | 0 | |
| (4) | 18-19 | 7 | |
| (5) | 20-21 | 17 | |
| (6) | 22-24 | 115 | |
| (7) Above 24 | | 175 | |
| **(3) Ethnicity/Race** | | |  | |
| (1) Hispanic/Latino | | 3 | |
| (2) American Indian or Alaska Native | | 2 | |
| (3) Asian/Pacific Islander | | 1 | |
| (4) Black, African American, or African | | 168 | |
| (5) White | | 21 | |
| (6) Other or Multiracial | | 40 | |
| **(4) Education Level** | | |  | |
| (1) 8th Grade and under | | 30 | |
| (2) 9th Grade-12th Grade | | 17 | |
| (3) High School graduate or equivalent | | 111 | |
| (4) Post-Secondary Education | | 80 | |
| (5) Other or Unknown | | 2 | |
| **(5) Other Demographics** | | |  | |
| (1) Limited English proficient | | 181 | |
| (2) Participants who receive Public Assistance | | 102 | |
| (4) Participants who report a disability | | 9 | |
| (5) High school drop-out – all participants included | | 21 | |
| (6) Participants who are justice involved | | 34 | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| \*\*Our work plan is for Youth and Adults – we added a 25+ line for age; under Other Demographics the numbers represent all participants where indicated, not just  youth | **Project to Date:**  7/1/021 –  6/30/2022 |
| (7) Pregnant or parenting youth | 0 |
| (9) Participants showing as Homeless Participant/Runaway – all  participants included | 41 |
| (10) Not employed at program enrollment – all participants included | 160 |
| (11) Veteran – all participants included | 1 |

**Program Services, Activities, and Other Related Assistance**

|  | **Number** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Received Education or Job Training Activities | 135 |
| 1. Received Work Readiness Activities | 110 |
| 1. Received Coaching or Case Management Services | 106 |
| 1. Received Occupational Training in Commercial Transportation or Healthcare | 48 |
| 1. Received Support Services | 77 |

## Outcome Data

During the past year, 146 participants were enrolled in programming and 235 individuals received employment and other social service information at the Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center.

Over one hundred (110) 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, 62 obtained employment at an average starting wage of $20.65 per hour. Two Somali adult males, ages 30 and 39, received CLD training and certification and were placed with Shaw Industries Group earning $39 and $42 per hour as truck drivers.

**COVID Impact on Programming**

During the pandemic, participants with children have had limited job training options due to the decreased availability of childcare and in-person schooling. Some participants are also hesitant to work in the healthcare field as CNAs. Concerns include long shifts due to staffing shortages and concern for their health and the health of loved ones in being exposed to the coronavirus. Domestic violence and housing instability are also increasing in the target communities being served, as people continue to lose jobs, get evicted, and are forced into unsafe housing situations.

Another important lesson learned as services had to be transitioned to online format is just how much technology is a barrier for families, especially in greater Minnesota where they do not have reliable equipment or internet access. In many instances, participants needed extra help learning how to navigate websites and portals.

## Expenditure Data

Expenditures from July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022:

| SFY 2022 Budget Category | SFY 2022 Budget | SFY 2022 Expenditures to date |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Administration | $21,590 | $19,725 |
| Direct Services/Project Staff | $215,910 | $197,249 |
| Total | $237,500 | $216,974 |

### New Grant Funds

EMERGE received an additional $237,500 in state direct appropriation grant funds for the period July, 1 2022 to June 30, 2023 (State Fiscal Year 2023). Currently, EMERGE has expended 100% of its SFY2022 grant as of October 31, 2022 and has begun to expend its SFY2023 grant funds. EMERGE staff expects all state grant funds for SFY 2023 biennium will be 100% expended within the allowable grant time period.