

SFY 2023 Minnesota Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs - Direct Appropriation

Final Report

1/17/2024

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

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## Introduction

The Minnesota State Legislature appropriated $750,000 each year in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 and 2023 to the Minnesota Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs to administer a statewide project of youth job skills and career development. ([Minnesota Session Laws - 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 10, S.F. 9, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3 (n)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2021/1/Session%2BLaw/Chapter/10/)) The appropriation is from the workforce development fund and requires a 25 percent match from nonstate sources. The enacted legislation permits the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to retain five percent of these funds for administration and monitoring, making the total amount available for grants equal to $712,500 per year.

## Allowable Use of Funds

In accordance with the language appropriating these funds, this project, which may have career guidance components including health and life skills, must be designed to encourage, train, and assist youth in:

* early access to education and job-seeking skills;
* work-based learning experience including career pathways in STEM learning, career exploration, and matching; and
* first job placement through local community partnerships and on-site job opportunities.

## Program Overview

The program prepares youth, age 8-18, for their future careers through a number of workforce programs and providing job-search support and work experience. The program is operated at Boys and Girls Clubs statewide. The Clubs are strategically geographically located to serve high populations of under-represented youth. The program is operated in and serves the following communities:

Bagley, Bemidji, Callaway, Cass Lake, Clear Lake, Cold Spring, Coleraine, Deer River, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Elk River, Grand Rapids, Little Falls, Mahnomen, Minneapolis, Nett Lake, Ogema, Perham, Ponemah, Ponsford, Red Lake, Richfield, Rochester, Saint Cloud, Saint Joseph, Saint Paul, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Tower, Waite Park, Walker, Waubun, White Earth, Zimmerman.

## Program Activities and Performance Metrics

The primary goal of the program is to prepare youth, age 8-18, for their future careers through workforce programs in career exploration, skill development, as well as job-search and work experience. Described below are the main program activities as well as the activity performance metrics for SFY 2023. The specific program curriculum was provided by Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

* **SMART Moves/SMART Girls** program helps youth tune decision making and social/emotional skills. Participants gain knowledge, skills and self-esteem to help them make healthy choices and practice responsible behaviors, which includes avoiding the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and postponing sexual activity. This program helps drive positive outcomes for youth in healthy lifestyles by exposing them to various age-appropriate activities designed to hone their decision-making and critical-thinking skills.
* **Goals for Growth** program teaches youth skills for setting and achieving goals, helps them identify their own strengths and enhances their self-esteem by reinforcing their progress and recognizing their success in realizing their goals. This program addresses the ability to set and achieve goals. Participants learn about goals, setting goals, and using strategies to achieve goals and how to get through obstacles. Participants also plan the steps necessary to reach these realistic goals.
* **Money Matters** program helps teens learn critical aspects of financial literacy, including managing a checking account, budgeting, saving, avoiding debt, investing, and paying for college. Participants develop knowledge of good money habits like:
	+ Budgeting: maximizing revenue, planning ahead, setting goals and living within one's means.
	+ Saving: investing in one’s own future and leveraging short-term behaviors to inspire life-changing long-term outcomes.
	+ Planning for College: recognizing post-secondary education as a financially attainable goal that can have a dramatic impact on increased earning potential.

The performance goal for SFY 2023 is for 1050 youth to complete one or more of these three program activities.

* **Career Launch** program is targeted to teens 13 and older. It helps them prepare, explore, and attain experience to prepare for their future careers. Participants gain skills in making/planning career decisions, preparing resumes, completing job applications, mock interviews, maintaining regular attendance/punctuality, demonstrating positive attitudes and behaviors, presenting appropriate appearance, exhibiting good interpersonal relations, completing tasks effectively, college exploration, and career exploration.

The performance goal for SFY 2023 is for 450 youth to participate in the Career Launch program.

In addition to the four specific programs listed above, staff also assist teen participants in identifying and applying for work experience opportunities through business partnerships, job fairs, job search skill building, and part-time employment opportunities at their Boys and Girls Club. The performance goal for SFY 2023 is that 150 teen participants will apply for a job.

## Program Data

The participant demographic, activity, and outcome data included in this report reflects the total from the start of the grant contract on July 1, 2022, through the end of SFY 2023 June 30, 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Demographic Data** | **Total** | **Percentage** |
| Total Participants Served | **1112** |
| **Gender** | Female | 517 | 46.5% |
| Male | 595 | 53.5% |
| **Age** |  13 and under | 599 | 53.9% |
|  14 – 15 | 202 | 18.2% |
|  16 – 17 | 190 | 17.1% |
|  18 -19 | 67 | 6.0% |
|  20 – 21 | 2 | 0.2% |
|  22 – 24 | 0 | 0.0% |
| **Ethnicity /Race** | Hispanic/Latino | 44 | 4.0% |
|  American Indian or Alaska Native | 178 | 16.0% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 104 | 9.3% |
| Black or African American | 201 | 18.1% |
| White | 351 | 31.6% |
| Other or Not Available | 186 | 16.7% |
| **Education Level** |  8th Grade and Under | 620 | 55.8% |
|  9th to 12th Grade | 395 | 35.5% |
| High School graduate or equivalent | 1 | 0.09% |
| Post-Secondary Education | 0 | 0.0% |
| **Other Demographics** | Basic Skills Deficient | 53 | 4.7% |
| High School Drop-Out | 1 | 0.09% |
| Economically Disadvantaged Individual | 170 | 15.3% |
|  Participants with a Disability | 28 | 2.5% |
|  Limited English Proficient | 11 | 0.9% |
|  Pregnant or Parenting | 0 | 0.0% |
|  Youth or Adult Offender | 0 | 0.0% |
|  Homeless or Runaway Youth | 9 | 0.8% |
|  Foster Youth | 11 | 0.9% |
|  Veteran | 0 | 0.0% |
|  Participant/Family Receiving Public Assistance | 159 | 14.3% |
| **Program Services and Activities Data** | **Total** | **Percentage** |
| Received Education or Job Training Activities | 164 | 14.7% |
| Received Work Experience Activities | 98 | 8.8% |
| Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities | 136 | 12.2% |
| Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities | 309 | 27.8% |
| Received Mentoring Activities |  338 | 30.4% |
| Received Support Services | 235 | 21.1% |
| **Contract Performance Data** | **Total** | **Percentage** |
| Number of participants in Goals for Growth, SMART MOVES or Money Matters | 868 | 78.1% |
| Number of participants in Career Launch Program | 244 | 21.9% |
| Number of teens who applied for a job | 94 | 8.5% |
| **General Performance and Outcome Data** | **Total** | **Percentage** |
| Attained Work Readiness Goals or Education Goals | 155 | 13.9% |
| Received Academic Credit or Service-Learning Credit | 128 | 11.5% |
| Obtained High School Diploma, GED, Remained in School, Obtained a Certificate or Degree, or Dropout - Returned to School | 545 | 49.0% |
| Entered Post-Secondary Education, Vocational/Occupational Skills Training, Apprenticeship, Military, Job Search or Employment | 38 | 3.4% |
| **Participant Satisfaction Data** | **Total** | **Percentage (of responses)** |
| Number of participants rating experience as “Excellent” | 294 | 59.4% |
| Number of participants rating experience as “Very Good” | 155 | 31.3% |
| Number of participants rating experience as “Average” | 43 | 8.7% |
| Number of participants rating experience as “Below Average” | 3 | 0.6% |
| Number of participants rating experience as “Poor” | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total Number of Surveys Completed | 495 | 100.0% |

##

## Expenditure Data

The SFY 23 grant contract started on July 1, 2022 and ended on June 30, 2023. SFY 23 grant funds were fully expended by the end of June 2023. The cost category breakdown of expenditures is reported below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Budget Category | Expenditures |
| Administration (up to 10% allowed) | $35,625.00 |
| Participant Wages and Fringe Benefits | $27,441.05 |
| Direct Staff Services | $649,433.95 |
| **Total** | **$712,500.00** |

## Success Stories

#### **Boys & Girls Club of Bemidji**

To build a better succession model for our outreach Career Launch programming we crossed trained 3 staff in the curricula and weekly lesson plans. We found last year that when the lead staff was out sick that we missed multiple weeks as we didn't have a 'sub' or back-up plan. This year with implementation of cross training we haven't missed a week at our outreach location yet! This keeps us on track to complete the class as a whole on time so we are able to begin the next class with enough weeks left in school year to complete them through the program as well.

#### **Boys & Girls Clubs of Twin Cities**

One success story is about a teen who hadn’t participated yet in any Career Launch programming, he approached a teen center staff to explain that he is really interested in culinary school since he really enjoys cooking. The staff were able to sit with him, talk about what some options could be, and helped guide him in his next steps and goals to make this happen. For a member who is typically reluctant to participate in programs, we were very impressed with how invested he was in this conversation and in pursuing this career field. He is now working towards this goal through the Career Launch program and the lessons and conversations are being utilized to help him launch this career!

#### **Boys & Girls Club of Rochester**

We found great success in offering the Smart Moves programming to our Outreach Site, Right Fit. This is an alternative middle school in Rochester, which we have partnered with in the past. The members really enjoyed the program and our staff who lead Smart Moves. They have even suggested offering more programs at their site due to the program's popularity. We were also able to reach more High School students at both John Marshall and the Alternative Learning Center in Rochester. We offered Money Matters programming to both schools one day a week, and we saw consistent attendance within those programs.