SFY 2020-21 Youth Support Services Opportunity Grant

Progress Report

1/13/2020

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

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[mn.gov/deed](https://mn.gov/deed/" \o "DEED website)

Total cost of salaries, printing, and supplies in developing/preparing this report is $522  
(reported as required by Minn. Stat. 3.197)

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## Background

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated $1,000,000 each year in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 and 2021 for a competitive grant program to provide grants to organizations that provide support services for individuals. Grants must focus on individuals from low-income communities and/or young adults (ages 14-24) from families with a history of intergenerational poverty, and/or communities of color. ([Minnesota Session Laws - 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 7 – H.F. No. 2, Article 1, Sec. 2 Subd. 3(bb)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2019/1/Session+Law/Chapter/7/)) The Legislature permits the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to retain four percent of these funds for administration and monitoring, making the total amount available for grants equal to $960,000 per year.

### Grant Requirements

Eligible applicants were state or local government units, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, community action agencies, business organizations or associations, and/or labor organizations. The maximum amount of funding that could be requested by any single applicant was $100,000 per year.

Services provided under this proposal must serve individuals from the eligible populations in one or more of the following areas:

* Job training,
* Employment preparation,
* Internships,
* Job assistance to fathers,
* Financial literacy,
* Academic and behavioral interventions for low-performing students, and/or
* Youth intervention activities

### Overview of the Request for Proposals Process

DEED developed a Request For Proposals (RFP) for Support Services Opportunity Grant funds. This RFP was posted on DEED’s website on June 5, 2019 under [Grant and Contract Opportunities](https://mn.gov/deed/about/contracts/). Applications were due by 11:59 p.m. on July 12, 2019.

The DEED Communications team notified individuals, organizations, the Governor’s Workforce Development Board, Councils of Color, and an extensive list of interested parties regarding the release of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Support Services Competitive Grant. The Youth Development team shared the Support Services RFP with the Shared Vision for Youth interagency workgroup and their networks. Also, pursuant to State law, the State Register included information about RFPs available through DEED including the Support Services Opportunity Grant.

The RFP directed potential applicants to submit all questions on the RFP in writing via e-mail to a specified DEED contact. All questions submitted in writing were answered on a weekly basis and published on DEED’s [Grant and Contract Opportunities](https://mn.gov/deed/about/contracts/) website. DEED’s Office of Youth Development hosted an Informational Webinar about the Support Services funding opportunity on Monday, June 17, 2019. A link to the recorded webinar was available on demand on DEED’s [Grant and Contract Opportunities](https://mn.gov/deed/about/contracts/) webpage.

## Grantees

Forty-two (42) proposals, that served youth, were submitted to DEED in this funding cycle. These proposals totaled nearly four million in funding requests for SFY 2020; approximately 80% of the total requested funding. In the SFY 2020 funding cycle, $742,200 was awarded to 17 Youth Support Services grants.

Of the submitted Youth Support Services proposals, 62% percent were metro focused and 38% were Greater Minnesota or statewide focused. Approximately 54% of available Youth Support Services funds were allocated to the Twin Cities metro area and 46% allocated to Greater Minnesota. All proposals were read and scored by community and state reviewers. The following organizations were recommended for Youth Support Services funding.

| **Organization** | **Area Served** | **SFY 2020 Grant Award** | **SFY 2021 Grant Award** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Minnesota Valley Action Council | South Central Minnesota | $45,000 | $45,000 |
| City of Brooklyn Park | Cities of Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center | $45,000 | $45,000 |
| Career Solutions | Stearns and Benton Counties | $45,000 | $45,000 |
| YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities | Ramsey and Washington Counties | $45,000 | $45,000 |
| Project Legacy | Rochester and surrounding communities in Southeast Minnesota | $45,000 | $45,000 |
| Workforce Development Inc | 10 counties in Southeastern Minnesota | $45,000 | $45,000 |
| Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc | Ramsey and Dakota Counties | $45,000 | $45,000 |
| Merrick Community Services | Eastside of Saint Paul | $45,000 | $45,000 |
| Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council | Southwest Minnesota | $45,000 | $45,000 |
| Jeremiah Program | Twin Cities | $45,000 | $45,000 |
| African Immigrants Community Services | Twin Cities | $45,000 | $45,000 |
| Karen Organization of Minnesota | Ramsey County | $45,000 | $45,000 |
| Banyan Community | Minneapolis | $42,200 | $42,200 |
| Greater Bemidji | Northwest Minnesota | $40,000 | $40,000 |
| Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency | Northeastern Minnesota | $40,000 | $40,000 |
| Goodwill-Easter Seals | Twin Cities | $40,000 | $40,000 |
| Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services | 11 counties in Central Minnesota | $40,000 | $40,000 |
|  | **Total:** | **$742,200** | **$742,200** |

### Project Descriptions

**Minnesota Valley Action Council - Partnership for SNAP E&T Success, $45,000**

This project provides intensive services for SNAP Employment & Training to low-income individuals from communities of color and youth, especially young adults from families with a history of intergenerational poverty. The program focuses on employment preparation and retention, providing participants in-depth assessment, counseling, and wrap-around supports necessary to remain engaged and to retain employment that leads to self-sustaining wages.

*Website: mnvac.org*

*Local contacts: Diane Halvorson, 507-345-2408, diane@workforcecouncil.org*

**City of Brooklyn Park - BrookLynk Youth Employment Program, $45,000**

The BrookLynk program consists of 21st-Century skill-building, experiential employment opportunities, and local coordination of employer partnerships. BrookLynk facilitates training and paid employment opportunities where youth ages 14 to 21 learn essential job skills such as interviewing, networking, and professionalism. BrookLynk aims to connect young people facing barriers to employment with the skills, experiences, and professional social networks needed to develop their pathway to college and career.

*Website: brooklynk.works*

*Local Contact: Breanne Rothstein, 763-493-8058,* [*Breanne.Rothstein@Brooklynpark.org*](mailto:Breanne.Rothstein@Brooklynpark.org)

**Career Solutions - Learn and Earn, $45,000**

Modeled after Learn and Earn, this program serves youth age 18-24 who face English language barriers, many of whom are recent immigrants, and have "aged out" of high school and are unemployed or underemployed. The program has four components including English literacy and adult diploma, employment preparation and training, Somali Elder mentoring, and work experience. The goal of the program is for participants to develop the skills needed to fill in demand positions, particularly in the state's manufacturing industry, and to ensure they are on path to continued education and employment with a sustainable wage.

*Website: careersolutionsjobs.org*

*Local Contact: Tammy Biery, 320-308-5702,* [*Tammy.biery@csjobs.org*](mailto:Tammy.biery@csjobs.org)

**YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities -** **YMCA Neighborhood Centers Workforce Development, $45,000**

This program provides job training, a 100-hour supervised internships with support from a job coach, and professional development to empower adults and youth to be successful on a career path. Participants are all residents of affordable housing communities that are facing significant employment barriers. The goal is for participants to transition to career paths, such as healthcare, IT, trades, or business, that have higher earning and longer-term growth potential, leading to increased wages that will lift families out of poverty.

*Website: ymcamn.org*

*Local contact: Glen Gunderson, 612-465-0504,* [*glen.gunderson@ymcamn.org*](mailto:glen.gunderson@ymcamn.org)

**Project Legacy - Vibrant Futures for Youth of Color, $45,000**

Serving disadvantaged youth and young adults of color, Project Legacy provides wrap around services including case management, employment services, education, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence services, and legal services. Through these services the program confronts the immediate needs of participants, such as employment and housing, while simultaneously addressing underlying issues and mentoring youth through the pursuit of higher education or vocational training.

*Website: projectlegacymn.org*

*Local contact: Karen Edmonds, 507-254-3387,* [*kedmonds@projectlegacymn.org*](mailto:kedmonds@projectlegacymn.org)

**Workforce Development Inc - Emerging Leaders, $45,000**

The Emerging Leaders program focuses on serving youth who are 14 to 24 and from historically underserved populations; including youth of color, youth with disabilities, and those experiencing multigenerational poverty. Services provided include building relationships and rapport, while providing experiential and hands-on learning in areas such as job training, employment preparation, and engaging in career pathways education and work experience. The program is designed to help participants achieve success by providing them with a blueprint, essential supports, and opportunities to successfully transition to adulthood.

*Website: workforcedevelopmentinc.org*

*Local contact: David LeGarde, 507-251-2700,* [*dlegarde@wdimn.org*](mailto:dlegarde@wdimn.org)

**Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc - Community Coaching Employment Readiness, $45,000**

Community Coaching is an alternative intervention to detention for youth who are at high risk for incarceration. Through this program, Model Cities provides experiential learning opportunities in both workforce development and financial education for youth ages 14 - 19 who are on probation. Community Coaches support and link youth to services and pro­social activities that help them build positive relationships and connections. The main goal of this program is to enhance employability, increase access to employment among juvenile offenders, and foster strong financial decision-making.

*Website: www.modelcities.org*

*Local contact: Kizzy Downie, 651-632-8343,* [*kdownie@modelcities.org*](mailto:kdownie@modelcities.org)

**Merrick Community Services - Employment Services Integrated Model, $45,000**

Through the employment services intergraded model, Merrick Community Services offers job search support, case management, training opportunities, placement and retention services, and other supports to jobseekers who are looking to enter or improve their position in the labor market. The program delivers these services to low-income adults and young adults who are unemployed or underemployed and seeking resources for self-sufficiency.

*Website: merrickcs.org*

*Local contact: Daniel* *Rodriguez, 651-219-5533,* [*drodriguez@merrickcs.org*](mailto:drodriguez@merrickcs.org)

**Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council - Learn and Earn, $45,000**

This Learn and Earn program serves low income adults and young adults, allowing participants to earn wages while they learn skills necessary to obtain higher wages. The goal of this project is to advance the careers and wages of participants through offering them a continuum of integrated opportunities to obtain academic credit, college credit, industry recognized credentials, marketable skills, related on-the-job training and work experience, and employment in a high growth, high-demand occupation.

*Website: www.swmnpic.org*

*Local contact: Carrie Bendix, 507-476-4067,* [*cbendix@swmnpic.org*](mailto:cbendix@swmnpic.org)

**Jeremiah Program - Removing Barriers, $45,000**

Jeremiah Program focuses on eliminating intergenerational poverty through education for two generations and holistic support for the whole family. Serving low-income single mothers and their children, the program provides access to stable housing and onsite early childhood education while the mothers receive training, individualized coaching, and earn a post-secondary degree. These supports allow single mothers to obtain the credentials they need to build and advance in a career with family-sustaining wage.

*Website: jeremiahprogram.org*

*Local contact: La Juana Whitmore, 651-332-5004,* [*lwhitmore@jeremiahprogram.org*](mailto:lwhitmore@jeremiahprogram.org)

**African Immigrants Community Services - Refugee Job Readiness & Employment Program, $45,000**

African Immigrants Community Services targets youth and adult East African refugees, serving hard to employ clients for placement in high demand positions that have on-the-job training or do not require proficient English skills or a degree. Programing includes direct job readiness services to participants, along with paid internships, bus passes, and tuition for enrollment in certificate or training programs.

*Website: www.aicsmn.org*

*Local contact: Mohamed Ahmed, 612-871-9481, m.ahmed@aicsmn.org*

**Karen Organization of Minnesota - What’s Next?, $45,000**

In collaboration with St. Paul and Roseville Public Schools, the Karen Organization of Minnesota address the unique academic challenges and career development needs facing youth and young adults from refugee and immigrant communities, many with limited English proficiency. Services provided include culturally responsive workforce training, financial literacy, employment preparation, and job skills with the goal that participants advance to training, postsecondary education, or obtain and retain stable employment.

*Website: www.mnkaren.org*

*Local contact: Alexis Walstad, 651-202-3120,* [*awalstad@mnkaren.org*](mailto:awalstad@mnkaren.org) *or* *Eh Tah Khu, 651-202-3114,* [*ekhu@mnkaren.org*](mailto:ekhu@mnkaren.org)

**Banyan Community - Youth Intervention and Educational Support, $42,200**

The Youth Intervention and Educational Support Focused on Creating a Pipeline of Diverse Employees serves low income high school and college students from the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. Through wrap-around support programs, academic support, and job preparation, the program prepares youth for meaningful employment in high-growth, in-demand occupations.

*Website: www.banyancommunity.org*

*Local contact: Joani Essenburg, 612-722-8512,* [*joani@banyancommunity.org*](mailto:joani@banyancommunity.org)

**Greater Bemidji – MI2 Career Academies, $40,000**

The Minnesota Innovation Initiative (MI2) Career Academies project provides integrated economic development and workforce development services on a regional basis in Northwest Minnesota. Program participants are low income youth and adults with many experiencing multiple barriers to employment. The project goal is to introduce participants to technical skills and employment. Services include job training, employment preparation, job assistance, and training to gain certifications with a focus on manufacturing.

*Website: greaterbemidji.com*

*Local contact: David Hengel, 218-444-5757,* [*dhengel@greaterbemidji.com*](mailto:dhengel@greaterbemidji.com)

**Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency - Parents in Education, $40,000**

The Parents in Education program is a comprehensive wrap-around service model that moves participants through a continuum of services resulting in employment. The program serves low income, young parents experiencing barriers to living-wage employment. Participants are provided case management, training opportunities to obtain an industry recognized certificate, on-the-job training opportunities, and job search and placement assistance.

*Website: www.aeoa.org*

*Local contact: Scott Zahorik, 218-748-7331,* [*scott.zahorik@aeoa.org*](mailto:scott.zahorik@aeoa.org)

**Goodwill-Easter Seals - FATHER Project, $40,000**

Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota’s FATHER Project serves low-income fathers who face intergenerational poverty and employment disparities and are predominantly men of color. Program services include employment consulting designed to provide basic and occupational skill training and placement/retention services and support. These coordinated and individualized services positively impact economic and social outcomes, combat disparities, and strengthen family relationships.

*Website: www.goodwilleasterseals.org*

*Local contact: Andrew Freeberg, 651-379-5874,* [*afreeberg@gesmn.org*](mailto:afreeberg@gesmn.org)

**Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services - Support Services, $40,000**

The Support Services project will reduce disparities for people of color through employment preparation, paid internships, career training, financial literacy education, and entrepreneurship-supporting activities. The program will serve low-income youth and adults, including those with disabilities or those parenting children with disabilities. Through the program, participants will gain skills necessary for career success with a focus on credentialed employment in industries such as health care, manufacturing, and transportation.

*Website: www.cmjts.org*

*Local contact: Barbara Chaffee, 763-271-3711,* [*bchaffee@cmjts.org*](mailto:bchaffee@cmjts.org)

## Program Activities

The Support Services Opportunity Grant provides grantees with the flexibility to provide a variety of programming opportunities. The chart below denotes the activities that each organization is providing through the SFY 2020 Youth Support Services Opportunity Grant.

| **Project** | **Job Training** | **Employment Preparation** | **Internship** | **Job Assistance to Fathers** | **Financial Literacy** | **Academic and Behavioral Interventions for Low Performing Students** | **Youth Intervention Activities** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Minnesota Valley Action Council/South Central | x | x | x |  |  |  |  |
| Brooklyn Park EDA/BrookLynk |  | x | x |  |  |  |  |
| Career Solutions - Stearns/Benton | x | x |  |  | x |  |  |
| YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities | x | x | x |  | x |  |  |
| Project Legacy |  | x |  |  |  | x | x |
| Workforce Development Inc | x | x |  |  | x |  | x |
| Model Cities of St. Paul | x | x | x |  | x |  |  |
| Merrick Community Services | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |
| Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jeremiah Program | x | x |  |  | x |  |  |
| African Immigrants Community Services | x | x | x |  | x |  |  |
| Karen Organization of Minnesota |  | x |  |  | x | x | x |
| Banyan Community |  | x |  |  |  | x | x |
| Greater Bemidji | x | x | x |  |  |  |  |
| Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency | x | x |  |  | x |  |  |
| Goodwill-Easter Seals | x | x |  | x | x |  |  |
| Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services | x | x | x |  | x |  |  |
| TOTAL | 13 | 17 | 7 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 4 |