



# **SFY 2022-2023 Youth at Work Equity Grant**

Legislative Report  
11/16/2022

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Department of Employment and Economic Development

Office of Youth Development

332 Minnesota Street Ste. E200

St. Paul, MN 55101

(Phone) 651-259-7555

[Kay.Tracy@state.mn.us](mailto:Kay.Tracy@state.mn.us)

[mn.gov/deed/programs-services/office-youth-development/](http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/office-youth-development/)

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**Contents**

SFY 2022-2023 Youth at Work Equity Grant ..... 1

    Contents ..... 3

Minnesota Youth at Work Opportunity Grant ..... 4

    Background..... 4

    Overview of Request for Proposals Process..... 5

    Selection of Grantees ..... 5

    Project Descriptions and Success Stories ..... 8

    Program Demographics and Outcomes ..... 19

    Program Activities ..... 21

    Youth at Work Opportunity Grant Logic Model ..... 22

# Minnesota Youth at Work Opportunity Grant

## Background

Minnesota Statutes ([116L.562](#)) authorize the youth competitive grants directing DEED to “award grants to eligible organizations for the purpose of providing workforce development and training opportunities to economically disadvantaged or at-risk youth ages 14-24.” The total amount of funding appropriated is \$4,098,000 each year; \$3,348,000 from the Workforce Development Fund and \$750,000 from the General Fund.<sup>1</sup> SFY22-23 legislation permits DEED to retain five percent of these funds for administration and monitoring, making the total amount available for grants equal to \$3,893,100 per year.

The Youth at Work RFP identified the following priorities, impact areas, and goals for all proposals:

- Provide summer and/or year-round work experience and introduction to career pathways for economically disadvantaged or at-risk youth, ages 14 through 24 (including those who are out-of-school and/or involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, residing in MFIP households, youth with disabilities, and youth from communities of color who are under-represented in the workforce; homeless and/or runaways); and,
- Increase exposure to in-demand jobs important to regional economies; and,
- Introduce and promote career pathways and skill acquisition (academic and work readiness) through project-based instruction; and,
- Promote mastery of work readiness competencies and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, as demonstrated through workplace portfolios and other assessments; and,
- Provide high-quality worksites and overall participant and employer satisfaction.

Based on the language in M.S. [116L.562](#), priority is provided to programs that:

1. Provide students with information about education and training requirements for careers in high-growth, in-demand occupations;
2. Serve youth from communities of color who are under-represented in the workforce; or
3. Serve youth with disabilities.

Under M.S. [116L.562](#), Subd. 2, “eligible applicants/organizations” means a local government unit, nonprofit organization, community action agency or a public school district. In addition, applicant agencies:

1. Must have demonstrated effectiveness in administering youth workforce programs and must leverage non-state or private sector funds.

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<sup>1</sup> Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, Chapter 10, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(h).  
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2021/1/Session+Law/Chapter/10/#laws.2.5.0>

2. Must be youth-serving organizations with significant capacity and demonstrable youth development experience and outcomes to operate a youth workforce development project.
3. If a program is not operated by a local unit of government or a workforce development board, the grant recipient must coordinate the program with the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB).

## Overview of Request for Proposals Process

- The RFP was posted on DEED’s website on February 20, 2019 under [Grant and Contract Opportunities](#).
- The DEED Communications team proactively 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 Youth at Work Competitive Grant. The Youth Development team shared the Youth at Work 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 Youth at Work Competitive 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](#) website.
- DEED’s Office of Youth Development hosted an Informational Webinar about the Youth at Work funding opportunity on Wednesday, March 6, 2019. A link to the recorded webinar was available on demand on DEED’s [Grant and Contract Opportunities](#) webpage.
- DEED’s Office of Youth Development received **60** proposals requesting **more than \$17.7 million dollars**. Approximately **80%** of funds requested focused on the Twin Cities area; **20%** of funds focused on Greater Minnesota. Approximately **76%** of available funds were awarded to the Twin Cities area and **24%** allocated to Greater Minnesota.

## Selection of Grantees

**Over \$17.7 million in funding requests were submitted to DEED. Only \$3,893,100 was available for grant awards in the SFY 2022-23 funding cycle.** All proposals were read and scored by a team of Community and State-level reviewers. The following 40 organizations were recommended for funding:

Organization	Area Served	SFY 2022 Grant Award	SFY 2023 Grant Award
180 Degrees	East Metro, Southwest Metro	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00
Achieve Twin Cities (formerly Achieve Minneapolis)	Minneapolis	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
African Community Services	West Metro	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Afro-American Development Association	Moorhead	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00

American Indian OIC	South Minneapolis	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
Anoka County	Anoka County and surrounding area	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Banyan Community	South Minneapolis	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Brooklynk	Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
Career Solutions	Benton/Stearns Co.	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
City of Duluth	Duluth	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
City of Minneapolis	Minneapolis	\$700,000.00	\$700,000.00
City of St. Paul	St. Paul	\$575,000.00	\$575,000.00
CLUES	Metro	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
CMJTS	WDA 5 - Central MN	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Conservation Corps	Metro	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Cookie Cart	Minneapolis/St. Paul	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
Cristo Rey Jesuit School	Metro	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
East Side Neighborhood Services	Minneapolis	\$81,422.00	\$81,422.00
Elpis Enterprises	Hennepin and Ramsey Counties	\$41,400.00	\$41,400.00
EMERGE	Metro, North Minneapolis, Cedar Riverside	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Evergreen YFS	Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard Counties. Red Lake and White Earth Reservations	\$73,436.00	\$73,436.00
Greater Bemidji	Headwaters Region including Red Lake, Leech Lake, and White Earth Reservations	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
HIRED	Ramsey and Dakota County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

Ka Joog	Metro	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Karen Organization of MN	Metro, Ramsey County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Keystone Community Services	St. Paul	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
MAHUBE-OTWA	Mahnomen, Hubbard, Becker, Otter Tail, Wadena Counties	\$46,842.00	\$46,842.00
Minneapolis Park & Rec	Minneapolis	\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00
Minnesota Computers for Schools	Metro	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
NEMOJT	Northeast MN - 7 county region	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Pillsbury United Community	Minneapolis	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
PPL	Hennepin County	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
Rural CEP	WDA 2 - 19 Counties	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
RWDA 5	Upper and Lower Sioux Communities, 23 Counties in Southwest/South Central MN	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
SEWDI	WDA 8 - 10 counties	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Somali Community Resettlement Services	Olmsted, Rice, and Hennepin Counties	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
South Sudanese Foundation	Moorhead, MN	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
UpTurnships	7 County Metro Area	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Urban Roots	St. Paul	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Youthprise	Faribault and Northfield	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,893,100</b>	<b>\$3,893,100</b>

## Project Descriptions and Success Stories

**180 Degrees – \$65,000.** Youth living in 180 Degrees' transitional housing will be provided labor market information about in-demand occupations and the requirements need to obtain jobs in those career pathways. Case managers will connect youth with appropriate resources where they can obtain education, certification, and trainings. *Local contact: Dan Pfarr, [Dan.pfarr@180degrees.org](mailto:Dan.pfarr@180degrees.org)*

*Website: [180degrees.org](http://180degrees.org)*

**Achieve Twin Cities – \$50,000.** We ensure Minneapolis Public Schools students achieve secondary education goals, explore, apply to, and access postsecondary education opportunities; develop financial literacy and soft skills; and acquire a broad and deep knowledge of career pathways opportunities. *Local contact: Danielle Grant, [dgrant@achievetwincities.org](mailto:dgrant@achievetwincities.org)*

*Website: [achievetwincities.org](http://achievetwincities.org)*

**African Community Services – \$60,000.** The program will provide career exploration and planning activities along with work readiness skills training, mentoring, and job training and placement. Youth will have the opportunity to learn about in-demand careers and have the ability to earn credentials in high-growth fields. *Local contact: Hassan Omar, [homar@africanacs.org](mailto:homar@africanacs.org)*

*Website: [africanacs.org](http://africanacs.org)*

**Afro American Development Association – \$60,000.** The project's goal is to increase the number of New American youth that are on a trajectory toward living-wage jobs that allow them to support a family and break out of poverty. Project activities to support the goal include facilitating youths' discovery of their talents, interests, and abilities; building youth awareness of career options and pathways; offering education and training to build job skills, and; creating access to valuable work experiences. *Local contact: Hukun Abdullahi, [hukun@aadevassoc.org](mailto:hukun@aadevassoc.org)*

*Website: [aadevassoc.org](http://aadevassoc.org)*

**American Indian OIC – \$75,000.** The core activities of the project include work readiness camps, field trips to local businesses and post-secondary institutions, connection to paid internships and traditional youth employment opportunities; secondary credit and diploma attainment, and assistance with college and FAFSA applications. *Local contact: Joe Hobot, [joeh@aioic.org](mailto:joeh@aioic.org)*

*Website: [aioic.org](http://aioic.org)*

**Anoka County – \$50,000.** Programming is aligned with the federally funded WIOA Youth programming. Youth will participate in intensive career readiness training, career pathways exploration. Youth will also receive support in exploring and applying to postsecondary settings. *Local contact: Nicole Swanson, [Nicole.Swanson@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:Nicole.Swanson@co.anoka.mn.us)*

SUCCESS STORY: Mohamed, “Mo” started with the Anoka County Empowers Youth program the summer of 2021. He was about to start his senior year at Southwest High School while doing PSEO at MCTC. Previously he had participated in the Police Explorer Program through the City of Minneapolis for 3 years. Through our



program he was able to complete a paid internship for the City of Columbia Heights Police Department. June of 2022, he graduated from High School and now has accepted a job with the City of Minneapolis as a Community Service Officer. He plans to start classes this fall at Normandale Community College in the Law Enforcement Transfer Pathway (AS). The Law Enforcement Transfer Pathway (AS) offers students a powerful option: the opportunity to complete an Associate of Science degree with course credits that directly transfer to designated Law Enforcement bachelor's degree programs at Minnesota State universities. The City of Minneapolis will pay for this education if he commits to three years of employment as a Minneapolis Police Officer. After completing this program, he plans to go on and complete his BA in Criminal Justice.

*Website:* <https://www.anokacountymn.gov/1064/Job-Training-Center---CareerForce>

**Banyan Community – \$50,000.** The ASPIRE high school program provides academic support via individualized tutoring and study help with a focus on graduation and college readiness. The Banyan Scholars program supports first-generation college students and their parents as they embark on their college and career pathway. Our goal is to help acclimate and provide resources to students throughout college culminating in internships, networking opportunities, and graduation. *Local contact:* Carl Schlueter, [carl@banyancommunity.org](mailto:carl@banyancommunity.org)

*Website:* [bayancommunity.org](http://bayancommunity.org)

**Brooklyn Park EDA – \$75,000.** Brooklynk is a youth workforce development program that provides work readiness training, job coaching, and paid summer internships to youth 16-24 that live and/or attend school in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center. *Local contact:* Catrice O’Neal [catrice.oneal@brooklynk.works](mailto:catrice.oneal@brooklynk.works)

SUCCESS STORY: Sonia Limkar has been part of Brooklynk for 3 years and serves as a program ambassador as well. She is currently a freshman at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities majoring in psychology. Sonia plans to become a clinical psychologist in the future. Sonia says, “I have been passionate about mental health for quite a bit now, and professionals are needed to help people. Brooklynk has helped me get placed in internships which helped me figure out what my future career plans were. I got placed in internships that were made for my interests at the time. Brooklynk has also helped me build up my resume, to make me stand out for colleges and future employers. I would recommend the Brooklynk program to everyone, this is such a great program that will help your growth for your future!”

*Website:* [www.brooklynk.works](http://www.brooklynk.works)

**Career Solutions – \$75,000.** Youth participants will have an individualized career plan with identified goals. Career counseling will include review of labor market information, career exploration activities, career pathways opportunities, credential trainings, and wraparound support services. *Local contact:* Tammy Biery, [tammy.biery@csjobs.org](mailto:tammy.biery@csjobs.org)

*Website:* [careersolutionsjobs.org](http://careersolutionsjobs.org)

**City of Duluth – \$75,000.** The program relies on Individual Service Strategies (ISS) that outlines training needs, work experience, and barriers that need to be resolved to obtain and retain employment. Youth will complete work readiness training workshops and will participate in paid work experience opportunities with community partners. *Local contact:* Elena Foshay, [efoshay@duluthmn.gov](mailto:efoshay@duluthmn.gov)

**SUCCESS STORY:** Jayden was referred to YES Duluth by Life House homeless youth program in September 2021. Jayden began working toward her GED with the instructor at Life House, receiving support services and GED stipend payments through the Youth at Work grant while she stabilized in her housing situation and prepared for employment. While working on her GED studies, Jayden began working in a paid Work Experience in Life House's Legitimate Hustle entrepreneurial skill building program. Jayden had great difficulty remaining engaged in her goals during her first year with the program. There were several months in the spring/summer when she was completely disconnected from Life House and YES Duluth. Staff were persistent and continued to reach out, offering Jayden support to re-engage with her goals whenever she was ready. In August 2022, Jayden reconnected with her GED and Work Experience goals. Jayden was co-enrolled in the WIOA Out of School program, and completed her GED in September 2022. Jayden is preparing to enroll in CNA training after the birth of her first child, and she is staying in contact with YES Duluth staff to receive support as she works toward her career goals.

*Website:* <https://duluthmn.gov/workforce-development/>

**City of Minneapolis – \$700,000.** Through on-the-job experience, professional support, and work readiness training, Step Up interns develop foundational skills. Youth learn work readiness skills and participate in paid work experiences with local employer partners. *Local contact:* Deb Bahr-Helgen, [deb.bahr-helgen@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:deb.bahr-helgen@minneapolismn.gov)

*Website:* <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/workforce-development/minneapolis-employment-training/>

**City of St. Paul – \$575,000. City of St. Paul – \$575,000.** Participants learn about career pathways in high-growth industries and in-demand occupations through paid internships, career exploration, meeting industry professionals, field trips to worksites, information about St. Paul Public Schools Career Academies. Credential opportunities are available to youth in certain industries. *Local contact:* Andy Rodriguez [andy.rodriguez@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:andy.rodriguez@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

**SUCCESS STORY:** Ethan Xiong's first internship with Right Track was working at Film North, a community-based organization, connecting young people to opportunities to create and edit video productions. After a few summers of work and finishing high school, Ethan applied for the first year of UX Academy, a partnership between Right Track, MSP TechHire, and Prime Digital Academy. UX Academy is a high-intensity 12 week training to prepare young people for entry level careers in User Design Experience. At completion of the program Ethan was placed at Soona for a summer internship where he was able to enhance the skills he had just developed on creating high quality user experience. When that program ended, Ethan wanted to further develop his UX skills and with the help of Right Track was placed in an internship with the City of Saint Paul's UX team. All of these experiences have helped Ethan find a path and a career that excites him. In the spring of 2022 accepted a new full-time position with Activision Blizzard as a Quality Assurance Tester. He is earning \$41,600 with employer-paid health insurance. We are super excited for Ethan and what he makes of this opportunity. You can learn more about Ethan's experience in his own words in his speech at UX Graduation in the spring of 2021: <https://youtu.be/eNZVieHPpH8>.

*Website:* <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/right-track>

**Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio – \$50,000.** Youth will be introduced to career pathways in high-demand occupations, equipped with employment readiness and financial literacy skills, provided with paid work

experiences, and supported in obtaining summer jobs or other competitive employment. Students who complete the program will leave with a certificate of employment readiness, resume with their work history and references, and a network of caring adults. *Local contact: Ruby Lee - [rlee@clues.org](mailto:rlee@clues.org)*

*[Website: clues.org](http://clues.org)*

**Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services – \$100,000.** Improve work readiness and career pathway awareness through Operation Exploration (OE), an innovative hands-on career exploration camp focusing on in demand career pathways such as healthcare, the trades, manufacturing, and/or information technology. After Operation Exploration, based on individual need, youth will participate in a work-based learning experience, service-learning project, and/or credentialed training. 45 youth with disabilities, youth of color, and/or homeless youth that are economically disadvantaged and/or at-risk youth throughout Central Minnesota Local Workforce Development Area 5 (LWDA 5) will participate. Expected outcomes will be to provide hands-on-learning opportunities that increase career pathway knowledge, establish positive ties between youth and their community, and provide work-based learning and/or training opportunities that lead to industry-recognized credentials and/or high demand employment. *Local contact: Barbara Chaffee, [bchaffee@cmjts.org](mailto:bchaffee@cmjts.org)*

**SUCCESS STORY:** My name is Carson and I am 17 years old and a junior attending Buffalo High School. I grew up and live in Maple Lake, Minnesota. I enjoy being active outdoors with hunting small and big game, fishing, helping fix tractors and vehicles. I heard about the CMJTS Operation Exploration from one of my teachers. This hands-on trades camp, which I attended at the Wright Technical Center, included hands-on activities in automotive, welding and construction. I really enjoyed the welding experience the most and I am currently enrolled in the Wright Technical Center Welding Program. During the trades camp I got to build projects to take home using a MIG welder. I learned to take things slow when welding to make the weld more correct and to decrease splatter/sparks. I will be in this program the full school year and will get college credit for a grade of B or higher. I am currently getting an A. I plan on taking a second year - Advanced Welding through Wright Technical Center next year. My high school graduation date will be June 9, 2024, and I plan on having attained my Welding certificate by then. My plan after high school is to attend a 2-year welding program at St. Cloud Technical College or Dunwoody. After I graduate from the 2-year trades school I plan on becoming a successful full-time welder with a larger company for advancement. The CMJTS Youth Program has taught me about the various trades and jobs in these fields. CMJTS staff encourage me to get work experience, so in August 2022 I started my current job at Taco John's in Buffalo. I am excited about all I've learned and about having a career in the welding trade as there is a large variety of job options that fit well with my personal interests.

*[Website: cmjts.org](http://cmjts.org)*

**Conservation Corps – \$50,000.** Participants are assigned to specific crews and learn alongside their peers. Participants complete educational activities and community-based projects throughout the school year. Program curriculum is focused on environmental and natural resource management. *Local contact: Mark Murphy, [mark.murphy@conservationcorps.org](mailto:mark.murphy@conservationcorps.org)*

*[Website: conservationcorps.org](http://conservationcorps.org)*

**Cookie Cart – \$75,000.** Youth participants will be taught life skills, leadership skills, and employment skills through on-the-job and classroom training. Opportunities for youth to earn various credentials will be provided. Youth will also learn how to network and explore careers in numerous high-growth and in-demand fields. While

completing training youth will receive a paycheck by working at Cookie Cart locations. *Local contact: Cynthia J. Fraction, [cfraction@cookiecart.org](mailto:cfraction@cookiecart.org).*

*[Website: cookiecart.org](http://cookiecart.org)*

**Cristo Rey Jesuit School – \$100,000.** In Cristo Rey’s Corporate Work Study Program, students work for five full days per month at one of 80+ corporations, businesses, or non-profits, an increasing number of which require the use of technical skills. Youth at Work grant funds support students’ preparation for future careers in three ways: 1) students will learn and practice various technical skills across a four-year business curricula and then at their workplace, 2) program staff can maximize student and company supports, thereby maximizing student work performance and company satisfaction, and 3) program staff and company supervisors will access increased Professional Development and training opportunities to enhance their work with students. *Local contact: Jeb Myers, [jebmyers@crstoreytc.org](mailto:jebmyers@crstoreytc.org)*

*[Website: crstoreytc.org](http://crstoreytc.org)*

**East Side Neighborhood Services – \$81,422.** FutureConnect moves participants through three modules: 1. work readiness skill development; 2. career pathways exploration; and 3. paid work experiences. The goal of the program is for participants to demonstrate increased knowledge of workplace professionalism and navigation of job search systems in order to find employment that leads to career goals. *Local contact: Kristine Martin, [kmartin@esns.org](mailto:kmartin@esns.org)*

*[Website: esns.org](http://esns.org)*

**Elpis Enterprises – \$41,400.** A social enterprise that provides work readiness training and work experience to youth living in unstable situations. Staff support participants with developing a career plan. Various industry recognized credentials are available for youth to obtain. Postsecondary education support is also provided to participants. *Local contact: Paul Ramsour, [paul@elpisenterprises.org](mailto:paul@elpisenterprises.org)*

**SUCCESS STORY:** TE, 20, has made the most of his woodworking internship at Elpis Enterprises. In the summer of 2020, TE participated as a trainee at Elpis as part of the Right Track program in St. Paul. He completed the internship and successfully completed OSHA 10 training and Business 101 courses as part of the training. TE, who was born in Thailand and came to the United States with his parents when he was in the first grade, plans to make carpentry his career. TE made birdhouses, bird feeders, and Adirondack chairs with his plan being to start a carpentry course at St. Paul College in the fall. In 2021, he started working at Elpis as an assistant in the woodworking department while he started his carpentry program at St. Paul College. As of June 2022, TE earned his certificate at St. Paul College and is now working with an independent contractor in home renovations (a career goal) using his carpentry skills.

*[Website: https://elpisenterprises.org/](https://elpisenterprises.org/)*

**EMERGE – \$50,000.** Youth in high school will be offered supports focused primarily on school completion, work readiness, career exploration, and education planning. Youth who are out of school or approaching graduation will be offered support that will assist them in entering the workforce, with career navigation, work readiness, paid internships, career training, and job placements. *Local contact: Mike Wynne, [wynnem@emerge-mn.org](mailto:wynnem@emerge-mn.org)*

**SUCCESS STORY:** TL first came to EMERGE over year ago at age 16. He loved sports, was working on getting his driver's license, and he wanted a job both to help out at home and to have some spending money. He joined a program we had at the time that connected youth to jobs supporting younger youth, and worked as classroom aide at an afterschool program near his home in St. Paul. He worked with kids in 1st-3<sup>rd</sup> grades on social skills, anger management, and violence prevention. TL, however, is also a young man whose family has been deeply impacted by violence. Last summer several family members were caught up in a drive by shooting; his little brother was hit and wounded. TL helped him cope with the ongoing anger, pain and frustration from his injuries and the trauma of the attack using the exercises like breathing and meditation he had learned to help young children handle stress, anger, and frustration. When TL's internship ended, he decided to focus on school and maybe try for a part-time job near his home. It worked for a while, but the ongoing stress of the pandemic and his brother's injury continued to affect both TL and his family. He lost his job and started to struggle with school. In October 2021, he came back to EMERGE seeking stability and support. He told his case manager that wanted to return to the support and structure he had from being part of a program and working in a paid internship. He felt it would help him meet his longer-term goal of graduating high school and applying for college. Two weeks later TL started an internship at Affinity Homes, a care facility near his home. For TL this strategy was very successful. He worked at Affinity until March of 2022 when he was offered a permanent part-time job. His education and home life have become more stable, and he is now back on track to graduate this spring. He has set himself the longer-term goal of enrolling in college next fall and continuing to work part time. He has also begun working with his school's college counselor and youth program staff to research careers and scholarships.

*Website:* <https://emerge-mn.org/>

**Evergreen YFS – \$73,436.** Program will work closely with the Youthbuild program and referrals from internal programs. Staff work directly with youth to prepare them for education and employment. Support services will be provided to ensure youth can take advantage. *Local contact:* Jana Wolff, [jwolff@evergreenyfs.org](mailto:jwolff@evergreenyfs.org)

*Website:* [evergreenyfs.org](http://evergreenyfs.org)

**Greater Bemidji – \$80,000.** Participants create an individual employment plan including options to learn about employer expectations, work readiness, careers in high demand occupations, and technical training opportunities. Work experiences and credentialing opportunities will be provided to youth. Wraparound services are offered to ensure successful completion of programming. *Local contact:* Dave Hengel, [dhengel@greaterbemidji.com](mailto:dhengel@greaterbemidji.com)

*Website:* [greaterbemidji.com](http://greaterbemidji.com)

**HIRED – \$50,000.** The program helps young people on probation build confidence, work readiness and life skills to prepare for employment in high-growth and in-demand sectors. The talents, interests and skills of participants are used to identify paid employment opportunities that would be suitable for them. The program also helps youth create and implement a plan to enter into a career. *Local contact:* Julie Brekke, [julie.brekke@hired.org](mailto:julie.brekke@hired.org)

*Website:* [hired.com](http://hired.com)

**Ka Joog – \$60,000.** Ka Joog uses labor market information and industry data to inform and determine the skills building classes, credentialing opportunities, and paid internships that are offered to youth. *Local contact:* Mohamed Farah, [mfarah@kajoog.org](mailto:mfarah@kajoog.org)

SUCCESS STORY: Adna is completed an internship at Woodwinds hospital, and really enjoyed it. She is currently a Senior in high school and is getting ready to begin college next year. She was initially was unsure of her future career path. She began this internship at Woodwinds because she was interested in the healthcare field, but wasn't sure what exactly I wanted to do. At Woodwinds, Adna has been able to work with nursing assistants, nurses, doctors, etc. and it's further confirmed that I do want to work in the healthcare field. By being in an environment with healthcare providers, Adna says, "I am motivated to continue working hard in school and life to achieve my goals. This internship has helped me find my career path as well as giving me experience and mentorship. My plans throughout college are to obtain certification as a nursing assistant, work in the hospital to continue gaining experience throughout the next 4 years, and then go to nursing school. After college I hope to work as a registered nurse with underserved populations. If it wasn't for this internship, I would not be as confident in my abilities and my future. I am very grateful to this program and the team of Ka Joog for all the support."

*Website: [kajoog.org](http://kajoog.org)*

**Karen Organization of MN – \$50,000.** Participants will gain the tools, information, and resources necessary to make strategic and informed decisions about their future. Youth will learn to use labor market information to identify high-growth and in-demand careers. Older youth will be referred to adult credential training programs. *Local contact: Alexis Walstad, [Awalstad@mnkaren.org](mailto:Awalstad@mnkaren.org)*

*Website: [mnkaren.org](http://mnkaren.org)*

**Keystone Community Services – \$50,000.** Youth participants develop work-readiness skills and gain valuable work experience at several different Keystone sites including Express Bike Shop, Food Shelves, Teen Tutor, W7th Community Kids, and the Best Buy Teen Tech Center. This includes skills training to earn a technology-related credential, paid youth internships, career exploration and career readiness workshops, and individualized job coaching and mentoring to identify broader career pathways.

*Local contact: Mary McKeown, [mmckeown@keystoneservices.org](mailto:mmckeown@keystoneservices.org)*

SUCCESS STORY: Steven is a high school student who became a member of the Teen Tech Center last year. After joining and going through a few of the career exploration workshops, he was intrigued by the many other opportunities and resources available at the TTC. This motivated him to join two more business-technology-related workshops. After completing the workshops, he was then employed as a Teen Tech Center assistant where he was able to use the skills he learned in the workshops. As an assistant to the Coordinator at the Teen Tech Center, Steven helped lead activities for a group of middle school youth and assisted other youth and peers that visited the space during open hours. He has become a natural advocate for us now where he constantly tells his friends and family about what we do and the opportunities we offer for youth interested in technology and careers. His success has truly become our success and it only fuels the passion for what Keystone has been doing and will continue to keep doing for future generations to come.

*Website: [keystoneservices.org](http://keystoneservices.org)*

**MAHUBE-OTWA – \$46,842.** The program intends to serve youth in high quality internships to support them with career exploration, skill building, and experience to pursue career pathways opportunities. Wraparound services will be provided to ensure participants successfully complete programming. *Local contact: Elizabeth Kuoppala, [Lkuoppala@mahube.org](mailto:Lkuoppala@mahube.org)*



SUCCESS STORY: Rayna, a Head Start parent, successfully completed the DEED Youth at Work internship program. Her child received quality preschool programming in Head Start that allowed her to be able to participate in a work experience. While attending college at Minnesota State Community College, she was able to use this opportunity to explore the Early Childhood career pathway. Rayna completed training and professional development in the Early Childhood setting as well as gained knowledge and learned skills to care for preschoolers, toddlers, and infants. Teaching staff provided mentorship and classroom experience in Head start that furthered her interest in this field. Due to this opportunity, she became a long-term substitute for Head Start while she developed a passion for Early Childhood education. Shortly after she completed her substitute position, she applied and secured full-time employment as a teacher assistant for the Head Start program.

[Website: mahube.org](http://mahube.org)

**Minneapolis Park & Recreation – \$175,000.** MPRB’s Teen Teamworks programs offer a variety of employment and work readiness trainings throughout the Minneapolis Park system. Earn While You Learn workshops focus on careers and occupations, and social and independent living skills. Youth are exposed to many different outdoor career pathways and our impact on our environment. Local contact: Crystal Brinkman – [cbrinkman@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:cbrinkman@minneapolisparcs.org)

[Website: mineapolisparcs.org](http://mineapolisparcs.org)

**Minnesota Computers for Schools – \$50,000.** STEM Pathways program works to systemically address economic and racial inequities in the Twin Cities by providing youth STEM career exploration and guidance, training, certification, and work experience to equip them with the skills and motivation to pursue further education or a subsequent career in STEM. Local contact: Tamara Gillard, [tgillard@mncfs.org](mailto:tgillard@mncfs.org)

[Website: techforsuccess.org](http://techforsuccess.org)

**Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training – \$50,000.** The program will provide work readiness training to youth participants and provide paid work experiences. Youth will be co-enrolled in MYP and/or WIOA Youth programming to ensure wraparound services are provided to participants. Opportunities to explore apprenticeships with unions will be made available to youth who are interested. Local contact: Marie Damiano, [marie.domiano@nemojt.org](mailto:marie.domiano@nemojt.org)

[Website: nemojt.org](http://nemojt.org)

**Pillsbury United Community – \$50,000.** The L2L includes five rungs of youth engagement from exploratory to highly focused internships. It begins with club level involvement, progresses to short-term stipend-based experiences or internships that introduce youth to real-life application of learned concepts. The third rung includes paid internships with experts who directly train and employ youth participants. The fourth rung is a more advanced paid internship for youth with industry recognized certification opportunities, additional training and employment. Lastly, the fifth rung is called Public Allies and is a leadership development, paid work experience for 18-24 year old youth. Local contact: Adair Mosley, [AdairM@pillsburyunited.org](mailto:AdairM@pillsburyunited.org)

[Website: pillsburyunited.org](http://pillsburyunited.org)

**Project for Pride in Living – \$75,000.** The JAG curriculum used at LEAP sites promotes a career pathways approach that assesses young people's career interests, aptitudes, addresses barriers, and identifies youth career pathways in high-growth industries. Through self and career exploration, young people create multiple iterations of a post-secondary plan. LEAP staff connect youth to relevant work experiences, internships, and apprenticeships. *Local contact: Antonio Cardona, [antonio.cardona@ppl-inc.org](mailto:antonio.cardona@ppl-inc.org)*

*Website: [pp-inc.org](http://pp-inc.org)*

**Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Programs (CEP) – \$100,000.** A Career Pathways model approach will be used for the program and will include career exploration, job search support, information on training programs, labor market information, and connections to business in the form of hands-on work experience opportunities. *Local contact: Vicki Leaderbrand, [VickiL@rmcep.com](mailto:VickiL@rmcep.com)*



Symee came to RMCEP as she was interested in gaining work experience in the health field as well as potentially earning her CNA certificate. Symee was a junior at Moorhead high school. Symee had previous work experience at McDonald's but realized that she needed experience in the health field as her employment goal is to become a registered nurse. While working with RMCEP youth programs, Symee was able to earn her first aid/CPR certification. Symee was also given different work training opportunities in the human service field such as working as an activity assistant at a local nursing home as well as an activity assistant at a childcare facility to give her experience working with a range of ages which she would as a nurse. RMCEP also provided support while Symee was able to graduate from high school in May 2022 and then her CNA license in July 2022. While Symee has been successfully exited from Youth at Work, RMCEP continues to help Symee reach her goals through WIOA Out of School Youth as she is currently in the RN program at M State in Moorhead, MN.

*Website: [rmcep.com](http://rmcep.com)*

**Regional Workforce Development Area 5 (Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council and South Central Workforce Council) – \$150,000.** Programming will provide work readiness trainings, career-specific skills training, and paid work experience opportunities. Additionally, programming will connect youth to longer-term career opportunities. *Local contacts: Carrie Bendix, [cbendix@swmnpic.org](mailto:cbendix@swmnpic.org) and Heather Gleason, [hgleason@workforcecouncil.org](mailto:hgleason@workforcecouncil.org)*

**SUCCESS STORY:** Selena was referred to MVAC in 2018 and has worked with a number of staff, on and off, over the years. She was first referred to the DWP program and then participated in the MFIP program. Selena has always had a great work ethic and is rarely without a job, sometimes working 2-3 jobs at a time. She is a kind and nurturing individual and expressed a desire to attend school for nursing or early childhood development, both of which suite her caring personality. Selena's MFIP counselor referred her to MVAC's Youth Program to explore educational options and also to give her the opportunity to participate in a work experience. Her counselor was able to place her at a local daycare center where she excelled and successfully completed a work experience. She worked closely with her counselor and determined that she wanted to attend South Central College for early childhood education. She started school 8/24/2020 and despite being a single mother to two young boys and working full time, she successfully completed school and graduated 5/12/2022 with her Early Childhood Education Diploma. Selena is currently employed at a local daycare center as a lead teacher where she worked full time, while attending school. She is able to put her education and degree to good use at work.



Selena also completed MVAC's Get Started program to learn new work skills; she received guidance on budgeting and was connected with various community resources. Selena has overcome many obstacles in her life and has faced these obstacles with a positive attitude. She is resilient and strong and never complained when life took an unexpected turn. She has worked extremely hard to better herself and provide for her sons and be a positive role model for them. As of June 2022, Selena is closed off from MFIP due to her income. Selena dreams of buying a house and starting her own daycare business someday and is in the early stages of exploring how to make this happen.

*Website:* <https://www.swmnpic.org/> and <http://www.workforcecouncil.org/>

**Southeast Workforce Development Inc. – \$50,000.** Four unique career pathways trainings will be provided to participants. Younger youth will be exposed to entrepreneurial and Information technology through Code Savvy programming. Young adults (17-24) will begin programming with work readiness trainings and move on to industry-specific career pathways and have the opportunity to earn an industry recognized credential. *Local contact:* Jinny Rietmann, [JinnyRietmann@workforcedevelopmentinc.org](mailto:JinnyRietmann@workforcedevelopmentinc.org)

**SUCCESS STORY:** Ana, is a Latinx female, comes from a low-income household, and is a first-generation college student. She has excelled academically and has been awarded both merit and need based scholarships from her college. WDI has been able to use program funds to help offset the cost of her textbooks, which are especially expensive as her studies are in the STEM field. Summer 2022, Ana approached us with interest in getting her Emergency Medical Technician certification. She ultimately wants to do graduate work in genetics and microbiology, but she is always looking for ways to give back to her community, so she thought that serving as a bilingual EMT after graduating from college would be a way for her to make an impact. The cost of the certification was prohibitive to her, as there was no traditional financial aid available. With Youth at Work grant funding, WDI was able to help her enroll in the EMT course. She is on track to be a certified EMT next quarter, and she is excited to work with local emergency medical services, both as a way to help the community she grew up in, and as a means to further her education. She is truly inspiring, and we feel so lucky to be able to help her reach her goals.

*Website:* <https://workforcedevelopmentinc.org/>

**Somali Community Resettlement Services – \$100,000.** Participants will be provided information on occupations in demand. Each participant will identify credentials for their career pathway plans. Financial literacy trainings and wrap around services will be provided to participants. *Local contact:* Abdullah N. Hared, [anhared@somalcrs.org](mailto:anhared@somalcrs.org)

*Website:* [somalcrs.org](http://somalcrs.org)

**South Sudanese Foundation – \$50,000.** The **South Sudanese Foundation (SSF)** located in Moorhead, Minnesota, proposes the New American Youth Workforce Development project to serve New American (refugees, first- and second-generation immigrants) youth aged. To meet these needs, SSF will provide youth with wraparound case management services; English language and GED classes and tutoring; Certified Nurse Assistant, CPR/childcare, and forklift operation certification courses; resume writing and interview skills workshops; job fairs and job application and job placement services. *Local contact:* Matuor Alier, [matuor20@gmail.com](mailto:matuor20@gmail.com)

*Website:* [ssffm.org](http://ssffm.org)

**UpTurnships – \$50,000.** Programming consists of four components: 1. concentrated, holistic employment coaching; 2. work readiness training; 3. financial literacy education and wealth building; and 4. an introductory employment experience which can include paid internships. *Local contact: La Tasha Shevlin, [Lshevlin@upturnships.org](mailto:Lshevlin@upturnships.org)*

*[Website: upturnships.org](http://upturnships.org)*

**Urban Roots – \$50,000.** Programming will provide paid internship experiences to youth. In addition, youth will complete job readiness trainings and information about labor market information. Life skills supports will also be provided to youth. *Local contact: Hayley Ball, [hayleyball@urbanrootsmn.org](mailto:hayleyball@urbanrootsmn.org)*

*[Website: urbanrootsmn.org](http://urbanrootsmn.org)*

**Youthprise – \$75,000.** Core activities include education programming leading to high school diploma or GED, assistance with enrollment in post-secondary programs with career interests. Wraparound services will be provided and assistance connecting youth to programs leading to industry recognized credentials. *Local contact: Marcus Pope, [marcus@youthprise.org](mailto:marcus@youthprise.org)*

SUCCESS STORY: Monica is a 19-year-old Latina who has been a participant in the program since the first quarter. Since high school, Monica has served in a caretaker role for her family; she picks up and drops off her siblings at school, schedules doctors' appointments, attends parent/teacher conferences, and contributes financially to household expenses like rent and groceries. She enjoyed school very much and did well enough to complete almost a full year of college credits as a junior and senior in high school through the PSEO program, but had never considered college an option for herself. After she expressed a desire, staff began working with Monica often and on an individual basis, helping to research various majors, careers, and postsecondary programs. She had been referred to a mental health professional several months prior, in large part to help her manage her feelings towards a parent with substance abuse issues, and it was this experience that finally convinced her of her own path. In Fall of 2021, Monica began her final year of community college, and is planning to move on to a Bachelor's program in Psychology and then a Master's Degree in Youth & Family Counseling. She hopes to use her personal experience to help other teenagers and their families, and as a Rice County Chemical and Mental Health Fellow, we were able to connect her with a job at a local healthcare non-profit, where she translates between patients and providers and helps advocate for community resources and public health services, particularly for those struggling with substance abuse issues. Monica is thrilled about her new job, and is excited to be compensated, while accruing valuable experience and insight and working towards her academic and professional goals.

*[Website: youthprise.org](http://youthprise.org)*

## Program Demographics and Outcomes

DATA ON PARTICIPANTS SERVED – INDIVIDUAL SERVICES - (Cumulative for the SFY) <sup>2</sup>			
Total Individual Participants Served		5,159	
Total Group Services <sup>3</sup>		6,611	
Total Individual and Group Services		11,770	
Demographic Data for Individual Services			Percent of Individual Services
Gender	A. Female	2,882	55.9%
	B. Male	2,215	42.9%
	C. Transgender	48	0.9%
Age	A. 14 – 15	1,474	28.6%
	B. 16 – 17	1,549	30.0%
	D. 18 – 21	2,017	39.1%
	E. 22 – 24	122	2.4%
Ethnicity / Race	A. Hispanic/Latino	989	19.2%
	B. American Indian or Alaska Native	201	3.9%
	C. Asian/Pacific Islander	449	8.7%
	D. Black or African American	2,384	46.2%
	E. White	1,150	22.3%
	F. Multiracial	203	3.9%
	G. Not Disclosed	437	8.5%
Education Level	A. 0 – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	4,645	90.0%
	C. High School graduate or equivalent	382	7.4%

<sup>2</sup> Individual grantee data is available upon request.

<sup>3</sup> Demographic and specific outcome data is not collected on youth served through group services

	D. Post-Secondary Education	132	2.6%
	E. Not Employed at Program Enrollment	2,799	54.3%
Other Demographics	A. Basic Skills Deficient	444	8.6%
	B. Potential Dropout	199	3.9%
	C. Economically Disadvantaged	3,019	58.5%
	D. Youth with a Disability	762	14.8%
	E. Limited English Proficient	662	12.8%
	F. Pregnant or Parenting	101	2.0%
	G. Offender	102	2.0%
	H. Homeless or Runaway Youth	132	2.6%
	I. Foster Youth (or aged out of foster care)	74	1.4%
	J. Youth from Families Receiving Public Assistance	3,722	72.1%
<b>PROGRAM SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, AND OTHER RELATED ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL SERVICES - (Cumulative for the SFY)</b>			
	A. Received Education, Employment Preparation, or Work Readiness/Job Training Activities (Includes Training in ABE/Remedial, Basic Skills, Classroom, Labor Market Info, Life Skills, and Occupational Skills)	1,081	21.0%
	B. Received Work Experience, Internship, or Apprenticeship Activities	1,571	30.5%
	C. Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	319	6.2%
	D. Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities	2,937	56.9%
	E. Received Mentoring Activities	669	13.0%
	F. Received Support Services	104	2.0%
<b>INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL SERVICES - (Cumulative for the SFY)</b>			
	A. Attained Work Readiness and/or Education Goals	4,053	78.6%

B. Received Academic Credit or Service Learning Credit	1,148	22.3%
C. Obtained High School Diploma, GED, Remained in School, Obtained a Certificate or Degree, or Dropout - Returned to School	3,136	60.8%
D. Entered Post Secondary Education, Vocational/Occupational Skills Training, Apprenticeship, or Military	1,073	20.8%
E. Entered employment	114	2.2%
F. Retained employment, increased wages or advanced career	3	0.1%
G. Completed Program Objective	2,496	48.4%

## Program Activities

The Youth at Work Opportunity Grant provides grantees with the flexibility to provide youth with a variety of programming opportunities.

The definitions are broad and the following information provides example activities that align with each category:

1. **Employment Preparation** – activities including resume writing, job searching, labor market information, soft skills training, job shadowing, business tours, etc.
2. **Job Training** – activities that support youth in receiving industry-recognized credentials, industry-specific certifications, and digital literacy skills development.
3. **Internships or Work Experiences** – Paid experiences in which youth can apply technical and soft skills.
4. **Financial Literacy** – trainings, workshops, and curriculum in which youth learn about financial literacy concepts.
5. **Academic Support** – activities that support youth from dropping out of secondary school including earning academic credit, literacy and numeracy skills development, and tutoring.
6. **Post-Secondary Education Support** – activities that help youth explore post-secondary options, college tours, application and financial aid assistance.

Please contact Kay Tracy, Director of Youth Development at 651.259.7555 or [kay.tracy@state.mn.us](mailto:kay.tracy@state.mn.us) if you have any questions about this report. More information on the SFY2022 Youth at Work grants can be found here: <https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/office-youth-development/special/grants/>.

## Youth at Work Opportunity Grant Logic Mode

