

MINNESOTA BLUEPRINT FOR SHARED VISION FOR YOUTH
Interagency Projects Supporting Positive Outcomes for At-Risk Youth

Vision: “By age 25, Minnesota’s young people will be ready for the responsibilities and rewards of economic self-sufficiency, healthy family and social relationships, community involvement, stable housing and life-long learning.”

MISSION STATEMENT: *State and local agencies will collaborate to assure that Minnesota’s neediest youth will acquire the talents, skills, and knowledge necessary to ensure their healthy transition to successful adult roles and responsibilities.*

Outcomes				
Improve Transition Outcomes for Juvenile Offenders	Improve Transition Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care	Improve Transition Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities	Prevent and End Homelessness	Reduce High School Dropout Rates
Strategies				
Community Corrections, Juvenile Justice Programs – Staff from JET maintain close working relationships with county correction agencies throughout northeast Minnesota. Youth participants who are court ordered to complete community service may be provided opportunities to engage in unpaid work experience that could lead to paid work experience, if the client is successful.	JET provides support for funding post-secondary education, work experience and internship opportunities. A comprehensive Applicant Self-Assessment identifies housing needs, aligns community resources, money management and budgeting, social support, parenting, legal skills, self-care and work & study habits. Career Counselors attend to the combined elements that may prove to be problematic to those aging out of foster care they assist with developing long and short-term employment and life goals.	For many a disability constitutes a substantial barrier to applying for or holding a job, may participate in the program as a family of one. Youth and young adults with disabilities, including learning, have a number of programs and agencies available to assist them, including education, Job Corps, Vocational Rehabilitation, social service, probation and corrections, social security, mental health agencies, and etc. JET serves as an integral part with services alignment.	JET youth staff work closely with the various homeless shelters, schools, church staff, youth outreach workers, community youth organizations, and counties human service staff to identify and make sure that homeless youth get the appropriate services and resources to Assist them in finding housing and employment.	JET staff work with youth who are at risk or have dropped out of high school, youth enrolled in Alternative Learning Centers (ALC). The potential and actual dropouts are referred by teachers, including Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructors, school counselors who are aware of a young person’s plan to leave school before graduation. The Youth Career Counselors recruit youth who have dropped out of school by advertising in the local CareerForce locations, youth centers and other areas that youth frequent. Another great recruiting tool has been word of mouth from former and present participants.

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Providing ongoing support from JET job clubs and support groups at regional Workforce Centers and the convening of regularly scheduled employer and counselor information sessions to assist with job placement and employers willing to work ex-offenders	Youth aging out of the foster care system often have little or no income support, limited housing options and are at a higher risk to end up on the street. Work experience, internships and employment resources are leveraged to gain income and self-sufficiency.	<p>Many youth with disabilities have not had the same opportunities as their non-disabled peers in terms of exposure to career planning.</p> <p>JET staff work and are in contact with the local special education cooperatives to develop a program that is universally acceptable by all agencies and is available to everyone, including persons with disabilities.</p> <p>This universal design refers to common strategies that provide a welcoming atmosphere and better customer service. This universal design is better able to serve youth with a wide range of learning styles, languages, educational levels, intelligence and abilities</p>	JET counselors co-enroll many young adults on MFIP and guide those struggling with meeting basic need of food and shelter to County resources for appropriate programming and services. Counselors adept at providing services to those in public assistance can guide new recipients to support services to prevent homelessness.	JET counselors often help with crafting plans to advocate and intervene for youth that may be struggling with academic, personal, or family problems that may lead to leaving high school. Many times JET counselors are able to stabilize issues and keep students on track to graduation.
Coordination of efforts with New Leaf, the regional Offender Transition Collation and SOAR Career Solutions Offender Reentry Programming	Move youth to educational or employment outcome and or leading to higher levels of success EX; 218 Trades	JET as a former contractor with VRS aligns and continues to coordinate Pre-ETS prospects with a goal of serving the entire spectrum of youth. Many not enrolled into any form of VRS programming with disabilities are served by JET.	Engaging financial counseling with provide budgeting and income support services to youth and young adults. Information and referral to Legal Aid and Energy Assistance programs.	With blended funding streams and activities designed to stabilize youth and families, often in conjunction with DHS programming interventions with those most in need on public assistance continuity of survives and supports need for students to be successful can be leveraged.
Move youth to educational or employment outcome with planning aligned with level of offense and or leading to higher levels of success EX;		Partner with regional resource such as the Grand Rapids Area Scholarship Fund (GRASF) to provide services to those in need and those requiring	Provide supports and resources to engage programming for affordable housing and or stabilizing family units to thrive and grow within their	JET counselors serve to advocate and teach self-advocacy to address student progress and monitor enrolled youth with self-reported (by students)

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218 Trades and ex-offender friendly trades.		extra assistance as a community and academic support.	community's by supporting and providing information and referral to community-based partners serving a role in ending homelessness.	progress report forms while attending secondary education institutions.
				Provide pathways to the trades or programming to those not experiencing success in tradition classrooms to see viable careers from programming such as 218-Trades