 Prepared by the Office of Youth Development

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**Office of Youth Development – SFY 24-25 Direct Appropriations**

[**https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/office-youth-development/special/direct-appropriations/**](https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/office-youth-development/special/direct-appropriations/)

**30,000 Feet – SFY 2025 - $380,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

The 30,000 Feet After School and Tech Job Program provides support through a tech apprenticeship program, academic coaching, after-school programming, and summer academic support to prevent summer learning loss. The program addresses educational disparities faced by African American students in St. Paul.

Local contact: Kevin Robinson, 651-208-8461, [kevin@30kft.art](mailto:kevin@30kft.art)

Legislative Report: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/2023-30000-feet-annual-report_tcm1045-606802.docx>

**Big Brothers Big Sisters – SFY 2025 - $475,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities provides work readiness, employment exploration, and skills development for youth ages 12 to 21 in the Twin Cities, central Minnesota and southern Minnesota. The goal is to leverage the power of mentoring to help teens explore and embark on career pathways that align with their interests, goals, and high-growth, in-demand industries.

Local contact: Pat Sukhum, 651-789-2461, [psukhum@bigstwincities.org](mailto:psukhum@bigstwincities.org)

Legislative Report: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/2023-big-brothers-big-sisters-annual-report_tcm1045-606801.pdf>

**Block Builders Foundation – SFY 2025 - $47,500 (SFY 25 only)**

The purpose of the direct appropriation for Block Builders Foundation is to support programming targeted toward at-risk youth; includes coaching, financial literacy education, juvenile offender diversion programming, and community outreach.

Local contact: Derrick Spencer, 612-396-8137, [derrick.spencer@blockbuildersfoundation.net](mailto:derrick.spencer@blockbuildersfoundation.net)

**Bolder Options Program – SFY 2025 - $237,500 (SFY 25 only)**

The purpose of the direct appropriation for Bolder Options is to provide a grant to Bolder Options Youth Mentoring Program to provide disadvantaged youth ages 12 to 22 with intensive one-to-one wellness, goal-setting, and academic-focused mentorship; programming that teaches life and job-seeking skills; career and college achievement coaches; and connections to employment, job training, and education opportunities. The grant must serve youth in the Bolder Options program in the Twin Cities and the city of Rochester.

Local contact: Darrell Thompson, 612-379-2653 x1215, [DThompson@BolderOptions.org](mailto:DThompson@BolderOptions.org)

**Boys & Girls Club of Central Minnesota – SFY 2024 - $439,850 (SFY 24 only)**

The one-time direct appropriation for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota is to fund one year of free full-service programming for a new program in Waite Park and for planning and design for a new multiuse facility for the Boys and Girls Club of Waite Park and other community partners.

Local contact: Mary Swingle, 320-257-5112, [mswingle@bgcmn.org](mailto:mswingle@bgcmn.org)

**Brooklyn Park – SFY 2025 - $950,000 (SFY 25 only)**

The purpose of the direct appropriation for City of Brooklyn Park is for the Brooklyn Park Small Business Center and for the city to expand the workforce development programming of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center through workforce development programs serving primarily underrepresented populations, including such programs as BrookLynk, Career Pathways, Youth Entrepreneurship, and Community Partners.

Local contact: Catrice ONeal, 763-493-8029, [catrice.oneal@brooklynk.works](mailto:catrice.oneal@brooklynk.works)

**Change Starts with Community – SFY 2025 - $950,000 (SFY 25 only)**

The purpose of the direct appropriation for Change Starts with Community is to establish a comprehensive workforce development initiative, specifically tailored for at-risk youth and adults, located on site at Shiloh Cares Food Shelf in the city of Minneapolis.

Local contact: Jalilia Abdul-Brown- Executive Director, 651-440-8113, [changeswcmpls@gmail.com](mailto:changeswcmpls@gmail.com)

**Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) - SFY 2025 - $950,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

CLUES supports the expansion of culturally tailored programs addressing employment and education gaps for working adults and underserved youth in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota. Programing provides new job skills training to stimulate higher wages for low-income individuals, family support systems designed to reduce intergenerational poverty, and youth programming to promote educational advancement and career pathways.

Local contact: Ruby Azurdia-Lee, 651-379-4203, [rlee@clues.org](mailto:rlee@clues.org)

Legislative Report: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/2023-clues-report_tcm1045-598998.docx>

**EMERGE Community Development - SFY 2025 - $475,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

The direct appropriation supports the operation of the Cedar-Riverside Opportunity Center and its on-site partners to address employment and economic disparities for low-income unemployed or underemployed youth and adults who are primarily East African.

Local contact: Mike Wynne, 612-787-3755, [wynnem@emerge-mn.org](mailto:wynnem@emerge-mn.org)

Legislative Report: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/2023-emerge-report_tcm1045-598997.docx>

**Fortune Relief and Youth Empowerment Organization (FRAYEO) - SFY 2025 - $79,167 (same amount in SFY 24)**

This project is dedicated to enhancing employment opportunities for East African youth in the Twin Cities by providing them comprehensive workforce development services. The primary goal is to facilitate equitable access to meaningful employment with fair wages, while enabling employers to tap into a skilled workforce for in-demand positions.

Local contact: Ukasha Dukane, 952-219-3013, [ukasha.dukane@frayeo.org](mailto:ukasha.dukane@frayeo.org)

**Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches – SFY 2025 - $237,500 (SFY 25 only)**

This appropriation supports a STEM training and career preparation program. The program focuses on serving BIPOC youth ages 11-24 and includes career training, job skills development, mentorship, and employment opportunities.

Local contact: Meghann Gordon, 612-588-4655, [mgordon@gmcc.org](mailto:mgordon@gmcc.org)

**Greater Twin Cities United Way - SFY 2025 - $475,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

The Career Academies initiative at Greater Twin Cities United Way works to unite public education and employment systems so all students have access to purpose driven, wealth-building careers. Strategies include, increasing participation of students of color and students experiencing poverty in dual enrollment and rigorous coursework and eliminating barriers and expanding opportunities for students to engage in high-quality work experiences.

Local contact: Megan O’Meara, 612-340-7529, [Megan.omeara@gtcuw.org](mailto:Megan.omeara@gtcuw.org)

**HIRPHA International – SFY 2025 - $47,500 (SFY 25 only)**

HIRPHA International will use the appropriation to address the needs of the Oromo community in Minnesota. Specifically, this appropriation funds youth apprenticeship, entrepreneurial training, and computer training. HIRPHA International is implementing these programs in collaboration with Oromia Youth Association of Minnesota and Oromo Cultural Institute of Minnesota.

Local contact: Teshie Wako, 651-208-1376, [teshite@maatiifinance.com](mailto:teshite@maatiifinance.com)

**Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation – SFY 2024 - $237,500 (SFY 24 only)**

The direct appropriation helps to increase the number of high schools and high school students participating in the ProStart and Hospitality Tourism Management Program (HTMP) throughout Minnesota. This education program helps young people advance careers in the hospitality industry and address critical long-term workforce shortages in the hospitality and tourism industry.

Local contact: Angie Whitcomb, 651-787-2400, [angie@hospitalitymn.com](mailto:angie@hospitalitymn.com)

Legislative Report: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/2023-hospitality-report_tcm1045-598996.docx>

**Independent School District No. 709, Duluth – SFY 2025 - $165,300 (SFY 25 only)**

The purpose of the grant is to purchase a software subscription for career planning.

Local contact: John Magas, 218-336-8752, [john.magas@isd709.org](mailto:john.magas@isd709.org)

**Independent School District No. 704, Proctor – SFY 2025 - $162,450 (SFY 25 only)**

The purpose of the grant is to develop a regional Career and Tech Education program to serve Independent School District No. 704, Proctor, Independent School District No. 700, Hermantown, and Independent School District No. 99, Esko.

Local contact: Kerry Juntunen, 218-628-4934 or 218-628-4937, [kjuntunen@proctor.k12.mn.us](mailto:kjuntunen@proctor.k12.mn.us)

**Indigenous Roots – SFY 2025 - $95,000 (SFY 25 only)**

The purpose of the direct appropriation for Indigenous Roots is to provide soft skills training and

career readiness training for youth.

Local contact: Mary Anne Ligeralde Quiroz, 651.366.0006, [cyphersideinfo@gmail.com](mailto:cyphersideinfo@gmail.com)

**Inspire Change Clinic – SFY 2025 - $95,000 (SFY 25 only)**

This appropriation funds fellowships designed to create pathways to medicine for students interested in pursuing a career in the health care workforce and remove barriers for minority students, foster inclusivity and diversity in the healthcare sector.

Local contact: Munira Maalimisaq, 612-987-4505, info@inspirechangeclinic.org

**Inspire MSP – SFY 2025 - $95,000 (SFY 25 only)**

The purpose of the direct appropriation for Inspire MSP is to develop programming to assist middle school-aged children in Minneapolis and St. Paul to develop an interest in and connect with the creative industry in Minnesota. Money must be used for program development and career exploration in the creative industry for historically excluded youth by providing access to essential resources, networks, and hands-on experience.

Local contact: Daniel Ryan, 612-236-816, [d.ryan@inspiremsp.com](mailto:d.ryan@inspiremsp.com)

**Lake County Ambulance Service – SFY 2025 - $95,000 (SFY 25 only)**

This appropriation funds an EMT training program for Cook County and Lake County for high school students interested in pursuing careers as emergency medical technicians.

Local contact: Randy Strohmeyer, 218-834-7110, randy.strohmeyer@lcasmn.com

**Metro Youth Diversion Center – SFY 2025 - $475,000 (SFY 25 only)**

The purpose of the direct appropriation for Metro Youth Diversion Center is to support its Youth-Care Assessment and Readiness Education program to enhance workforce development opportunities for youth with a focus on underrepresented East African students.

Local contact: Rashad Ahmed, 612-423-3919, [Rashad.Ahmed@mydiversioncenter.org](mailto:Rashad.Ahmed@mydiversioncenter.org)

**Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) – SFY 2025 - $712,500 (same amount in SFY 24)**

Teens and young adults work for the MPRB in jobs focused on the outdoors, immersed in parks and nature, with exposure and a path to green careers, including employment with the MPRB and other agencies. Funds expand and enhance Youth Employment and Training Programs including Teen Teamworks, Mississippi River Green Team, Garden Crews, Power Crews, Youth Design Team, and pilot a new program for ages 18 to 24, Minneapolis Park Corps.

Local contact: MaryLynn Pulscher, 612-313-7784, [mpulscher@minneapolisparks.org](mailto:mpulscher@minneapolisparks.org)

**Minnesota Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs – SFY 2025 - $950,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

The statewide program serves youth, age 8-18, by preparing them for their future careers. The Career Launch Program includes workforce programs in career exploration and skill development. Participants also receive financial literacy training, mentoring, and job-search and work experience support.

Local contact: Bryan Donaldson, 612-242-8868, [bdonaldson@bgca.org](mailto:bdonaldson@bgca.org)

Legislative Report: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/sfy23-boys-girls-club_tcm1045-608686.docx>

**Minnesota Community of African People with Disabilities – SFY 2025 - $158,333 (same amount in SFY 24)**

This funding is for workforce development, activities for at-risk youth from low-income families and organized training for persons experiencing disabilities. Activities include job readiness training, including resume building, interview skills, and job search strategies; on-the-job training opportunities with local businesses; support services such as transportation assistance and childcare to help youth attend job training programs; and mentorship and networking opportunities.

Local contact: Nimo Ahmed, 612-345-4786, [info@capd.org](mailto:info@capd.org)

**Minnesota Grocers Association – SFY 2025 - $95,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated funds to the Minnesota Grocers Association Foundation (MGAF) for “Carts to Careers” (CTC), a statewide initiative to promote careers, conduct outreach, provide job skills training and grant scholarships for persons interested in pursuing careers in the retail food industry.

Local contact: Pat Garofalo, President, [pgarofalo@mngrocers.com](mailto:pgarofalo@mngrocers.com)

Legislative Report: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/2020-2021-grocers-carts-to-careers_tcm1045-515873.docx>

**Minnesota Technology Association – SFY 2025 - $950,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

The Minnesota Technology Association direct appropriation funds serve to connect college students in STEM majors (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), at least 18 years of age, in good academic standing, with paid internships in small to mid-sized Minnesota based companies (250 or fewer employees worldwide).

Local contact: Jeff Tollefson, 952-230-4562, [jeff@mntech.org](mailto:jeff@mntech.org)

Legislative Report: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/2023-minnesota-technical-association-report_tcm1045-610295.docx>

**Pillsbury United Communities – SFY 2025 - $475,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

The Pillsbury United Communities Career Pathways program prepares underserved students for successful careers in Minnesota’s future workforce. Programming is designed to provide students, ages 16-24, with the occupational, academic, and higher-order thinking skills needed to function effectively in a globally competitive marketplace and an information-based economy.

Local contact: Julie Graves, 612-302-3400, [julieg@pillsburyunited.org](mailto:brennab@pillsburyunited.org)

Legislative Report: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/2023-pillsbury-united-report_tcm1045-602926.docx>

**Project Restore Minnesota – SFY 2025 - $190,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

Project Restore Minnesota services communities with fewer pathways to wealth equity, like Dayton’s Bluff and the East Side of St. Paul, and that experience greater rates of food insecurity. Through Project Restore Minnesota Culinary Training program, the aim is to change the trajectories of food insecure community members by providing them with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to change their stories, increase their incomes, and source and prepare meals.

Local contact: Carl Johnson 612-358-4004, [carl@faithtothenations.com](mailto:carl@faithtothenations.com)

**Sanneh Foundation – SFY 2025 - $712,500 (same amount in SFY 24)**

The Sanneh Foundation’s Workforce Development Program for Youth combines career exploration with local employers, tangible work experience, social capital building developmental relationships, and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) into a comprehensive year-round youth workforce development program, benefiting diverse youth and emerging adults and increasing their employability and opportunities.

Local contact: Tony Sanneh, 651-690-4855, [tsanneh@thesannehfoundation.org](mailto:tsanneh@thesannehfoundation.org)

**Shakopee Chamber Foundation – SFY 2025 - $665,000 (SFY 25 only)**

The direct appropriation for the Shakopee Chamber Foundation is for the Shakopee area workforce development scholarship pilot program. The Shakopee Chamber Foundation's workforce program will partner with Minnesota state colleges and universities to award scholarships for training for Scott County residents in high-demand occupations. The Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board will determine and approve eligible programs for degrees, diplomas, certificates, or industry-recognized credentials.

Local contact: Tim Zunker, [tzunker@shakopee.org](mailto:tzunker@shakopee.org)

**Ujamaa Place – SFY 2025 - $1,425,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

Ujamaa Place delivers its “Theory of Transformation” program within a community environment that assists African and African American men (18 -30 years of age) with stable housing and re-engagement with their families, work, and life skills essential to self-sufficiency with a strong focus on education and work-entry programming, specific employment skills training, employment retention, and personal management curriculum.

Local contact: Michael Belton, [michael\_belton@ujamaaplace.org](mailto:michael_belton@ujamaaplace.org)

Legislative Report: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/ujamaa-place-report-2023_tcm1045-608605.docx>

**White Bear Center for the Arts – SFY 2025 - $237,500 (same amount in SFY 24)**

White Bear Center for the Arts Studio Repose Internship Program is an artist-centered, paid internship program for high school students. Through this internship, students will learn the importance of leadership, teamwork, and critical thinking while obtaining critical and marketable job skills in a creative and supportive arts environment.

Local contact: Christopher Scholl, 651-756-7304, [cscholl@whitebeararts.org](mailto:cscholl@whitebeararts.org)

**YMCA of the North – SFY 2025 - $285,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

The YMCA will address employment disparities and increase equitable outcomes for underrepresented youth and young adults via high-quality employment readiness services, workforce trainings, post-secondary and career exploration/planning, and support services to put youth on a path towards in-demand, high growth employment and careers.

Local contact: Sara Spiess, 612-330-3081, [sara.spiess@ymcanorth.org](mailto:sara.spiess@ymcanorth.org)

**Youthprise: East African Youth – SFY 2025 - $2,850,000 (same amount in SFY 24)**

The African Youth Economic Development Grant project, appropriated to Youthprise, is to provide economic development services designed to enhance the long-term self-sufficiency in communities with concentrated African populations statewide. Fifty percent is for subgrants to Ka Joog and fifty percent is for competitive subgrants to community organizations.

Local contact: Marcus Pope, 612-564-4858, [marcus@youthprise.org](mailto:marcus@youthprise.org)

Legislative Report: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/2023-youthprise-progress-report_tcm1045-606861.docx>