



# WIOA Young Adult Program

## PY22 AT A GLANCE

- Number Employed in PY2022: 2,451
- Youth From Communities of Color: 76%
- Youth with Disabilities: 40%
- Youth from Families Receiving Public Assistance: 31%
- System-Involved Youth – Foster Youth or Juvenile Offenders: 15%
- Homeless or Runaway Youth: 16%
- PY22 Funding Amount: \$8.9M – Cost Per Participant: \$3,640

## ABOUT THE WIOA YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM

- The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Young Adult Program provides comprehensive employment and training services to youth, including work-based learning, an introduction to career pathways, attainment of recognized credentials and wraparound support services

## ELIGIBILITY

- Participants are at-risk youth ages 16- 24 who are not attending any school, and in-school youth ages 14-21 who are low-income and at-risk.

## REQUIRED ELEMENTS

- Tutoring, study skills training
- Dropout recovery and prevention
- Alternative secondary school services
- Paid and unpaid work experience, including summer employment
- Occupational skills training
- Workforce preparation activities and training
- Leadership development activities
- Supportive services
- Adult mentoring
- Follow-up services
- Comprehensive guidance and counseling
- Financial literacy education
- Entrepreneurial skills training
- Information about in-demand industry sectors/occupations
- Activities helping youth prepare for and transition to post-secondary education and training

## SUCCESS STORIES

**Crystal** was a 17-year-old high school student when she came to Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program. She had no work experience and was not sure what career pathway she wanted to pursue. Crystal was eager to look for employment and needed help taking the next steps. After identifying her interests and skills, Crystal worked at Compass, an after-school and summer child care program. Soon, she was working 20 hours a week. Crystal has decided she would like to pursue a career in Elementary Education.

**Jesus** worked at a YouthBuild worksite through Scott County’s Summer Youth Program. He gained valuable experience, employment skills and credits toward his high school diploma. His goal has always been to become an auto mechanic. After graduation, Jesus started down that career path with a full time position at Big O Tires as a Tire Technician. Jesus will be attending Hennepin Technical College this spring to complete the Automotive Technician program.

**Kevonah** is a student and she couldn’t be more enthusiastic about what she learned at CareerONE. “I’ve learned many different things that I’ll need throughout my life. Integrity is a big thing I learned, along with responsibility,” said Kevonah. “Lessons about work quantity and work quality taught me to put in all my effort so I can get a great outcome. In MoneySmart, I learned about how to file taxes, the need for insurance and much more. I am so thankful to have been chosen for this opportunity. I will take the things I’ve learned into my future.”

**Carter** came to Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) wanting to get a job and have it included in his Individualized Education Program. The high school student had decided he didn’t want to go to college, but he needed help with career planning and job skills to find employment. MVAC helped him get a job at True Value Hardware. Staff at MVAC and his school work together to keep Carter motivated. Carter knows he needs to continue doing his best in school to continue doing the job he loves.

**Brendan** has been with Tree Trust for three summers. His crew leader says Brendan “always demonstrated tremendous work ethic; he [was] always working and [showed] initiative by asking for more things he [could] do to help complete the project.” Brendan originally wanted to be a Pharmacy Technician, but after working outdoors for a few summers, he now wants to open his own landscaping business. After graduating high school he decided to enroll in Tree Trust’s Young Adult Conservation Corps to learn more about this field.



Youth committees are made up of local business owners, youth-serving professionals, parents, and youth participants. The committees are involved in shared decision-making, community education and awareness, resource mapping, youth-centered planning, program development and capacity building.

YOUTH COMMITTEES:

- > Recommend policy direction to the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) for the design, development, and implementation of programs that benefit youth
> Recommend the design of a comprehensive community workforce development system to ensure a full range of services and opportunities for all youth, including disconnected youth
> Recommend ways to leverage resources and coordinate services among schools, public programs, and community-based organizations serving youth
> Recommend ways to coordinate youth services and recommend eligible youth service providers
> Provide on-going leadership and support for continuous quality improvement for local youth programs
> Assist with planning, operational, and other issues relating to providing youth services
> If so delegated by the LWDB after consultation with the chief elected official, oversee eligible youth providers, and other youth program oversight responsibilities

For More Information:

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Office of Youth Development,
MN Department of Employment and
Economic Development
mn.gov/deed/wioayouth



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SUCCESS STORIES

Adna was enrolled in CareerONE and was grateful for the experience. My favorite part of CareerONE was the money management and safety skills. I never took my money seriously and spent it carelessly. I learned I should save it for the future and use it wisely. Now Adna shares some of the money she earns with her mom and her family in Africa, and uses the rest for her school needs. Adna says CareerONE also helped her find her strengths and weaknesses and taught her how to interview well. Adna says CareerONE also helped her develop soft skills like integrity, responsibility and respect.



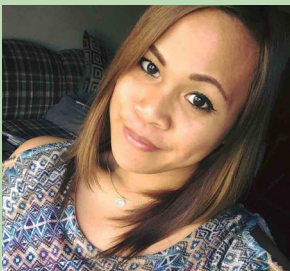
Jacob is a student at Wabasso High School, and was encouraged to contact the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council (SW MN PIC). In 2016, Jacob started as an assistant janitor at his school through the SW MN PIC work experience program. At first he was shy, but through his training and work experience, hes learning to open up to others. Jacob is proud of his new ability to advocate for himself and the new skills he has learned through his work. During his time with the program, hes obtained his drivers license and earned high school credit. After graduation, Jacob hopes to pursue a business degree.



Blake finished the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Red Wing's Manufacturing 101 and OSHA 10 class in 2017. These classes were offered to juvenile offenders through a partnership with Minnesota State College Southeast in Red Wing and Workforce Development, Inc. After his release, and with help of his career counselor, Blake got a job at Starbucks. He plans to pursue a bachelors degree through Starbucks' College Achievement Plan. Blake is grateful to his career counselor for work readiness assistance and also for the life skills he has received.



Nesly is a young adult who came to America four years ago. Since I didnt speak fluent English, I decided to attend a class at Hawthorne Adult Basic Education, where I was introduced to Workforce Development Inc. (WDI). Their staff helped me figure out classes to take and helped pay for college books, tuition and bus fare. I got my CNA and LPN licenses, and passed my boards last October. I now work as an LPN at Mayo Clinic while I finish my general classes. My ultimate goal is to be an RN. WDI has been a big part of most everything that Ive achieved so far. I am thankful for this program and emotional support Ive received from WDI staff.



Tyler says he learned valuable skills at CareerONE that will help him as he pursues his career goals. While at CareerONE I learned a lot of teamwork skills. I think that these skills will help a lot in the future, especially when I work with others at future jobs, said Tyler, a XX-year old student. I also learned about perseverance. There were times when I felt unmotivated, but I continued. CareerONE helped me learn valuable skills. Two skills that I found useful are workplace safety, and how to manage money.

