



WHO WE ARE:

EMERGE is an award winning community based organization well-known for its work to alleviate racial and economic disparities in Twin Cities communities that experience the highest levels of unemployment and lowest household income levels. EMERGE serves thousands of BIPOC community residents in key neighborhoods that are proportionally under-resourced to offer workforce and economic support services that are highly cost effective and produce a significant return on investment.

SUPPORT CONTINUED CRITICAL WORK:

EMERGE is seeking a direct appropriation from the Minnesota Legislature of \$1 million for the 2023-2024 biennium (an increase of \$500K) to stand up, support and reinforce critical work in three key service areas/locations:

EMERGE Career & Technology Center:

Economic opportunity center -North Minneapolis

& Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center:

EMERGE-led partnership in south Minneapolis

Both delivering employment readiness, financial coaching, career pathway training, job seeking support and place and retention services.

EMERGE Second Chance Programs

(multiple sites): Services that support community reentry of recently incarcerated adults through paid work training, career pathway training, mental and chemical health counseling, and post training placement services.



THE PROJECT:

Funding will directly support program and center operations, core employment services (i.e. – pre-employment training, coaching and placement/retention activities), skills training and financial coaching services. EMERGE will work with dozens of Twin Cities’ employers to place individuals in jobs that average more than \$20/hour.

Special emphasis is placed on partnering with employers who pay offer living wage opportunities with limited training needed.

The project seeks the following documented outcomes over 2 years:



EMERGE’s team is highly reflective of the communities served at all levels of the organization, with two-thirds of all staff and 60% of all managers and supervisors identifying as BIPOC. Several leaders also reflect the lived experience of participants.

Emerge Community Development Leadership Team:

Michael Wynne, President & CEO, wynnem@emerge-mn.org;

Terra Mayfield, Sr. Vice President of Programs, mayfieldt@emerge-mn.org;

Mohamed Ali, Sr. Director of Workforce & Cedar-Riverside Opportunity Center alim@emerge-mn.org

2021 REVIEW:

2021 Direct Appropriation: EMERGE received a direct appropriation of \$500,000 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023) to support broad based workforce development services to youth and adults at the Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center (a joint partnership where EMERGE acts as lead partner). The grant has been utilized primarily to stand up workforce program staffing and operations as the center actively rebounded after the low points of engagement during the pandemic. To date, the grant has helped reestablish very active reengagement in center services and has produced outcomes well in excess of grant goals across the board.

EXCEEDING ALL MEASURES AT CROC:

All data on track to exceed goal by end of contract

CONTRACTED OUTCOME:

PROJECT TO DATE: 7/1/21-12/31/22

6+ months remaining

300 + people reached with events

248 people reached through events

Over 2 years, at least 160 youth and job seekers will be served at Cedar-Riverside Opportunity Center

356 participants received a service
243 participants had a new program enrollment during the project to date

40 job seekers will participate in work readiness and skill-building training

153 participants in work readiness (includes career readiness, financial wellness and certificate training)

40 youth and adult job seekers will participate in 1:1 coaching to find or retain employment

203 participants received 1,352 documented hours of coaching/case management

30+ people will be placed into jobs

74 participants obtained employment (includes 8 youth paid internships)

Average starting wage will exceed \$15/hour

Average starting wage = **\$19.91**
Median starting wage = **\$18.53**

Job retention goals

3 months retention: 70%
6 months retention: 65%
12 months retention: 60%

Actual retention:

3 month: 81%
6 month: 82%
12 month: 69%

All Cedar-Riverside Opportunity Center career trainings are reported to the grant. *Primarily funded by other sources.*

153 engaged in credential (CDL, CNA, IT)/other short term trainings. **63** successfully completed credential training (out of 103 enrolled). **72** engaged in other non-credential short term trainings.

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