



COMUNIDADES LATINAS
UNIDAS EN SERVICIO

Workforce & Skills Building Programs

SF2301 – Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) Introduced by Senator Hawj

CLUES requests \$4M for the biennium (\$2M per year) from the Workforce Development Fund to expand skills- building, workforce training, and customized employment coaching for individuals to access better paying jobs and potentially transition to new careers. CLUES promotes socio-economic mobility by connecting low-income individuals to employers and new job skills training that provide higher wages and certifications in high-demand industries, thus generating sustainable and livable wages. Legislative support helps students access trainings and tailored skills building and employment coaching, including on-line and in-person trainings during evenings and weekend schedules.

Fifty percent of the funds are designated for services in Greater Minnesota. Support from the Legislature helps participants with direct costs including training fees, licenses and certifications, paid internships, technology, etc. Funding also supports technical skills and workforce readiness, employment coaching and support, and tailored wrap around supports for unemployed or underemployed participants.



Boiler Operator Training



CDL Training



Phlebotomy Students

Workforce Training Programs

CLUES aims to build economic mobility through skill development and personalized employment support, ensuring more individuals can thrive in today's workforce. Through short-term training and certification programs, career navigation, job placement assistance, and small business support, we equip participants with the skills necessary to secure well-paying, sustainable careers. Our high-demand programs, including Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) and phlebotomy training, consistently maintain waitlists, highlighting a growing need for our programs.

Our Impact June 2023 - December 2024

Program	Participants Served/Wages
Seeking educational support/opportunities	94%
Average new wage	\$23
Walk-in employment appointments	235
Career Development (digital literacy certification)	206
Adult Basic Education (ABE) and ESL	741
Gained Employment	108
Received job search assistance	323
New naturalized US Citizens	5
Graduated from trainings: ESL, GED, Citizenship, Computer Classes, OSHA, and more	294
Obtained industry recognized credentials	92
Are in Retention (Have a job and we follow up for up to 2 years)	55
Total individuals served	1182

CLUES Workforce Programming



Job Search Assistance

With deep expertise and the trust of the community, CLUES engages underserved individuals by offering short-term training and certification programs that equip participants with essential skills to thrive in today's workforce. Our trainings include:

- Commercial Driver's License Certification (CDL)
- Phlebotomy Certification
- Boiler Training
- Business Planning/Management
- Childcare License and Business Management
- Carpentry Certification
- Digital Literacy Certifications
- Financial Empowerment Workshops
- Employment Assistance & Navigator Support

CLUES Youth Workforce Programming

Each year an average of 350 youth participate in our programming, engaging in a structured pathway that combines hands-on tech experiences with professional development and leadership opportunities.

Our Youth Workforce Programs empower young people ages 14 to 24 by connecting them with critical resources, skills training, and career exploration opportunities. Through our Best Buy Teen Tech Center (BBTTC@CLUES), we engage hundreds of young people annually in immersive learning experiences that foster both hard and soft skills essential for success in today's workforce.

Hard Skills Development

CLUES equips youth with industry-relevant technical skills through partnerships with corporations like Accenture and 3M.

Soft Skills Development

We prioritize career readiness and professional development, ensuring participants are equipped to thrive in diverse work environments.



Students at Best Buy Teen Tech Center

Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES) – Serving community since 1981

For 45 years CLUES has been dedicated to improving opportunities for Latinos so they can lead healthy, thriving lives. Each year, CLUES serves over 35,000 people through culturally tailored services that engage individuals in holistic and multi-generational ways. CLUES supports community development by advancing health and wellness, economic prosperity, and cultural engagement. Latinos are a young and rapidly growing population, and their full participation in the workforce is key to Minnesota's continued economic success. CLUES is uniquely positioned to engage underserved individuals and provide them with skills and support needed. CLUES delivers our work through 150 staff, 700+ volunteers at our offices in Saint Paul, Minneapolis, Willmar, and Austin.