



SFY 2020-21 Youth Support Services Opportunity Grant

Progress Report
1/13/2020

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
Employment and Training Programs Division

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Total cost of salaries, printing, and supplies in developing/preparing this report is \$522
(reported as required by Minn. Stat. 3.197)

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Table of Contents

Background	4
Grant Requirements	4
Overview of the Request for Proposals Process.....	4
Grantees.....	5
Project Descriptions	6
Program Activities.....	10

Background

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 each year in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 and 2021 for a competitive grant program to provide grants to organizations that provide support services for individuals. Grants must focus on individuals from low-income communities and/or young adults (ages 14-24) from families with a history of intergenerational poverty, and/or communities of color. ([Minnesota Session Laws - 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 7 – H.F. No. 2, Article 1, Sec. 2 Subd. 3\(bb\)](#)) The Legislature permits the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to retain four percent of these funds for administration and monitoring, making the total amount available for grants equal to \$960,000 per year.

Grant Requirements

Eligible applicants were state or local government units, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, community action agencies, business organizations or associations, and/or labor organizations. The maximum amount of funding that could be requested by any single applicant was \$100,000 per year.

Services provided under this proposal must serve individuals from the eligible populations in one or more of the following areas:

- Job training,
- Employment preparation,
- Internships,
- Job assistance to fathers,
- Financial literacy,
- Academic and behavioral interventions for low-performing students, and/or
- Youth intervention activities

Overview of the Request for Proposals Process

DEED developed a Request For Proposals (RFP) for Support Services Opportunity Grant funds. This RFP was posted on DEED's website on June 5, 2019 under [Grant and Contract Opportunities](#). Applications were due by 11:59 p.m. on July 12, 2019.

The DEED Communications team notified individuals, organizations, the Governor's Workforce Development Board, Councils of Color, and an extensive list of interested parties regarding the release of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Support Services Competitive Grant. The Youth Development team shared the Support Services RFP with the Shared Vision for Youth interagency workgroup and their networks. Also, pursuant to State law, the State Register included information about RFPs available through DEED including the Support Services Opportunity Grant.

The RFP directed potential applicants to submit all questions on the RFP in writing via e-mail to a specified DEED contact. All questions submitted in writing were answered on a weekly basis and published on DEED's [Grant and Contract Opportunities](#) website. DEED's Office of Youth Development hosted an Informational Webinar about

the Support Services funding opportunity on Monday, June 17, 2019. A link to the recorded webinar was available on demand on DEED's [Grant and Contract Opportunities](#) webpage.

Grantees

Forty-two (42) proposals, that served youth, were submitted to DEED in this funding cycle. These proposals totaled nearly four million in funding requests for SFY 2020; approximately 80% of the total requested funding. In the SFY 2020 funding cycle, \$742,200 was awarded to 17 Youth Support Services grants.

Of the submitted Youth Support Services proposals, 62% percent were metro focused and 38% were Greater Minnesota or statewide focused. Approximately 54% of available Youth Support Services funds were allocated to the Twin Cities metro area and 46% allocated to Greater Minnesota. All proposals were read and scored by community and state reviewers. The following organizations were recommended for Youth Support Services funding.

Organization	Area Served	SFY 2020 Grant Award	SFY 2021 Grant Award
Minnesota Valley Action Council	South Central Minnesota	\$45,000	\$45,000
City of Brooklyn Park	Cities of Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center	\$45,000	\$45,000
Career Solutions	Stearns and Benton Counties	\$45,000	\$45,000
YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities	Ramsey and Washington Counties	\$45,000	\$45,000
Project Legacy	Rochester and surrounding communities in Southeast Minnesota	\$45,000	\$45,000
Workforce Development Inc	10 counties in Southeastern Minnesota	\$45,000	\$45,000
Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc	Ramsey and Dakota Counties	\$45,000	\$45,000
Merrick Community Services	Eastside of Saint Paul	\$45,000	\$45,000
Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council	Southwest Minnesota	\$45,000	\$45,000
Jeremiah Program	Twin Cities	\$45,000	\$45,000
African Immigrants Community Services	Twin Cities	\$45,000	\$45,000

Organization	Area Served	SFY 2020 Grant Award	SFY 2021 Grant Award
Karen Organization of Minnesota	Ramsey County	\$45,000	\$45,000
Banyan Community	Minneapolis	\$42,200	\$42,200
Greater Bemidji	Northwest Minnesota	\$40,000	\$40,000
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	Northeastern Minnesota	\$40,000	\$40,000
Goodwill-Easter Seals	Twin Cities	\$40,000	\$40,000
Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services	11 counties in Central Minnesota	\$40,000	\$40,000
	Total:	\$742,200	\$742,200

Project Descriptions

Minnesota Valley Action Council - Partnership for SNAP E&T Success, \$45,000

This project provides intensive services for SNAP Employment & Training to low-income individuals from communities of color and youth, especially young adults from families with a history of intergenerational poverty. The program focuses on employment preparation and retention, providing participants in-depth assessment, counseling, and wrap-around supports necessary to remain engaged and to retain employment that leads to self-sustaining wages.

Website: mnvac.org

Local contacts: Diane Halvorson, 507-345-2408, diane@workforcecouncil.org

City of Brooklyn Park - BrookLynk Youth Employment Program, \$45,000

The BrookLynk program consists of 21st-Century skill-building, experiential employment opportunities, and local coordination of employer partnerships. BrookLynk facilitates training and paid employment opportunities where youth ages 14 to 21 learn essential job skills such as interviewing, networking, and professionalism. BrookLynk aims to connect young people facing barriers to employment with the skills, experiences, and professional social networks needed to develop their pathway to college and career.

Website: brooklynk.works

Local Contact: Breanne Rothstein, 763-493-8058, Breanne.Rothstein@Brooklynpark.org

Career Solutions - Learn and Earn, \$45,000

Modeled after Learn and Earn, this program serves youth age 18-24 who face English language barriers, many of whom are recent immigrants, and have "aged out" of high school and are unemployed or underemployed. The program has four components including English literacy and adult diploma, employment preparation and training, Somali Elder mentoring, and work experience. The goal of the program is for participants to develop the skills needed to fill in demand positions, particularly in the state's manufacturing industry, and to ensure they are on path to continued education and employment with a sustainable wage.

Website: careersolutionsjobs.org

Local Contact: Tammy Biery, 320-308-5702, Tammy.biery@csjobs.org

YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities - YMCA Neighborhood Centers Workforce Development, \$45,000

This program provides job training, a 100-hour supervised internships with support from a job coach, and professional development to empower adults and youth to be successful on a career path. Participants are all residents of affordable housing communities that are facing significant employment barriers. The goal is for participants to transition to career paths, such as healthcare, IT, trades, or business, that have higher earning and longer-term growth potential, leading to increased wages that will lift families out of poverty.

Website: ymcamn.org

Local contact: Glen Gunderson, 612-465-0504, glen.gunderson@ymcamn.org

Project Legacy - Vibrant Futures for Youth of Color, \$45,000

Serving disadvantaged youth and young adults of color, Project Legacy provides wrap around services including case management, employment services, education, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence services, and legal services. Through these services the program confronts the immediate needs of participants, such as employment and housing, while simultaneously addressing underlying issues and mentoring youth through the pursuit of higher education or vocational training.

Website: projectlegacymn.org

Local contact: Karen Edmonds, 507-254-3387, kedmonds@projectlegacymn.org

Workforce Development Inc - Emerging Leaders, \$45,000

The Emerging Leaders program focuses on serving youth who are 14 to 24 and from historically underserved populations; including youth of color, youth with disabilities, and those experiencing multigenerational poverty. Services provided include building relationships and rapport, while providing experiential and hands-on learning in areas such as job training, employment preparation, and engaging in career pathways education and work experience. The program is designed to help participants achieve success by providing them with a blueprint, essential supports, and opportunities to successfully transition to adulthood.

Website: workforcedevelopmentinc.org

Local contact: David LeGarde, 507-251-2700, dlegarde@wdimn.org

Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc - Community Coaching Employment Readiness, \$45,000

Community Coaching is an alternative intervention to detention for youth who are at high risk for incarceration. Through this program, Model Cities provides experiential learning opportunities in both workforce development and financial education for youth ages 14 - 19 who are on probation. Community Coaches support and link youth to services and pro-social activities that help them build positive relationships and connections. The main

goal of this program is to enhance employability, increase access to employment among juvenile offenders, and foster strong financial decision-making.

Website: www.modelcities.org

Local contact: Kizzy Downie, 651-632-8343, kdownie@modelcities.org

Merrick Community Services - Employment Services Integrated Model, \$45,000

Through the employment services intergraded model, Merrick Community Services offers job search support, case management, training opportunities, placement and retention services, and other supports to jobseekers who are looking to enter or improve their position in the labor market. The program delivers these services to low-income adults and young adults who are unemployed or underemployed and seeking resources for self-sufficiency.

Website: merrickcs.org

Local contact: Daniel Rodriguez, 651-219-5533, drodriguez@merrickcs.org

Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council - Learn and Earn, \$45,000

This Learn and Earn program serves low income adults and young adults, allowing participants to earn wages while they learn skills necessary to obtain higher wages. The goal of this project is to advance the careers and wages of participants through offering them a continuum of integrated opportunities to obtain academic credit, college credit, industry recognized credentials, marketable skills, related on-the-job training and work experience, and employment in a high growth, high-demand occupation.

Website: www.swmnpic.org

Local contact: Carrie Bendix, 507-476-4067, cbendix@swmnpic.org

Jeremiah Program - Removing Barriers, \$45,000

Jeremiah Program focuses on eliminating intergenerational poverty through education for two generations and holistic support for the whole family. Serving low-income single mothers and their children, the program provides access to stable housing and onsite early childhood education while the mothers receive training, individualized coaching, and earn a post-secondary degree. These supports allow single mothers to obtain the credentials they need to build and advance in a career with family-sustaining wage.

Website: jeremiahprogram.org

Local contact: La Juana Whitmore, 651-332-5004, lwhitmore@jeremiahprogram.org

African Immigrants Community Services - Refugee Job Readiness & Employment Program, \$45,000

African Immigrants Community Services targets youth and adult East African refugees, serving hard to employ clients for placement in high demand positions that have on-the-job training or do not require proficient English skills or a degree. Programing includes direct job readiness services to participants, along with paid internships, bus passes, and tuition for enrollment in certificate or training programs.

Website: www.aicsmn.org

Local contact: Mohamed Ahmed, 612-871-9481, m.ahmed@aicsmn.org

Karen Organization of Minnesota - What's Next?, \$45,000

In collaboration with St. Paul and Roseville Public Schools, the Karen Organization of Minnesota address the unique academic challenges and career development needs facing youth and young adults from refugee and

immigrant communities, many with limited English proficiency. Services provided include culturally responsive workforce training, financial literacy, employment preparation, and job skills with the goal that participants advance to training, postsecondary education, or obtain and retain stable employment.

Website: www.mnkaren.org

Local contact: Alexis Walstad, 651-202-3120, awalstad@mnkaren.org or Eh Tah Khu, 651-202-3114, ekhu@mnkaren.org

Banyan Community - Youth Intervention and Educational Support, \$42,200

The Youth Intervention and Educational Support Focused on Creating a Pipeline of Diverse Employees serves low income high school and college students from the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. Through wrap-around support programs, academic support, and job preparation, the program prepares youth for meaningful employment in high-growth, in-demand occupations.

Website: www.banyancommunity.org

Local contact: Joani Essenburg, 612-722-8512, joani@banyancommunity.org

Greater Bemidji – MI2 Career Academies, \$40,000

The Minnesota Innovation Initiative (MI2) Career Academies project provides integrated economic development and workforce development services on a regional basis in Northwest Minnesota. Program participants are low income youth and adults with many experiencing multiple barriers to employment. The project goal is to introduce participants to technical skills and employment. Services include job training, employment preparation, job assistance, and training to gain certifications with a focus on manufacturing.

Website: greaterbemidji.com

Local contact: David Hengel, 218-444-5757, dhengel@greaterbemidji.com

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency - Parents in Education, \$40,000

The Parents in Education program is a comprehensive wrap-around service model that moves participants through a continuum of services resulting in employment. The program serves low income, young parents experiencing barriers to living-wage employment. Participants are provided case management, training opportunities to obtain an industry recognized certificate, on-the-job training opportunities, and job search and placement assistance.

Website: www.aeoa.org

Local contact: Scott Zahorik, 218-748-7331, scott.zahorik@aeoa.org

Goodwill-Easter Seals - FATHER Project, \$40,000

Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota's FATHER Project serves low-income fathers who face intergenerational poverty and employment disparities and are predominantly men of color. Program services include employment consulting designed to provide basic and occupational skill training and placement/retention services and support. These coordinated and individualized services positively impact economic and social outcomes, combat disparities, and strengthen family relationships.

Website: www.goodwilleasterseals.org

Local contact: Andrew Freeberg, 651-379-5874, afreeberg@gesmn.org

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services - Support Services, \$40,000

The Support Services project will reduce disparities for people of color through employment preparation, paid internships, career training, financial literacy education, and entrepreneurship-supporting activities. The program will serve low-income youth and adults, including those with disabilities or those parenting children with disabilities. Through the program, participants will gain skills necessary for career success with a focus on credentialed employment in industries such as health care, manufacturing, and transportation.

Website: www.cmjts.org

Local contact: Barbara Chaffee, 763-271-3711, bchaffee@cmjts.org

Program Activities

The Support Services Opportunity Grant provides grantees with the flexibility to provide a variety of programming opportunities. The chart below denotes the activities that each organization is providing through the SFY 2020 Youth Support Services Opportunity Grant.

Project	Job Training	Employment Preparation	Internship	Job Assistance to Fathers	Financial Literacy	Academic and Behavioral Interventions for Low Performing Students	Youth Intervention Activities
Minnesota Valley Action Council/South Central	x	x	x				
Brooklyn Park EDA/BrookLynk		x	x				
Career Solutions - Stearns/Benton	x	x			x		
YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities	x	x	x		x		
Project Legacy		x				x	x
Workforce Development Inc	x	x			x		x
Model Cities of St. Paul	x	x	x		x		
Merrick Community Services	x	x					
Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council	x	x					
Jeremiah Program	x	x			x		
African Immigrants Community Services	x	x	x		x		
Karen Organization of Minnesota		x			x	x	x
Banyan Community		x				x	x
Greater Bemidji	x	x	x				

Project	Job Training	Employment Preparation	Internship	Job Assistance to Fathers	Financial Literacy	Academic and Behavioral Interventions for Low Performing Students	Youth Intervention Activities
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	x	x			x		
Goodwill-Easter Seals	x	x		x	x		
Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services	x	x	x		x		
TOTAL	13	17	7	1	10	3	4