
SFY 2016-2017 Minnesota Youth at Work Competitive Grants

Report to the Legislature
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Minnesota Youth at Work Competitive Grants

Background

This is an update on the status of the SFY2016-2017 Minnesota Youth at Work Competitive Grants. The Minnesota Legislature authorized the youth competitive grants in Laws of Minnesota, 2015, Special Session 1, Chapter 1, Article I, Section 3, Subdivision 3(e) and Subdivision 8. The legislation directed the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to develop and implement a competitive grant program to provide workforce development activities and training to youth in Minnesota. The total amount of funding available is \$3,348,000 each year from the workforce development fund (Note: the legislation permits DEED to retain five percent of these funds for administration and monitoring, making the total amount available for grants equal to \$3,180,600 per year).

DEED's Office of Youth Development developed a Request For Proposals (RFP) for Youth Employment and Training Programs; the notice of funding availability was posted on DEED's website and published in the State Register on 01/26/15.

DEED identified the following priorities, impact areas and goals for all proposals:

- Provide summer and/or year-round work experience and introduction to career pathways for economically disadvantaged or at-risk youth, ages 14 through 24 (including those who are out-of-school and/or involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, residing in MFIP households, youth with disabilities, and youth from communities of color who are under-represented in the workforce; homeless and/or runaways); and,
- Increase exposure to in-demand jobs important to regional economies; and,
- Introduce and promote career pathways and skill acquisition (academic and work readiness) through project-based instruction; and,
- Promote mastery of work readiness competencies and 21st Century skills, as demonstrated through workplace portfolios and other assessments; and,
- Provide high-quality worksites and overall participant and employer satisfaction.

Special consideration was available for proposals which:

1. Included private sector internships and/or work experience in the private sector.
2. Provided students with information about education and training requirements for careers in high-growth, in-demand occupations.
3. Served youth from communities of color who are under-represented in the workforce.
4. Served youth with disabilities.

Methodologies and Processes for Soliciting and Evaluating Grant Proposals

- The RFP was published in the State Register on January 26, 2015, and on the [Contract and Grant Opportunities](#) section of DEED's website on the same date.

- The RFP directed potential applicants to submit any questions following the release of the RFP in writing via e-mail to a specified DEED staff contact person. All questions submitted in writing relating to the RFP were answered and published on DEED’s website on a weekly basis until April 24, 2015.
- DEED’s Office of Youth Development hosted a Bidder’s Conference via Webinar on Thursday, February 12, 2015.

Criteria and Methodology for Selecting Grant Recipients

The RFP described the criteria against which proposals were evaluated. Proposals were rated on a 100-point scale covering the following areas: Project Description; Project Goals, Activities and Timetables; Partnerships; Assessment and Evaluation; Organizational Capacity and Relevant Experience; Budget; and Letters of Commitment. All applicants were also required to complete and submit a Fiscal Capacity Checklist.

All proposals were read and scored by a panel of reviewers. All reviewers were required to maintain confidentiality during the review process (as per M.S. 13.599) and sign a conflict of interest disclosure form. All final funding decisions (including the amounts awarded) were made by the DEED Commissioner.

Methods and Procedures for Monitoring the Use of Grant Awards

Grant recipients followed standard DEED policies regarding the use of funds and reporting of expenditures on the grant, including the submission of monthly Financial Status Reports (FSRs) reporting all accrued expenditures during the grant period. Grantees were allowed to use up to five percent of the grant funding for administrative costs, as stated in the RFP. The FSRs were reviewed and approved by the DEED program manager each month. DEED staff monitored all fiscal expenditures, planned vs. actual, including administrative expenditures each month. Financial reconciliation of grantee expenditures was conducted according to the Department of Administration Office of Grants Management policy.

Each grant was monitored on site by DEED during the grant period to ensure that the use of funds was consistent with the approved plan and contract and the intent of the Minnesota Youth at Work Competitive Grants.

Methods for Measuring Outcomes and Accomplishments of Grant Recipients

DEED developed the reporting requirements for the Youth Competitive Grantees to meet the requirements established in the legislation and to allow appropriate evaluation of the programs. Grantees submitted participant data on a quarterly basis and fiscal reports on a monthly basis. DEED staff reviewed all reports to ensure the expenditures and activities were in line with the agency’s approved budget and work plan.

Minnesota Youth at Work Competitive Grant Measures

The following data was collected on the Youth Workforce Development Competitive Grants:

	SFY 2016	SFY 2017
Total youth served in experiential learning	7,215	11,982
Received individualized case-management services, work experience, experiential learning, career planning	3,497	3,699
Received group career planning, job search, college or post-secondary guidance on jobs important to regional economies	3,718	8,283
Youth who completed program objectives	84.8%	91%
Attained work readiness or education goals	85.1%	87%
Customer satisfaction: youth rate experience as excellent or very good	90.7%	94%
Youth from communities of color	87%	85%

More detailed information on the characteristics of the youth served and the program outcomes for each of the grantees is available on the [DEED website](#).

Selection of Grantees

Forty-one (41) proposals were submitted to DEED in this funding cycle, totaling \$14.7 million in funding requests. All proposals were read and scored by a team of reviewers. The following 22 organizations were recommended for funding:

Organization	Area Served	SFY 2016 Grant Award	SFY 2017 Grant Award
City of Saint Paul	City of Saint Paul	\$600,000	\$600,000
City of Minneapolis	City of Minneapolis	\$750,000	\$750,000
Goodwill/Easter Seals	Benton, Kandiyohi, Ramsey, Sherburne, Stearns, and Washington Counties	\$125,000	\$125,000

Organization	Area Served	SFY 2016 Grant Award	SFY 2017 Grant Award
South Central Workforce Council	Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan Counties	\$125,000	\$125,000
Rural Minnesota CEP	Becker, Beltrami, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Cass, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, Morrison, Mahnommen, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wilkin and Wadena Counties	\$125,000	\$125,000
Workforce Development, Inc.	Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele and Wabasha Counties	\$125,000	\$125,000
City Academy	City of Saint Paul	\$30,000	\$30,000
City of Duluth	City of Duluth	\$80,000	\$80,000
Stearns-Benton Employment and Training Council	Benton and Stearns Counties	\$125,000	\$125,000
Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services	Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Pine, Renville, Sherburne and Wright Counties	\$100,000	\$100,000
Ramsey County Workforce Solutions	Ramsey County	\$75,000	\$75,000
Eastside Neighborhood Services	City of Minneapolis	\$75,000	\$75,000
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	City of Minneapolis	\$100,000	\$100,000
Hmong American Partnership	City of Saint Paul; Metro Area	\$50,000	\$50,000

Organization	Area Served	SFY 2016 Grant Award	SFY 2017 Grant Award
HIRED	Hennepin and Ramsey Counties	\$100,000	\$100,000
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	Itasca and St. Louis Counties	\$75,000	\$75,000
Youthprise	Metro Area	\$150,000	\$150,000
Tree Trust	Metro Area	\$120,600	\$120,600
Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council	Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, Swift and Yellow Medicine Counties	\$75,000	\$75,000
Genesys Works	Metro Area	\$50,000	\$50,000
EMERGE	City of Minneapolis	\$50,000	\$50,000
CLUES	City of Saint Paul	\$75,000	\$75,000
Total		\$3,180,600	\$3,180,600

Success Stories

City of Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation, \$600,000. The [Right Track](#) Youth Employment Program is Saint Paul's pipeline for youth career development and building a diverse future workforce. Right Track brings together the City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul Public Schools, community-based organizations and private businesses to provide work readiness and employment opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth ages 14-24, as well as youth in this age group facing other barriers to employment. Right Track uses both a public non-profit (subsidized YJ01 jobs) and a private business collaborative model (employer-paid internships – YJ02 jobs) that maximizes the strengths of all partners and creates pathways for young people to grow and develop into productive, contributing adults. *Local contact: Kathy Korum, Kathy.korum@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651.266.6373.*



Faith spent the summer at the Ramsey County Attorney's Office mastering general office work, drafting reports, cataloging documents, and developing marketing materials. Out of everything, however, her clearest accomplishment was developing a new professional confidence. Both Faith and her supervisor noticed a gradual upswing in independence over time. Besides confidence, Faith learned to "stay engaged in meetings, never hesitate to ask questions, and always organize the schedule to be on time!" She credits both Right Track and her internship for bringing her that much closer to law school.

City of Minneapolis Employment and Training, \$750,000. Through the [STEP-UP](#) program, youth work in a wide range of job titles at Twin Cities' employers, which range from small employers to top Twin Cities' companies. The program is designed to engage Minneapolis youth in internships that explore their career interests, gain skills, make professional connections, and prepare them for meaningful future work. Whether it is a first job experience or a career pathway exploration, a STEP-UP internship helps young people discover careers and develop professional work experience, ultimately resulting in a young person being prepared to succeed in the workplace. *Local contact: Deb Bahr-Helgen, Deb.Bahr-Helgen@minneapolismn.gov or 612.673.6226*



Abdi grew up in a Kenyan refugee camp and moved with his family to Minneapolis in 2011. With the support of STEP-UP, he was hired as an intern at the Elliot Park branch of Wells Fargo Bank. With the help of his manager, Abdi enjoyed his work and appreciated being a trusted adviser for Elliot Park customers and giving back to his community. His co-workers became like family. Wells Fargo hired him as a permanent employee at the Franklin Avenue branch. Abdi was recently accepted to several local colleges. He plans to work at the bank while earning his degree as he stays and mentors his younger siblings.

Goodwill/Easter Seals, Saint Paul, \$125,000. Through the Next Generation @ Work Program, [Goodwill/Easter Seals](#) guides economically disadvantaged youth, youth with disabilities, and youth from communities of color through orientation, case counseling, support in career exploration, work readiness classes and work experience in Goodwill stores and area businesses. Youth ages 17 to 24 will also be eligible to enroll in training and education programs and

earn credentials related to the following industries: Automotive Service Technician, Banking and Finance, Financial Services, Construction, Customer Contact Center, Medical Office, Retail, and Computer Literacy 1 & 2. *Local contact: Sheila Olson, solson@goodwilleasterseals.org or 651.379.5864*



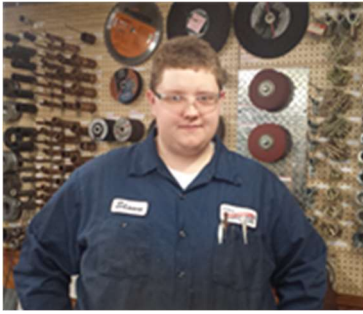
Tyrell was in the School Work Experience program throughout his junior and senior years of high school. During that time he participated in the E-Trac training program and developed his job search skills, interviewing skills and communication skills. His Transitional Employment Specialist recommended him for the Retail Skills Training program which takes place at Cash Wise. With support and extra training, Tyrell completed the cashier training at Cash Wise and is now cashiering independently

South Central Workforce Council, Mankato, \$125,000. The [South Central Workforce Council](#) project, “Dream It. Believe It. Achieve It.”, will assist youth from communities of color in exploring, identifying and attaining positive education and career goals. Youth will be assessed for education, employment, transportation, housing, health, child care, and legal needs, and will work with an employment counselor to address these needs. Youth will participate in work experience and project- based opportunities. The program will engage youth and families and will provide cultural awareness to the community. *Local contact: Heather Gleason, hgleason@workforcecouncil.org or 507.345.2418*



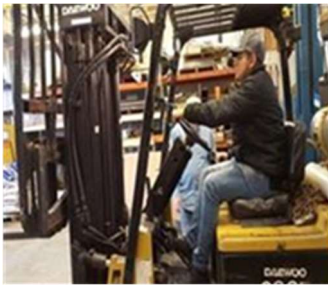
After moving with her family from Texas, Diana was placed at the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and Food Shelf through South Central/MVAC’s Youth at Work program. She gained valuable skills, interview practice, work relationships, and real-world work experience as she stocked shelves and provided customer service cash register sales. She also learned to manage her time and received school credit toward graduation.

Rural Minnesota CEP, Detroit Lakes, \$125,000. The Transitional Internship Experiences (TIE) project at [RMCEP](#) will link economically disadvantaged and/or at-risk youth ages 14-24 to Occupations in Demand (OID) in the service area. Internships with local OID businesses will provide a 200-hour work experience which exposes the youth to multiple aspects of the industry and provides an opportunity to develop marketable skills within the career pathway. Youth Counselors will use promising practices including an Integrated Resource Team, Roadmap for Success and Youth Action Plan to provide wraparound career counseling and support services to the intern. *Local contact: Dan Wenner, danw@rmcep.com or 218.846.7400*



Shawn applied for the Transitional Internship Experience program and began his Internship with Mark's Welding in Osakis. He improved his welding skills and continued to gain skills related to being in the workforce. The employer was interested in continued On the Job Training and Shawn transitioned to OJT in December. He completed OJT with regular follow up with RMCEP staff and input from his employer. Shawn was offered unsubsidized employment with Mark's Welding in April and continues to enjoy his employment there.

Workforce Development, Inc., Rochester, \$125,000. The Emerging Leaders program of [Workforce Development, Inc.](http://WorkforceDevelopmentInc.org) will combine work experience and work readiness programs with a new approach that will focus on serving youth from populations who are underserved and under-represented in the workforce. These communities include out-of-school young adults, young adults from low-income families, youth who are habitually truant, and youth with disabilities, with a specific focus on youth from minority communities. The project includes a multi-tiered work experience and work readiness education model that incorporates community outreach and employer education. *Local contact: Randy Johnson, RandyJohnson@workforcedevelopmentinc.org or 507.292.5189*



José came to WDI as a college drop out because he could not afford tuition. He was unemployed and looking for a position in the construction field. WDI staff provided José with services and details regarding the Emerging Leaders program and Youthbuild Construction program. José was exposed to different fields of construction work and was introduced to a variety of employers. After completing his work readiness classes, he participated in and successfully completed a work experience with Accord Electric Inc. José has since secured full time employment in the construction field.

City Academy, Saint Paul, \$30,000. [City Academy's](http://CityAcademy.org) Construction Career Choices (CCC) program will provide a three-tiered career pathway model: work-based career exploration and credentialed pre-apprenticeship training/instruction and certification; private and public sector work experience; and unsubsidized entry-level employment in the construction field. Through intensive adult mentoring, support, and one-on-one case management/counseling, CCC provides individualized, wraparound services to at-risk dropout youth, ages 17-24, from communities of color. *Local contact: Milo Cutter, miloc@cityacademy.org or 651.298.4624*



Isaiah moved from entry level to a supervisory position within one year in Youthbuild. He demonstrated strong leadership skills as a student, worker, and volunteer, earning his diploma. Isaiah is now a Plumber's Apprentice on the new Vikings Stadium. Isaiah is a leader for future Youthbuild graduates in the construction trades.

City of Duluth, \$80,000. [Duluth Workforce Development's](#) YES Duluth program is adopting a research-based model that involves youth in progressively more aggressive skill building and responsible job placements to build career skills that lead to permanent positions. Progressive work experiences may include internships in the private sector that lead to a career pathway with that employer or sector. A new collaboration with the Duluth Public Schools targets youth ages 16-18 who are at greatest risk of dropping out and/or failing to develop adequate job skills. *Local contact: Paula Reed, preed@duluthmn.gov or 218.730.5241*



Lorenzo joined the YES Duluth Youth at Work Program last summer and completed two weeks of employment workshops before going into a work experience. He excelled at his summer job working with youth. Lorenzo ended up dropping out of high school for personal reasons, but with the help of the YES Duluth program he was able to get enrolled back into high school and is now doing wonderfully. He plans to use what he has learned in his classes to obtain summer employment.

Stearns-Benton Employment and Training Council, Saint Cloud, \$125,000. [Stearns-Benton Employment and Training Council](#) will offer youth opportunities to explore careers, receive career counseling, plan around career pathways including high wage and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers, explore learning options including Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO). Youth will complete and update personal learning plans and participate in experiential learning, including internships, work experience and service learning. *Local contact: Tammy Biery, tammy.biery@sbetc.org or 320.308.5320*



Ailyah was interested in medicine and helping people, but she struggled to find opportunities in those careers because of her age. Ailyah worked with Youth at Work staff on career choices, resumes, and interviewing. She was given a work experience opportunity at Vital WorkLife as an office assistant. Ailyah's supervisor says she works hard, is very professional, and is a pleasure to work with.

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Monticello, \$100,000. [CMJTS](#) Youth at Work will provide youth with work-based learning opportunities and short-term occupational training. Youth will complete a career assessment and be introduced to occupations with career ladders, have access to support services, and learn the importance of work-readiness skills. Older youth may participate in the Workforce Protégé Program where they receive additional career-focused information and mentoring from business owners and managers. Additional options available to youth may include on-the-job training and pre-apprenticeship opportunities. *Local contact: Barbara Chaffee, bchaffee@cmjts.org or 763.271.3711*



James enrolled in CMJTS' Youth-at-Work program, Youth Protégé, after missing school and struggling academically. "The program's more personal than I thought it would be. Its' like: you're going to go to college. You're going to get your homework done. So, I did all that." With CMJTS staff help, he successfully applied to college and began six months of National Guard IT training. James will start college in 2016 with continued support from CMJTS staff and National Guard tuition assistance.

Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, \$75,000. Through Project MOSAIC, [Ramsey County Workforce Solutions](#) will increase career pathway options and develop work readiness skills in youth by offering work experiences connected to career pathways. The project will focus on the following industries: trades (construction, precision/advanced manufacturing and transportation); healthcare and human service; business/information technology/small business (entrepreneurship). Youth will gain awareness of the requirements and demands of these in-demand occupational clusters, and participate in activities such as volunteering, service learning, internships, paid work experience, and apprenticeships (where applicable) in these occupations. *Local contact: Patricia Brady, patricia.brady@co.ramsey.mn.us or 651.779.5651*



Thomas' dream was to be a Barber, but he was struggling to maintain regular attendance at Harmony Learning Center where he was studying for his GED. After many months he passed each of his GED exams. Thomas was interested in Barbering school, but cost was a barrier. In early 2017, his U LEAD Counselor was able to put him in touch with Townsend Barbering School who awarded him a scholarship and allowed him to start school with a much lower down payment. He is making it work with help from his family and with the monthly bus passes supported by the U LEAD program to get to school and work. His Mom observes that she has not seen him so happy in a long time.

Eastside Neighborhood Services, Minneapolis, \$75,000. [Eastside Neighborhood Services](#) is partnering with Connections to Independence, a nonprofit which provides unique programming and advocacy for foster care youth, to implement FutureConnect, a year-round career pathways program. The program will offer private sector internships and information and training about careers in high-growth, in-demand occupations. FutureConnect will offer opportunities for work skill development, exploration of high demand career pathways, worksite visits and guest speakers, advanced training leading to industry-recognized credentials, internships and job placement, with individualized support from experienced instructors and employment counselors. *Local contact: Caryn Olsen, colsen@esns.org or 612.787.4034*



Andre was a senior in high school when he enrolled in the FutureConnect program. He completed every workshop in the program and obtained an internship at Elite Catering. He impressed everyone by showing a strong work ethic, performing out of his comfort zone, and being successful throughout the program. Andre has been offered permanent employment with Elite Catering and he's working hard toward his next goal of becoming a Chef.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, \$100,000. [Teen Teamworks](#) provides Minneapolis youth with the opportunity to learn appropriate work maturity skills through a combination of work experience and academic enrichment. Helping youth acquire an appreciation for the connection between academic, social, judgment, and job skills is the primary focus of the program. By integrating the educational sessions into the workday, classroom instruction and workplace experience reinforce the student's work experience. *Local contact: Linda Tkaczik, ltkaczik@minneapolisparcs.org or 612.370.3916*



Connie worked with the Mississippi River Fund as a volunteer engagement specialist. She helped coordinate volunteer groups in the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area to remove invasive species through the habitat restoration program. Connie says being on the Mississippi River Green Team taught her valuable work skills and gave her the confidence to do public speaking. Connie will be entering her third year at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and is pursuing a degree in Human Resource Development.

Hmong American Partnership, Saint Paul, \$50,000. [Hmong American Partnership](#) (HAP), in collaboration with American Indian Family Center, will launch an East Side Youth Jobs Campaign for Southeast Asian and Native youth from the East Side and Frog Town neighborhoods of Saint Paul. HAP will partner with private employers and post-secondary training institutes to provide employability skills training and paid work experience through four tracks: construction, information technology, health and human services. Youth will be offered entry level course credits or certification in a field. *Local contact: Carol Gronfor, carolg@hmong.org or 651.495.4582*



Steven recently moved from South Carolina to Minnesota. He has engaged in many of HAP's Youth at Work soft skills trainings, and takes particular interest in the IT track. "Being part of HAP's Youth at Work really gave me the opportunity to make new friends while also learning about computers. It's something I have high interest in, but never really had the opportunities. Now I get to learn about IT and earn college credits."

HIRED, Minneapolis, \$100,000. [HIRED's](#) Youth Directions project will assist foster care youth and homeless youth in becoming financially stable by increasing educational attainment and learning about in-demand career pathways that lead to self-sustaining employment. Comprehensive services include: assessment and ongoing case management; development of a life plan with goals related to education and employment; housing stabilization services;

enrollment in high school completion programs; work readiness training and coaching; information and coaching regarding career pathways; post-secondary or occupational training enrollment and support; subsidized work experience; job placement and retention support. *Local contact:* Julie Brekke, Julie.Brekke@HIREd.org or 612.529.3342



Latasha became a ward of the state at age 16 and had been in foster care until aging out. She was in an unstable living situation and was an expectant mother at the time. Latasha was referred to the Youth Directions program. The HIREd counselor met with her several times and provided work readiness training, assessments, resume and job search assistance, and financial literacy training. The HIREd counselor also connected her with resources to help with her pregnancy and affordable housing. Latasha was also able to secure a position as a resident assistant at a group home. Once her child is of age she plans to further her education and become a nurse.

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Virginia, \$75,000. Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency's Pathways to Employment Readiness for Youth (PERY) program will include case management, specialized training during a paid work experience, and post-program job placement. Each participant will be provided with life skills and work skills training, goal setting assistance through Steps to Economic and Personal Success (STEPS), basic literacy skills and financial literacy training. Training and work experience will be offered in the hospitality industry or construction trades. *Local contact:* Deanna Winge, Deanna.winge@aeoa.org or 218.322.6503



Thomas previously struggled with truancy, a criminal record, and holding down a job. Since enrolling in AEOA's Youth at Work Program, he now has a resume, drivers permit, credit toward a diploma, independent living skills, and is considered a valuable asset to his work supervisor. Thomas has applied to Mesabi Range College for the upcoming semester, an opportunity that previously was out of reach.

Youthprise, Minneapolis, \$150,000. Youthprise will support local partners with deep connections to Minnesota's East African businesses, educational and nonprofit communities as they provide work readiness and workforce development activities to Twin Cities Metropolitan Area youth, with an emphasis on communities with large concentrations of East African youth. The Minnesota East African Youth at Work initiative will prepare youth for work in high-demand industries, including health care, customer service, skilled trades, construction and transportation. *Local contact:* Marcus Pope, marcus@youthprise.org or 612.267.6546

Khalid: I was chosen for the Burnsville East African Program that connected youth like me to viable career options. I currently volunteer/work for the Somali Institute of Technology. At the center, I tutor kids ranging from Pre-K to even some college students. I never imagined how much I would enjoy this experience. I am continuing learning many new skills that I did not possess prior to coming to this program. I would recommend this program to all teens, for it exposes them to possible career interests.

Tree Trust, Saint Louis Park, \$120,600. Tree Trust will provide summer and non-summer work experiences, employment readiness training, and introduction to career pathways to economically disadvantaged and/or at-risk youth, ages 14-24. The program will feature paid job training through summer Youth Conservation Corps and year-

round Young Adult Conservation Corps, along with individual employment experience placements with private sector employers. *Local contact: Norm Champ, normc@treetrust.org or 952.767.3891*



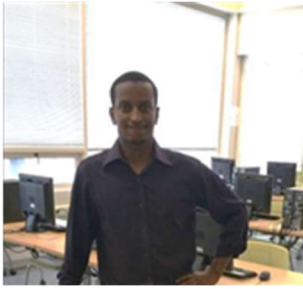
Madison came to Tree Trust as a young mother who had no experience applying for jobs, and lacked the basic skills and confidence needed to apply for jobs on her own. After enrolling with Tree Trust, Madison began going to Hennepin Technical College (HTC) taking CNA classes. Madison also started a nine-week internship through Tree Trust at Open Circle Center. Madison plans on completing her internship at Open Circle, and hopes to continue to work for them while still in school (they have already offered her an on-call position once her internship is complete). Madison is on track to complete the CNA course at HTC and have her CNA certification by the end of January.

Genesys Works, Saint Paul, \$50,000. [Genesys Works](#) will provide a program with three interlocking core components: an eight-week summer boot camp with a curriculum concentrating on professional and business technology skills; paid internships at a corporate partner which provide an opportunity to apply the skills learned during the summer training and gain meaningful professional experience in the Information Technology field; and college counseling sessions during the youth's senior year to help the student develop a plan to successfully pursue a postsecondary credential and navigate a future career path. *Local contact: Jennifer Rogers, Development_TC@genesysworks.org or 651.789.0088*



Armani came to Genesys Works with the desire to make the most of every opportunity. During her time in the program, she obtained an internship with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. She is graduating this May from the University of Minnesota- Twin Cities with a degree in International Business and Management Information Systems. With the encouragement of her program coordinator, she was able to secure more than \$100,000 toward her college education. After graduation, Armani is moving to Texas to start her position with Accenture in Technology Consulting. Her accomplishments were recently honored at the Genesys Works 2016 Breaking Through Ceremony with the first ever Distinguished Alumni Award.

EMERGE, Minneapolis, \$50,000. [EMERGE](#) will provide youth employment services, in-demand industry training, and paid work experiences to youth in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis. The West Bank GPS (Gateway to Professional Success) project will focus on work experience in the information technology field, with additional specific exploratory opportunities in the healthcare and manufacturing industries. Youth will have an opportunity to earn IT credentials and access a wide array of additional training opportunities provided by EMERGE and partners as the youth move forward on career pathways. *Local contact: Jane Tafel, tafelj@emerge-mn.org or 612.787.3791*



Abdirahman immigrated to the United States from Somalia. He barely spoke English and had no skills or work experience. Abdirahman had seen the EMERGE Community Development flyer for a technology training posted in his apartment building located in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood. In 2016, he attended and graduated from the CISCO IT Essential computer training class. Soon after, he continued to increase his Tech skills by enrolling into the COMPTIA A+ class and will graduate in May 2016. Currently, Abdirahman attends Normandale College where he studies IT and hopes to become a Computer Tech.

CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio), Saint Paul, \$75,000. [CLUES](#) Jóvenes Adelante Program reaches under-represented high school youth from low-income Latino and new immigrant families and prepares them to become prosperous and productive adults. Through this culturally competent, year-round program, Latino youth are introduced to career pathways, attain work readiness skills, engage in work experience in partnership with local companies in the private sector, and are supported to obtain meaningful jobs for the summer. *Local contact: Fidelity Goodlaxson, fgoodlaxson@clues.org or 612.746.3554*



Carlos was a member of the first Youth at Work cohort at CLUES. Because of his interest in politics, Youth at Work staff found him an internship placement with a nonprofit. Carlos was given the opportunity to meet the upcoming presidential candidates when they visited the state. In addition, Carlos was awarded a two month summer internship with Senator Al Franken, as well as the opportunity to engage in another internship in Washington DC for a few weeks during the summer.

Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council, Marshall, \$75,000. [Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council's](#) Young Adult Career Pathway project will offer comprehensive training to youth and young adults ages 14-24 who traditionally face barriers to successful employment, with priority for out-of-school youth, youth in foster care, youth involved with the juvenile justice system, teen parents receiving MFIP or youth from MFIP households, youth with disabilities, youth from communities of color who are underrepresented in the workforce, homeless and/or runaway youth. The fundamental career and technical skills training will concentrate on high-growth, in-demand industries in southwest Minnesota. Complimentary career pathway training, work experience, academic credit, college credit, and support services will be provided through the project partnership. *Local contact: Carrie Bendix, cbendix@swmnpic.org or 507.476.2188*



Students from the Minnesota Valley Area Learning Center had the opportunity to take a Welding Class at MN West Granite Falls. Students earned 6 college credits and they gained the technical skills needed to obtain

employment in the high-demand field of welding. Included as part of the class were visits to several local businesses, employability skills, instruction in technical reading and welding math and opportunities to explore other mechanical trades. The students also visited AGCO Headquarters and the educational programs at MN West Jackson. Several of the graduating students will be continuing their education in welding or similar occupations at post-secondary institutions. Others will be using their skills on the job or finishing high school at the ALC.

Please contact Kay Tracy, Director of Office of Youth Development at 651-259-7555 or kay.tracy@state.mn.us if you have any questions.