
SFY 2022 Youth Support Services Opportunity Grant

Progress Report
11/18/2022

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

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Background

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 each year in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 and 2023 for a competitive grant program to provide grants to organizations that provide support services for individuals. Of this appropriation, \$475,000 per SFY was available for grant awards under the Youth Support Services competitive grant program. The grants had to have a 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 – 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 10, S.F. 9, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3\(g\)](#))

Grant Requirements

Eligible applicants were local government units (including tribal governments), nonprofit/community-based organizations, community action agencies, business organizations or associations, labor organizations, or public-school districts. 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 parents,
- 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 the Youth Support Services Competitive Grant funds. This RFP was posted on DEED's website on August 16, 2021 under [Grant and Contract Opportunities](#). Proposals were due by 11:59 p.m. on September 30, 2021.

The DEED Communications team notified an extensive list of interested parties regarding the release of the RFP for the Youth Support Services Competitive Grant. The Office of Youth Development team also shared the Youth Support Services RFP with their networks. Pursuant to State law, the State Register included information about RFPs available through DEED including the Youth Support Services competitive 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 Youth Support Services funding opportunity on September 9, 2021. A link to the recorded webinar was available on demand on DEED's Grant and Contract Opportunities webpage.

Grantees

Forty-five proposals were submitted in response to the Youth Support Services RFP, requesting nearly \$3.8 million dollars in funding for SFY 2022 (8 times the amount available to award). All proposals were read and scored by a group of community and state-level reviewers. There were 23 reviewers divided among 5 proposal review teams; 14 (60%) of reviewers were community reviewers.

Based on reviewer scores, the following 13 organizations were recommended for Youth Support Services funding. Seven of the projects are new Youth Support Services grantees (were not funded in the previous biennium). Approximately 72% of the Youth Support Services funds are allocated to projects in the Twin Cities metro area, about 22% allocated to Greater Minnesota, and 6% were allocated to a statewide project.

Organization	Area Served	SFY 2022 Grant Award	SFY 2022 Anticipated Number Served	SFY 2023 Grant Award
Hennepin Healthcare System	Hennepin County	\$40,000	20	\$40,000
YMCA of the North	Twin Cities metro area	\$40,000	12	\$40,000
Workforce Development, Inc	11 counties in Southeast Minnesota	\$40,000	16	\$40,000
Hired	Greater St. Paul community	\$40,000	20	\$40,000
Tree Trust	Twin Cities metro area	\$40,000	10	\$40,000
BrookLynk Youth Employment Program	Cities of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center	\$40,000	120	\$40,000
Karen Organization of Minnesota	Ramsey County and St. Paul	\$40,000	20	\$40,000
Achieve Twin Cities	Minneapolis and the Twin Cities metro	\$40,000	50	\$40,000
Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services	Kandiyohi and McLeod County	\$40,000	12	\$40,000
Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement	North Minneapolis	\$30,000	50	\$30,000
Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL)	Twin Cities and in Greater Minnesota	\$30,000	72	\$30,000

Organization	Area Served	SFY 2022 Grant Award	SFY 2022 Anticipated Number Served	SFY 2023 Grant Award
African Immigrants Community Services	Twin Cities metro area	\$30,000	25	\$30,000
Duluth Workforce Development	Duluth and Southern St. Louis County	\$25,000	11	\$25,000
Total:		\$475,000	438	\$475,000

Project Descriptions

Hennepin Healthcare System - On-Ramp to Employment, \$40,000

This project focuses on providing participants an avenue into a career in the healthcare field. Through this grant participants are provided case management, support services, academic instruction/tutoring, hands-on career exploration, industry credential training and internship-to-hire opportunities. The project serves under-resourced young parents, who live below the poverty level, many of whom identify as non-white.

Website: Hennepinhealthcare.org

Local contact: Jennifer DeCubellis, 612-873-6428, Jennifer.DeCubellis@hcmcd.org

YMCA of the North - YMCA Neighborhood Centers Workforce Development Program, \$40,000

This project provides workforce readiness and job training, internships, wrap-around supportive services, and skill-building to put youth on a path towards in-demand and livable wage employment. Participants are youth living in affordable housing communities, most identifying as non-white, and who are underrepresented in post-secondary education paths and living wage careers.

Website: ymcanorth.org

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

Workforce Development Inc - Boost Up, \$40,000

The Boost Up program focuses on serving low-income youth and young adults, from historically underserved populations; including youth of color, youth with disabilities, and those experiencing multigenerational poverty. Services provided include case management, wrap-around support services, and career pathways programming. A key feature of the program includes pairing participants with a professional adult mentor, with a focus on professions in healthcare and information technology.

Website: workforcedevelopmentinc.org

Local contact: Jinny Rietmann, 507-292-5156, Jrietmann@wdimn.org

HIRED - Youth Support Services, \$40,000

This program serves justice involved youth, diversionary youth, and gang and gun violence involved youth and young adults. Most of those served are BIPOC and all are at or below the poverty level. Through this program,

participants are provided with career exploration, technology training, case management, and employment coaching for careers in high growth industries, including entrepreneurship. In addition, the program pairs paid work experiences with intensive job coaching.

Website: hired.org

Local contact: Julie Brekke, 612-808-9456, Julie.brekke@hired.org

Tree Trust - Career Pathways, Summer Youth Employment Program and Branches Program, \$40,000

Program participants are provided entry-level, pre-apprenticeship opportunities and paid job training. Participants work with Crew Leaders, Case Managers, and Job Coaches to prepare for post-program job placement and further educational opportunities, with a focus on the green career industry. Program participants are from historically underserved populations; including BIPOC youth, low-income youth, and youth with disabilities.

Website: treetrust.org

Local contact: Jared Smith, 952-767-3891, jareds@treetrust.org

BrookLynk - BrookLynk Youth Employment Program, \$40,000

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 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

Karen Organization of Minnesota - Youth Education Supports, \$40,000

This program serves refugee youth of color with a focus on Karen youth with co-occurring struggles with educational attainment, chemical and mental health issues, and/or, justice system involvement. The program provides these youth targeted service interventions, including postsecondary access, financial coaching and employment, and chemical health interventions. The program offers credentialed training in multiple in-demand career pathways including human services, healthcare, manufacturing, and construction trades.

Website: mnkaren.org

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

Achieve Twin Cities - Achieve College Internships, \$40,000

This program provides career readiness assessment, advanced work readiness training, paid career-oriented internships, and provides ongoing coaching and support services. The program serves BIPOC youth from low-income households that are college juniors and are facing barriers to economic opportunities. Each participant is matched with an internship that best align with their interests, goals, and college majors.

Website: achievetwincities.org

Local contact: Danielle Grant, 612-455-1530, dgrant@achievetwincities.org

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

The PathFinders program focuses on serving low-income youth from historically underserved populations; including youth of color and youth with disabilities. The program provides participants the opportunity to grow, harvest, preserve, market, and sell garden grown food. The programming includes intensive case management, work readiness skills, credentialing opportunities, and a hands-on work experience.

Website: cmjts.org

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

Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement - Northside Futures Lab/Youth Organizing, \$30,000

This program serves primarily low-income and BIPOC participants with a focus on serving formerly incarcerated youth and/or foster care youth. Through this program, participants are provided career planning, assessments, educational supports, tutoring, and access to career exploration events. These activities all support career strategy planning for in-demand careers with livable wage employment.

Website: clne-mn.org

Local contact: Kelly Chatman, 612-355-1273, k.chatman@clne-mn.org

Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL) - Latinx Youth Training Project, \$30,000

This program serves participants in the Twin Cities metro and in Greater Minnesota, with a significant emphasis on reaching youth outside of the metro area. Participants are low-income first, second, and third generation Latinxs. The program support participants in developing their skills, education, and a career path that will lead to stable employment. A priority of the program is connecting youth to GEDs, short career paths at community colleges, and training programs for in-demand industries such as CNA, manufacturing and metal fabrication, and culinary arts.

Website: copalmn.org

Local contact: Francisco Segovia, 612-558-3533, Franciscos@copalmn.org

African Immigrants Community Services - Refugee Job Readiness & Employment Program, \$30,000

This project serves low-income, Somali and East African youth by providing the cultural understanding needed for appropriate job readiness skill development, paid internships, and job placement and job retention supports to meet the needs of the community and the employer. The focus is on training and certification programs for high demand and high wage jobs and includes providing the navigation services to participants to enroll in these programs and access financial aid.

Website: aicsmn.org

Local contact: Mohamed Ahmed, 952-457-8991, m.ahmed@aicsmn.org

Duluth Workforce Development - Freedom Youth Kickstart, \$25,000

This program primarily serves BIPOC youth from low-income households, providing them support for in-demand career pathways and business ownership as a potential career pathway. Participants will work with job councilors to build work readiness skills and explore entrepreneurship. They will be paired with mentors and will complete a paid internship. Participants will have the opportunity to build financial literacy, repair credit, and work toward completing their GED if needed.

Website: Duluthmn.gov/workforce-development

Local contact: Elena Foshay, 218-730-5241, efoshay@duluthmn.gov

Program Activities

The Support Services Opportunity Grant provides grantees with the flexibility to provide a variety of programming opportunities. The definitions are broad, and the following information provides example activities that align with each category:

Job Training – Activities that support participants in receiving industry-recognized credentials, industry-specific certifications, and other career and job specific training.

Employment Preparation – Activities including resume writing, job searching, labor market information, soft skills training, job shadowing, business tours, etc.

Internships – Paid experiences in which participants can apply technical and soft skills.

Job Assistance to Parents – Activities such as employment consulting and skill training, specifically targeted to parents.

Financial Literacy – Trainings, workshops, and curriculum in which participants learn about financial literacy concepts.

Academic and Behavioral Interventions for Low Performing Students – Activities that support youth from dropping out of school including earning academic credit, literacy and numeracy skills development, and tutoring.

Youth Intervention Activities – Activities that support youth and can include wrap around services such as case management and mentoring.

The chart below denotes the activities that each organization is providing through their SFY 22 Youth Support Services Grant.

Project	Job Training	Employment Preparation	Internship or Work Experience	Job Assistance to Parents	Financial Literacy	Academic and Behavioral Interventions for Low Performing Students	Youth Intervention Activities
Hennepin Healthcare System	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
YMCA of the North	x	x	x				
Workforce Development, Inc	x	x			x		
Hired	x	x	x	x	x		
Tree Trust	x	x	x		x		x
BrookLynk Youth Employment Program	x	x	x				
Karen Organization of Minnesota	x	x					
Achieve Twin Cities	x	x	x			x	

Project	Job Training	Employment Preparation	Internship or Work Experience	Job Assistance to Parents	Financial Literacy	Academic and Behavioral Interventions for Low Performing Students	Youth Intervention Activities
Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services	x	x	x		x		
Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement		x	x		x		
Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL)	x	x	x				
African Immigrants Community Services	x	x	x				
Duluth Workforce Development	x	x	x		x		
TOTAL	12	13	11	2	7	2	2

Program Data

The SFY 2022 Youth Support Services demographic, activity, and outcome data included in this report reflects the cumulative totals of all 13 SFY 2022 Youth Support Services grantees from the start of the contracts in early December 2021 through September 30, 2022. The data is preliminary as seven of the grants were extended to September 30, 2022 and four were extended to December 31, 2022, due to grant contracts starting midway through the state fiscal year.

SFY 2022 Youth Support Services - Demographic, Activity, and Outcome Data			
Total Individual Participants Served		310	
Total Individuals served in Group Services		635	
Demographic Data		Total	Percentage
Gender	Female	153	49.4%
	Male	137	44.2%
	Other	3	1.0%
	Prefer not to answer	17	5.5%

Age	14 – 15	39	12.6%
	16 – 17	74	23.9%
	18	43	13.9%
	19 – 21	98	31.6%
	22 – 24	32	10.3%
Race/ Ethnicity	Hispanic/Latino	37	11.9%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	3	1.0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	32	10.3%
	Black or African American	180	58.1%
	White	25	8.1%
	Multiracial	25	8.1%
	Other/Not disclosed	13	4.2%
Education Level	12 th Grade, or less	146	47.1%
	High School graduate or equivalent	53	17.1%
	Post-Secondary Education	97	31.3%
Other Demographics	Basic Skills Deficient	14	4.5%
	High School Drop-Out	15	4.8%
	Economically Disadvantaged Individual	171	55.2%
	Participants with a Disability	35	11.3%
	Limited English Proficient	17	5.5%
	Pregnant or Parenting	23	7.4%
	Youth or Adult Offender	17	5.5%
	Homeless or Runaway	8	2.6%
	Not Employed at Program Enrollment	83	26.8%
	Foster Youth	3	1.0%
	Veteran	0	0.0%
	Participant/Family Receiving Public Assistance	54	17.4%

Program Services and Activities Data	Total	Percentage
Received Education, Employment Preparation, or Work Readiness/Job Training Activities	241	77.7%
Received Work Experience, Internship, or Apprenticeship Activities	201	64.8%
Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	56	18.1%
Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities	147	47.4%
Received Mentoring Activities	125	40.3%
Received Support Services	166	53.5%
Received Financial Literacy Education	68	21.9%
Low-performing Students that Received Academic and Behavioral Interventions (Includes Study Skills, Tutoring, and Alternative School Services)	5	1.6%
Youth that Received Intervention Activities	4	1.3%
Performance and Outcome Data	Total	Percentage
Attained Work Readiness Goals	206	66.5%
Attained Education Goals	103	33.2%
Received Academic Credit or Service-Learning Credit	13	4.2%
Obtained High School Diploma, GED, Remained in School, Obtained a Certificate or Degree, or Dropout - Returned to School	53	17.1%
Entered Post-Secondary Education, Vocational/Occupational Skills Training, Apprenticeship, or Military	66	21.3%
Entered employment	88	28.4%
Retained employment, increased wages or advanced career	75	24.2%
Participant Satisfaction Data	Total	Percentage (of responses)
Number of participants rating experience as “Excellent”	50	50.0%
Number of participants rating experience as “Very Good”	42	42.0%
Number of participants rating experience as “Average”	6	6.0%
Number of participants rating experience as “Below Average”	0	0.0%
Number of participants rating experience as “Poor”	2	2.0%
Total Number of Surveys Completed	100	100.0%

Expenditures

Contracts for the SFY 2022 Youth Support Services Grants all begin in early December 2021. Expenditures through September 30, 2022, are in the following table. Reported expenditures for SFY 2022 are preliminary as four of the grants were extended to December 31, 2022.

Entity	SFY 2022 Allocation	SFY 2022 Expenditures	Percent of SFY 2022 Allocation Expended
DEED Administration	\$25,000	\$25,000	100%
Subgrantees (Youth)	\$475,000	\$434,227.85	91.4%
Total	\$500,000	\$459,227.85	91.8%

Success Stories

Lia – Hired

Lia (a pseudonym) was referred from another Hired program to the Youth Support Services program to receive ongoing support. Housing was a barrier for Lia, and it was very important to her to move into her own space with her young child. Hearing this, the employment counselor also engaged with Hired's Heading Home Housing Navigator to provide additional support for Lia. Together, they found an apartment that met Lia's needs, but learned that the landlord required a security deposit only a few days later. Hired was able to provide the security deposit through the Youth Support Services program, and the Hired team also connected with the landlord to ensure that they had everything they needed for Lia to move forward. Now that Lia has secured housing for herself and her child, she is working with the employment counselor to explore employment options and determine the best career fit for her.

Fartun – African Immigrants Community Services

One of our students, Fartun, who recently moved from Maine is high school student and was looking to get her first job in Minnesota. After meeting with her we informed her about a career/job fair that was being held at Mall Of America. African Immigrants Community Services program coordinator assisted Fartun with resume building and interview prep prior to the job fair. After attending the job fair and sitting in for the interview, Fartun was successfully able to secure her first job in Minnesota as a ride operator at Nickelodeon Universe.

Sonia – Brooklynk Youth Employment Program

Sonia has been a part of Brooklynk for 3 years now and is also a program ambassador. She is currently a freshman at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and is majoring in psychology, with a Bachelor of Science degree. She is hoping to become a clinical psychologist in the future and is passionate about working as a professional in mental health in order to help people. Brooklynk has helped her get placed in internships which helped her figure out her future career plans. Brooklynk has also helped her build up her resume, to make her stand out for colleges and future employers. She says, “I would recommend the Brooklynk program to everyone, this is such a great program that will help your growth for your future!”

Three Participants – Achieve Twin Cities

Three of our students are serving as Pathways Achieve Apprenticeship Trainees (PAAT) with People Incorporated, which is a direct pathway to becoming a Mental Health Support Specialist (MHSS). They are working in a 24/7 residential program with a cohort of half a dozen PAATs in a highly structured training program meant to help them develop personal understanding and resiliency, learn fundamentals of mental health care, observe and practice client management skills, and determine what area of mental health interests them the most. At the end of internship, they will have the option of continuing for an additional three weeks to work with the Talent Team to review open positions that they could transition into after the summer is over.

Ket – Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services

Ket is Kayin/Karen (kuh-ren) and a junior in high school and currently lives in Willmar. Prior to this, she came from a refugee camp in Thailand. She has participated in many of the opportunities through Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services Youth Program. During her work experience at the garden she help with planting, harvesting, cleaning, and preserving the produce grown. The produce is sold at the local farmer’s market; as well as picked for the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes. In addition, she learned to improve her communication skills to have more patience.

She was also able to attend the HealthCare Career Camp this past June that provided her with insights on many job opportunities in the healthcare field. She shared “we had presenters speak with us about their jobs and career paths and did a ton of hands-on activities with items they use on the job. We also got to job shadow at Bethesda and toured a physical therapy place. I thoroughly enjoyed the person that came and talked about Rice Care, this really sparked my interest in wanting to become a CNA.” She plans to take Post-Secondary Education Options (PSEO) classes to get her associates degree along with her high school diploma. After accomplishing that goal, she would like to go to college.

Ayan – Hennepin Healthcare System

Upon entry to the Onramp program, Ayan had initially completed a year at Minneapolis College, earning a strong GPA while also raising two young children on her own. Despite her success at Minneapolis College, Ayan felt she wanted to pursue a different career path and displayed interest in the healthcare field. Ayan participated in our pre-internship training, where she dug deeper into her career options and earned her BLS/CPR certificate shortly before deciding to pursue her Medical Assistant degree with our training partner,

Northwestern Health Science University. This partnership allowed Ayan the opportunity to work as a Clinic Associate Intern in a Pediatric Clinic while she is taking courses for her MA degree. Ayan has proven to be a star in both her academic and professional settings. She is currently earning perfect grades, acing her hands-on skills in the clinic and building a great network of mentors to guide her throughout her career in healthcare. Ayan is determined to continue her education while working as a Medical Assistant in hopes of becoming a Midwife. Throughout her transition to the program, and its many roles and responsibilities, Ayan has shown herself to be intellectually curious, resilient, and passionate about caring for other people.

Stephanie – Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL)

Stephanie is a 22-year-old who recently moved from California to the Twin Cities to be with her family and seek a better job opportunity. She arrived at the workers' center in May, we offered her help in updating her resume and in her job search, Stephanie was lucky to have 3 job offers and was able to choose the one that best aligned with the area that she wants to develop and help the community. She will start her new job at Planned Parenthood as a patient service associate at \$19.00 per hour but because she is bilingual, she will be paid \$22.00 per hour. Stephanie is very excited to start this job in August, as she will earn \$5 more than she did at her last job.

Summer – Duluth Workforce Development

Summer is a young man entering his senior year at Denfeld High School (DHS). He is new to Duluth and was referred to Family Freedom Center and YES Duluth by the Black Student Association representative at DHS. Through his ABC's career pathways assessment, Summer identified social work as an area of interest. Following nine weeks of workshops in the areas of work readiness, financial literacy, empowerment, and other job skills training, Summer entered an internship at Duluth Neighborhood Youth Services (NYS) summer youth program. Summer is in a paid leadership development position at NYS and continues to succeed in his work as he prepares to enter his senior year.

Ty – Tree Trust

Ty joined Branches in hopes of gaining industry experience in tree care and landscaping, with a long-term goal of starting his own landscaping business. As a working parent, Ty was able to gain field competency skills, industry-recognized credentials, and valuable employment readiness training to launch his green career. Through the program, he was able to network with landscape business owner Don Griwac and gain advice about entrepreneurship in the green industry. A highlight of Ty's work at Tree Trust was his commitment to quality work and leadership skills when leading volunteers at community tree planting events. Most notably, Ty was able to connect with Tree Trust employer partners to secure full time, unsubsidized employment in the green trades after program graduation in May 2022. Now, Ty works for Tree Trust Landscape Services, our social enterprise department, putting his training in tree care and landscaping into practice as a Tree Care Technician.