



Youthprise: East African Youth Economic Development Grant

Final Report

12/4/2023

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

Office of Youth Development
332 Minnesota St. Ste E200
St. Paul, MN 55101

Nancy Waisanen, Youth Program
Coordinator (Phone) 651-259-7556
Nancy.Waisanen@state.mn.us

Marcus Pope, Executive Director
Youthprise
612-564-4858
marcus@youthprise.org
mn.gov/deed/youth

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Introduction

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated funds in 2021 to Youthprise in order to grant funds through a competitive process to community organizations serving East African youth and providing them economic development services designed to enhance their long-term economic self-sufficiency.

Legislative Appropriation Reference

Legislation is referenced in [Laws of Minnesota, 2021, Chapter 10, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3\(cc\)](#).

Appropriation

This equity appropriation allocated a total of \$700,000 in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 and \$700,000 per year for SFY 2023. At least fifty percent of funds must be used for programming targeted at greater Minnesota. The Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) is permitted to use five percent of the appropriation to administer the grant, making the amount available to Youthprise \$665,000 for SFY 2022 and \$665,000 for SFY 2023. This is a onetime appropriation.

Target Groups

Funds target communities with concentrated East African populations. Youthprise must make at least 50 percent of these grants to organizations serving communities located outside the seven-county metropolitan area, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2. Such communities include but are not limited to Faribault, Rochester, St. Cloud, Moorhead, and Willmar.

Request for Proposal Process

Youthprise released a Request for Proposals (RFP) in February of 2022 for both SFY 2022 and SFY 2023 grant funds, which will be implemented over the biennium. The RFP closed in March of 2022. Funding decisions were made in April of 2022 and sub-grants were issued in the spring of 2022.

Summary of Objectives

The purpose of the East African Youth Economic Development Grant Program is to reduce disparities and to allow the acquisition of self-sufficiency through:

- Career exploration and career planning
- Work readiness training
- Job training
- Job placement
- Mentoring
- Internships and apprenticeships
- Education and industry recognized credentialing, and
- Business development and entrepreneurship exploration

The RFP also described potential support services to address barriers youth face including:

- Transportation
- Housing
- Education Support
- English Language Support, and
- Social Emotional Learning

Eligible Applicant Organizations

Eligible applicants for the DEED funding included 501(c)(3) youth-focused community-based organizations or 501(c)(3) economic development organizations. Additionally, eligible organizations must have a history of serving East African youth or communities, be based in Minnesota, and must not have a budget greater than \$2 million.

Grant Performance Measures

Demographics of youth participants, including age, gender, and race/ethnicity, are collected in addition to performance measures. The performance measures include:

Decreasing barriers to East African youth employment.

- Number of youths obtaining internships or apprenticeships with East African-run businesses and in high-growth, in-demand occupations and industries.
- Number of youths obtaining employment with East African-run businesses and in high-growth, in-demand occupations and industries.
- Number of youths receiving support services and type of support services provided.
- Number of youths receiving job training and work readiness training.
- Number of youths receiving career exploration and planning services.
- Number of youths receiving in-demand credentials and type of credentials obtained.
- Number of youth participating in education activities, including secondary, post-secondary, Adult Basic Education, GED preparation, and/or ESL classes.

Increasing readiness of East African youth to be hired by or create their own businesses.

- Number of new East African youth-led businesses entering the community, including a description of the type, product, and size.
- Number of new East African businesses with potential to hire youth.
- Number of East African youth participating in various educational and employment-related trainings.

Increasing the economic capacity of East African youth.

- Number of East African youth receiving wages from sub-grantees and the average wage.
- Number of East African youth receiving family-sustaining wages.

Grant Selection Process

In keeping with its commitment to youth and community voice, Youthprise engaged in a two-stage review process regarding the proposals received by Youthprise in response to the RFP. In the first stage of the selection process, community reviewer panels composed of youth, East African community members, and other stakeholders made recommendations for funding. In the second stage of the selection process, Youthprise staff reviewed the recommendations from the community review panels and made recommendations for sub-grant awards based on financial capacity, programmatic capacity, and geographic balance. The list of selected sub-grantees was sent to the Youthprise Board of Directors for final award decisions.

Selected Grantees

The SFY 2022 and SFY 2023 Direct Appropriation funds were awarded to eighteen (18) Minnesota organizations serving East African youth populations. Eight grantees are located in Greater Minnesota and eleven are located in the metropolitan area.

Organization Name	Area Served	Purpose/Mission	SFY 2022 Total Amount	SFY 2023 Total Amount
African Community Services (activities in Greater Minnesota)	Minneapolis (serving Pease, MN)	Help refugees from East and West Africa as well as other cultures, plus their families, secure basic needs and resources for self-sufficiency and acclimate to a new way of life.	\$20,000	\$20,000
African Economic Development Solutions	St. Paul	Build wealth within African immigrant communities through economic development activities. AEDS works throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area to create wealth, lift immigrant communities out of poverty, and contribute to and benefit from the region's vibrant economy.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Afro American Development Association	Moorhead	Alleviate poverty by supporting vulnerable New Americans and other diverse communities by building family and community capacity through training, sustainable development, economic empowerment, conflict resolution and peace building.	\$85,000	\$85,000
BRAVE Foundation	St. Paul	Dedicated in the upliftment and encouragement of young women within the Somali diaspora community.	\$20,000	\$20,000
Community Integration Center	Willmar	Work with the locals, immigrants and government agencies to reach out, in the best possible way, to make a full integration	\$20,000	\$20,000

Organization Name	Area Served	Purpose/Mission	SFY 2022 Total Amount	SFY 2023 Total Amount
		of immigrants.		
Ethnic Self-Help Alliance for Refugee Assistance (ESHARA)	St. Paul	Entrepreneurial training, mentoring, career exploration, job placement, leadership, and support.	\$24,250	\$24,250
Islamic Civic Society of America	Minneapolis	Create positive change for Minnesota by building the capacity of East African immigrant families and faith centers to understand and influence key public issues affecting current and future success.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Ka Joog	Minneapolis	Help Somali youth understand their options and make good choices through mentoring, tutoring, and job readiness training.	\$85,000	\$85,000
Milestone Community Development *	St. Paul	Workforce training and support of East African youth.	\$5,000	\$5,000
Minnesota Council of Churches	Minneapolis	Mentoring and building the confidence of East African youth to develop workforce and career networks into adulthood.	\$20,000	\$20,000
New Vision Foundation	St. Paul	Create pathways to success by motivating disadvantaged youth in Minnesota and the developing world through digital literacy; engaging responsible companies in IT philanthropy and inspiring progress toward global sustainable development.	\$60,000	\$60,000
Northfield Healthy Community Initiative	Northfield	Cultivate a collaborative community that supports, values, and empowers youth.	\$40,000	\$40,000
Somalia American Social Service Association	Rochester	Rebuild the Somali youth of Olmsted County through education, physical activities, and programs that promote success.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Somali Community Resettlement Services	Faribault	Promote and advance the social well-being and welfare of immigrants and refugees by providing community and resettlement services; with the goal of building a vibrant community, whose members can successfully settle and effectively integrate into the wider American community.	\$60,000	\$60,000
South Sudanese Foundation	Moorhead	Build relationships and share services and resources within the community and other communities in the area.	\$75,000	\$75,000

Organization Name	Area Served	Purpose/Mission	SFY 2022 Total Amount	SFY 2023 Total Amount
Street Soccer Twin Cities	Minneapolis	Create a better, healthier, and more united community; providing year-round free access to organized physical activities with youth development focused programming designed to empower youth voice.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Urban Strategies, Inc.	Minneapolis	Developing social enterprise in youth through entrepreneurship, work readiness training, mentoring, tutoring and support services to address barriers.	\$25,000	\$25,000
YWCA Mankato	Mankato	Provide youth with workforce, college and career readiness, local business speakers, and support for ACT preparation. Also offer <i>Handball to University</i> hands-on experiences to High School students to get a feeling of what it would be like to experience the college.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total awarded in SFY 2022 and SFY 2023			664,250	\$664,250
* Funding revoked and redistributed due to non-responsive reporting.				

Monitoring

Youthprise staff monitor sub-grantee organizations programming and financial operations which must adhere to Youthprise policies, procedures, and reporting requirements. Every three months, quarterly data and narrative reports are submitted by sub-grantees to Youthprise staff. Youthprise submits the reports quarterly to DEED's Office of Youth Development. DEED staff annually monitors Youthprise for compliance with state and federal laws and regulations and proper fiscal and program operations and performance.

COVID Impact on Programming

During the early years of the COVID-19 pandemic, DEED-funded organizations faced challenges. However, in SFY 2023, East African organizations were able to get back on track with participant engagement and provision of in-person employment and training services to East African youth.

Evaluation

In addition to collecting and reporting participant performance outcomes, Youthprise evaluates the grantmaking process to determine to what extent it reaches the appropriate organizations in the geographic areas of the state with significant East African populations.

In evaluating the progress made by strengthening sub-grantees' capacity to provide quality youth programming and services, Youthprise reported that funds were primarily used to pay direct services to operate the program, pay youth stipends or wages, and provide wrap around support services to youth.

In SFY 2023, Youthprise served 208 Greater Minnesota youth with 53% of its total funds. These funds served the communities of Faribault, Mankato, Moorhead, Northfield, Pease, Rochester, and Willmar. Likewise, 135 Twin Cities youth were served by sub-grantees with 47% of Youthprise's state grant.

Data Elements and Performance Indicators Being Collected and Reported

Youthprise submits data to DEED every quarter to document the demographics of participants served, services and activities provided, and outcomes achieved. The elements collected are listed below.

Grant Outcomes

The SFY 2022 and SFY 2023 Youthprise Direct Appropriation grants served a total of 2,864 Minnesota youth for the period April 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	SFY 2022 Grant Period: January 2022 to March 31, 2023 *	SFY 2023 Grant Period: April 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023
Male	2,521	343
Male	1,343	158
Female	1,163	181
Non-Binary or Transgender	5	2
Age 14-17	1,304	180
Age 18-21	939	153
Age 22-26	270	10
Age 27 and older	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	19	0
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	25	0
Asian/ Pacific Islander	121	0
Black/African American	2,088	316
White	3	0
Multi-racial	39	5

PROGRAM SERVICES RECEIVED AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	Grants Period: January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 *	Grants Period: April 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023
Received Job Training	794	147
Received Work Readiness Training	929	120
Received Career Exploration Career Planning	1,029	128
East African Business Internship or Apprenticeship Placements	349	69
East African Run Business Job Placement	177	24
Earned Industry-Recognized Credentials	274	51
Earned Education Credentials	291	76
Received Entrepreneurship Training or Activities	334	90
Received Mentoring Services	1,553	300
Received Transportation Support	930	87
Received Housing Support	200	30
Received Education Support	1,196	167
Received Language Support	646	64
Received Other Support Services	924	293

*includes some youth carried over from the previous year (SFY2021) and may include youth funded under the SFY 2023s grant in the first quarter (January to March 2023).

Expenditures

The terms of the SFY 2022 and SFY 2023 Direct Appropriation grant agreements, which were issued and implemented concurrently, is January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Youthprise has expended 100% of both SFY 2022 and SFY 2023 Direct Appropriation grant funds through October 31, 2023.

Budget Category	Total SFY 2022 Grant Amount	Amount Expended January 2022 to January 31, 2023	Total SFY 2023 Grant Amount	Amount Expended January 2023 to October 31, 2023
Administrative Costs (up to 10% allowed)	\$66,500.00	\$66,500.00	\$66,500.00	\$66,500.00
Contracted Services	\$598,500.00	\$598,500.00	\$598,500.00	\$598,500.00
Total Budget	\$665,000.00	\$665,000.00	\$665,000.00	\$665,000.00

New Grant Funds

The 2023 legislature appropriated \$3 million in state direct appropriation grant funds for Youthprise's SFY 2024 East African programming. After reserving 5% of funds for state administration and monitoring of grant funds, Youthprise received a \$2.85 million grant of which 50% will be sub-granted to the Ka Joog organization. Youthprise plans to use its remaining grant funds to competitively fund East African organizations in the state. With its \$1.285 million sub-grant from Youthprise, Ka Joog plans to serve Pan African youth and young adults statewide with several local partners:

1. Center for Women in Excellence
2. Waalid MN
3. Taleex Foundation
4. Success Learning Center
5. Cass- Clay Integration Center
6. African Immigrant Community Services (AICS)
7. New American Development Center
8. Generation of Hope

Sub-grantee operations and participant performance outcomes will be collected and submitted to DEED by Youthprise and Ka Joog contracts. Both organizations are expected to be reviewed and monitored by DEED staff over the biennium.

SFY 2023 Sub-Grantee Highlights and Success Stories

Some successful highlights and success stories during the past year include:

- Youth participants engaged in a variety of vocational and educational activities such as: tutoring, developing resume and interview skills, financial literacy and business entrepreneurship courses, and computer coding and software fundamentals.
- Overall, 96 youth have been placed into jobs with 24 being hired by East African-run businesses. A third of these youth received family-sustaining wages. Overall, wages averaged \$17 per hour.
- 75 youth have been placed in internships or apprenticeships with 69 youth apprenticeships or internships taking place at East African-run businesses.
- Industry-recognized credentials were awarded to 76 East African youth, including certification in *Serve Safe*, Urban farming, and NorthStar Digital Literacy. Over forty youth received educational credentials in 2023.