
SFY 24 Youth Support Services Competitive Grant

Annual Report
10/30/2024

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Background

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 each year in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 and 2025 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 - 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 53, S.F. 3035, Article 20, Section 2, Subdivision 3\(k\)](#))

Grant Requirements

Eligible applicants were local government units (including tribal governments), nonprofit/community-based organizations, community action agencies and 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 appropriation 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 February 24, 2023, under [Competitive Grants and Contract Opportunities](#). Proposals were due by 11:59 p.m. on April 21, 2023.

The Office of Youth Development team 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.

DEED's Office of Youth Development recorded an informational presentation about the Youth Support Services funding opportunity. The RFP directed potential applicants to submit all questions on the RFP in writing via e-mail to a specified DEED contact. A Question and Answer document, responding to submitted questions, was updated during the duration of the open RFP. A link to both the Question and Answer document and recorded presentation was available on demand on DEED's Competitive Grant and Contract Opportunities webpage.

Grantees

Sixty-five proposals were submitted in response to the Youth Support Services RFP, requesting over \$5.8 million dollars in funding for SFY 2024 (over 12 times the amount available to award). All proposals were read and scored by a group of community and state-level reviewers. There were 30 reviewers divided among 6 proposal review teams; 23 (77%) of reviewers were community reviewers.

Based on reviewer scores, the following 12 organizations were selected for Youth Support Services funding. Seven of the projects are new Youth Support Services grantees (were not funded through this program in the previous biennium). Approximately 59% of the Youth Support Services funds are allocated to projects in the Twin Cities metro area, about 33% allocated to Greater Minnesota, and 8% were allocated to projects serving areas in both the Twin Cities metro and Greater Minnesota.

Organization	Area Served	SFY 2024 Grant Award	SFY 2025 Grant Award
Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority	Brooklyn Park & Brooklyn Center	\$40,000	\$40,000
City of Duluth Workforce Development	Duluth	\$35,000	\$35,000
Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina	Twin Cities metro and South Central Minnesota	\$40,000	\$40,000
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School	Twin Cities metro	\$40,000	\$40,000
Elpis Enterprises	Ramsey and Hennepin Counties	\$40,000	\$40,000
Face to Face	Twin Cities metro	\$40,000	\$40,000
Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health	Hennepin County	\$40,000	\$40,000
North Shore Health Care Foundation	Cook County	\$40,000	\$40,000
Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council	Southwest and South Central Minnesota	\$40,000	\$40,000
Tree Trust	Twin Cities metro	\$40,000	\$40,000
Urban Roots MN	Ramsey County and St. Paul	\$40,000	\$40,000
Workforce Development, Inc.	Southeast Minnesota	\$40,000	\$40,000
	Total:	\$475,000	\$475,000

Project Descriptions

Brooklyn Park Economic Developmental Authority – SFY 24 - \$40,000

BrookLynk is a regional youth employment program of Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park that prepares employers to engage the next generation of workers and connects young people facing barriers to employment with the skills, experiences, and professional social networks needed for postsecondary and career success. Through local employer networks participants are paired with paid internships with opportunities for future full-time employment. Grant funds support employment programming through expanding employer network, internship placements, and career coaching services.

Website: www.brooklynk.works

Local Contact: Jay Strobel, EDH Director, jay.strobel@brooklynpark.org

City of Duluth, Workforce Development – SFY 24 - \$35,000

Family Freedom Center’s Adulting Basics Classes (ABCs) brings together a collaborative partnership of community organizations with the City of Duluth’s Youth Employment Services (YES) Duluth program. Together the partnership offers comprehensive and culturally relevant opportunities for youth to build employment readiness, gain work experience and leadership skills, and have first-hand experience exploring various career fields.

Website: duluthmn.gov/workforce-development

Local Contact: Elena Foshay, Director, efoshay@duluthmn.gov

Comunidades Organizando el Poder y La Accion Latina (COPAL) – SFY 24 - \$40,000

The Youth Support Services project works 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 supports 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, Executive Director, Franciscos@copalmn.org

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School – SFY 24 - \$40,000

Cristo Rey’s Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP) works to prepare its majority Latinx and Black students with the skills, tools, networks and career pathway exposure for a clearer future. Participating students work during their school year in an entry level corporate position. Through the program, students acquire desirable job experience, gain marketable skills and a variety of career exposure. Grant funds support programming through workforce readiness training and ongoing career and technical training.

Website: cristoreytc.org

Local Contact: Jason Morrison, President, jasonmorrison@cristoreytc.org

Elpis Enterprises – SFY 24 - \$40,000

Elpis Enterprises works with youth in Ramsey and Hennepin counties experiencing or at risk for homelessness. Through their social enterprises, participating youth obtain paid work experiences that introduce them to in-demand industries like construction, manufacturing and business services. Youth are supported through case management services to align a future career and educational goals. Grant funds support programming by addressing staffing needs through the addition of a Career Counselor.

Website: elpisenterprises.org

Local Contact: Paul Ramsour, Executive Director, paul@elpisenterprises.org

Face to Face – SFY 24 - \$40,000

Face to Face's Employment and Education program works to advance economic opportunities for youth while providing support for them to create future career and educational goals. Primarily serving the Twin Cities, participating youth are provided with career readiness services and connection with high growth in-demand jobs. Wrap around services such as basic needs support and case management services are available to support youth through programming.

Website: face2face.org

Local Contact: Hanna Getachew-Kreusser, Executive Director, Getachew-kreusserh@face2face.org

Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health – SFY 24 - \$40,000

The On-Ramp to Employment program seeks to diversify the workforce in Hennepin County for young parent families. Through the addition of 3 career pathways participating youth are able to explore careers in building operations, human services, office support, and healthcare. The program offers a 2-track model that provides youth with both the career advancement support and individualized wraparound services like case management, resource allocation and educational support. Grant funds support programming through paid internship experiences and participant training.

Website: Hennepin.us

Local Contact: Tonya Bertez, tonya.bertez@hennepin.us

North Shore Health Care Foundation – SFY 24 - \$40,000

Truancy Solutions works with Cook County youth to address the rising levels of truancy in the area. The program provides wrap-around support and career mentorship. Career planning opportunities connect participants to in-demand healthcare careers. Youth are provided with opportunities to gain industry recognized certification and training as EMT, CAN or CMA.

Website: northshorehealthcarefoundation.org

Local Contact: Valerie Marasco Eliassen, Executive Director, nshcf@boreal.org

Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council – SFY 24 - \$40,000

The Aspire Program works to addressing future employment disparities for youth in South Central and Southwest Minnesota. Youth are provided with support services to begin careers with in-demand industries such as healthcare, manufacturing, and transportation. Youth are able to participate in student-centered career exploration, employment preparation, work experience/internships, case management, financial literacy and driver’s education.

Website: swmnpic.org

Local Contact: Carrie Bendix, Executive Director, cbendix@swmnpic.org

Tree Trust – SFY 24 - \$40,000

Tree Trust’s Branches and Summer Youth Employment programs provide paid work experience and career readiness services for young adults. Program participants are able to obtain industry recognized certifications. Through connections with local industry members Tree Trust supports participants to break into the industry through their local employer networks. Participants are able to experience mock interviews, industry specific education, and tours to potential employer sites. Grant funds support programming through youth wages, and education and training costs.

Website: treetrust.org

Local contact: Jared Smith, Executive Director, jareds@treetrust.org

Urban Roots MN – SFY 24 - \$40,000

Urban Root’s 3 core program tracks – Market Garden, Conservation, and Cook Fresh provide youth with paid internships and work experiences. Market Garden interns run a small farm business from seed to sale from 6 urban gardens and work in Metropolitan State University’s Grow-IT Center. Conservation interns install and maintain local rain and pollinator gardens, restored public lands, and participated in the Citizen Science project. Cook Fresh interns gain culinary skills through food preparation, creative cooking, and small batch food preservation with local Twin Cities chefs.

Website: urbanrootsmn.org

Local contact: Hayley Ball, Executive Director, hayleyball@urbanrootsmn.org

Workforce Development, Inc. – SFY 24 - \$40,000

Fueling Financial Futures works to place youth and young adults in high demand industries with the tools needed to succeed. Through the Career Exploration Project participants are able to learn more about their personal goals. Participants also receive financial literacy training through a FDIC training program as well driver’s education. These support services are provided to set up youth to succeeded in future endeavors.

Website: workforcedevelopmentinc.org

Local contact: Jinny Rietmann, Director, Jrietmann@wdimn.org

Program Activities

The Support Services competitive 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 24 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
Brooklyn Park EDA	x	x	x		x		
City of Duluth	x	x	x			x	
COPAL	x	x	x		x	x	
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School	x	x	x	x	x		
Elpis Enterprise	x	x	x		x		x
Face to Face	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Hennepin Co HSPH	x	x	x	x			
North Shore HCF	x	x			x	x	
SW MN PIC	x	x	x		x		

Tree Trust	x	x	x		x		
Urban Roots MN	x	x	x		x		
Workforce Development	x	x			x		
Total	12	12	10	3	10	4	2

Program Data

The SFY 2024 Youth Support Services demographic, activity, and outcome data included in this report reflects the cumulative totals of all 12 SFY 2024 Youth Support Services grantees from the start of the contracts on July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Three of the grants were extended to September 30, 2024, and one was extended to June 30, 2025, due to modifications in grant program plans and timelines.

SFY 2024 Youth Support Services - Demographic, Activity, and Outcome Data			
Total Individual Participants Served		948	
Total Individuals served in Group Services		722	
Demographic Data		Total	Percentage
Gender	Female	491	51.8%
	Male	450	47.5%
	Other	4	0.4%
	Prefer not to answer	2	0.2%
Age	14 – 15	245	25.8%
	16 – 17	294	31.0%
	18	173	18.2%
	19 – 21	151	15.9%
	22 – 24	83	8.8%
Race/ Ethnicity	Hispanic/Latino	469	49.5%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	19	2.0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	76	8.0%
	Black or African American	265	28.0%

	White	120	12.7%
	Multiracial	45	4.7%
	Other/Not disclosed	16	1.7%
Education Level	8 th Grade or under	8	0.8%
	9 th – 12 th Grade	689	72.7%
	High School graduate or equivalent	137	14.5%
	Post-Secondary Education	43	4.5%
Other Demographics	Limited English Proficient	20	2.1%
	Receiving Public Assistance	135	14.2%
	Foster Youth (or aged out of foster care)	20	2.1%
	With a Disability	102	10.8%
	HS Dropout	62	6.5%
	Offender (previous criminal/juvenile justice involvement)	31	3.3%
	Pregnant or Parenting	67	7.1%
	Basic Skills Deficient	84	8.9%
	Homeless or Runaway	100	10.5%
	Not Employed at Program Enrollment	197	20.8%
	Veteran	0	0.0%
Economically Disadvantaged	835	88.1%	
Program Services and Activities Data		Total	Percentage
Received Education, Employment Preparation, or Work Readiness/Job Training Activities		875	92.3%
Received Work Experience, Internship, or Apprenticeship Activities		736	77.6%
Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities		662	69.8%
Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities		865	91.2%

Received Mentoring Activities	742	78.3%
Received Support Services	728	76.8%
Received Financial Literacy Education	734	77.4%
Low-performing Students that Received Academic and Behavioral Interventions (Includes Study Skills, Tutoring, and Alternative School Services)	36	3.8%
Youth that Received Intervention Activities	34	3.6%
Performance and Outcome Data	Total	Percentage
Attained Work Readiness Goals	739	78.0%
Attained Education Goals	490	51.7%
Received Academic Credit or Service-Learning Credit	5	0.5%
Obtained High School Diploma, GED, Remained in School, Obtained a Certificate or Degree, or Dropout - Returned to School	137	14.5%
Entered Post-Secondary Education, Vocational/Occupational Skills Training, Apprenticeship, or Military	32	3.4%
Entered employment	175	18.5%
Retained employment, increased wages or advanced career	133	14.0%
Completed Program Objective	133	14.0%
Participant Satisfaction Data	Total	Percentage (of responses)
Number of participants rating experience as "Excellent"	507	74.0%
Number of participants rating experience as "Very Good"	120	17.5%
Number of participants rating experience as "Average"	56	8.2%
Number of participants rating experience as "Below Average"	2	0.3%
Number of participants rating experience as "Poor"	0	0.0%
Total Number of Surveys Completed	685	100.0%

Expenditures

Contracts for the SFY 2024 Youth Support Services Grants all begin on July 1, 2023. The following table lists the SFY 2024 expenditures through June 30, 2024. Four of the grants were extended beyond this date so expenditure data will not be final until the end of those contract extensions.

Entity	SFY 2024 Allocation	SFY 2024 Expenditures	Percent of SFY 2024 Allocation Expended
DEED Administration	\$25,000	\$25,000	100.0%
Subgrantees (Youth)	\$475,000	\$404,776.74	85.2%
Total	\$500,000	\$429,776.74	86.0%

Success Stories

Comunidades Organizando el Poder y La Accion Latina (COPAL)

Just one of the amazing success stories we had this past quarter was a young woman, who started her FAFSA application in March, only to meet error code after error code on the newly simplified FAFSA form. Program staff were able to connect with FAFSA form experts that helped us trouble shoot her form, when the FAFSA line would hang up on us. When they didn't know what to do, this participant and our Youth Program Counselor would take turns calling FSA until we were able to get answers. In late June, after 3 months, she could turn in her FAFSA and remain in school at Concordia Moorhead. Not only that, but it turns out that 4 other youth were having the exact same problem as her, and with her newfound knowledge we were able to help get the rest of their FAFSA applications submitted as well. To have been able to help get the forms in before the deadline and ensure that those students were in fact going to attend school in the fall, was a huge win.

Elpis Enterprises

D, a 23-year-old trainee, completed his internship in woodworking and then he continued at Elpis with an Earn and Learn experience to hone his skills. He left in December to work at Sterling Home Construction full-time at \$18 per hour. "I am doing everything from demolition to drywall to floor construction," D said. "I am really learning a lot." He said he had learned a lot at Elpis from the woodworking program director. Even though D did not always have a place to stay and found himself homeless in Minneapolis, his circumstances never prevented him from arriving on time, even if he had spent the night sleeping in his car. When his original internship was about to end, D advocated for himself and talked to his caseworker and then to Elpis to extend his time with the program. Because of his initiative, Elpis placed him in the Earn and Learn position. D said he plans to attend Summit Academy in the future, but right now he is taking advantage of what he learned at Elpis and what he continues to learn at his new job.

Face to Face

T came into our program unstably housed with a criminal background as barriers to his employment. T took our workforce development classes and enrolled in Ramsey County Driver's License Academy to gain his driver's license. T was unsure to what career path he wanted to go into but was interested in manufacturing or HVAC. While waiting for a program to start, T started an internship with us at Face to Face in the maintenance department. T completed his 3-month internship and applied for a maintenance position with St. Paul Public Schools. After having an encouraging reference from our maintenance department, he was hired as a full-time staff with full medical benefits.

Hennepin Country Human Services and Public Health

B was referred to the Onramp Internship program after the successful completion of her GED at the Pathways to Success program in January of 2024. B participated in a self-paced version of our 5-week pre-internship training program, completing a series of trainings, job shadows, informational interviews and earned her NorthStar Digital Literacy Certification. B was motivated and eager to explore all the career development opportunities available to her but had some challenges with childcare and needed an option that was flexible and supported the needs of her young family. B continued to work diligently to balance being a young parent and career and educational goals with grace and tact and has successfully established many positive professional relationships with peers and potential mentors. She looks forward to establishing a career in community development and has accepted a Teen HOPE internship role supporting Child Foster Care Licensing in their community engagement efforts where she will continue to excel as a young leader in community.

Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council

JW was 14 years old and in the eighth grade when she attended a presentation about Minnesota Valley Action Council's youth program. JW is quite reserved and has never had a job before, but her counselor and mother both encouraged her to sign up to gain work experience over the summer. Due to JW's age, her worksite options were limited, but she was enthusiastic to gain experience wherever she could though she was shy about calling for the interview. With her case manager's support, JW made the call to the worksite, interview, and started her first work experience at the local food shelf where she packed orders for those in need in her community. She exhibited positive work habits by attending every shift, arriving on time, and communicating absences due to appointments in advance. JW's work experience ended at the end of the summer due to the food shelf's hours not aligning with her class schedule, but she wanted to continue working to gain more experience. JW is now working at a nonprofit thrift store, where she helps tag and hang items. She continues to exhibit the positive work habits listed above and has been actively working on coming out of her shell by trying to engage more with coworkers to build relationships and expand her network. JW also began driver's training at the beginning of January and was excited to work towards this goal. The youth team is looking forward to seeing all that JW accomplishes this year!

Tree Trust

Career Pathways graduate J exemplifies the impact of Tree Trust's programming and successfully connecting youth to careers. J completed the advanced training Branches program, earning his commercial learner's permit (CLP), First Aid & CPR certification, and the Tree Care Industry Association Introduction to Arboriculture Safety Certificate. He exemplified excellent leadership qualities during programming, along with a passion for tree care. J was highly engaged with his peers and trainers, taking every opportunity he had to learn. He gained hands-on experience with tree care industry equipment and power tools to take to a future employer. After programming, J received job offers from not just one but four different tree care companies. He chose to pursue his arboriculture career with YTS Companies, a Twin Cities tree care company. The training and experience he received from Tree Trust made this direct on-ramp to a meaningful, sustainable career possible.