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## Laws of Minnesota 2024 Chapter 120 Grant Report

As required by Laws of Minnesota 2024, Ch. 120, Art. 1, Sec. 14

December 1, 2025

## Contact Information

MN Department of Employment and Economic Development  
Great Northern Building  
180 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Nathan Ratner  
Legislative Liaison  
Nathan.ratner@state.mn.us  
612-335-0367

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Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, Braille, or audio recording. Printed on recycled paper.

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## Legislative History

Laws of Minnesota 2024, chapter 120, article 1, section 14, subdivisions 1 and 3 states, “This section applies to any grant funded under this act whether the recipient of the grant is individually specified, or if not individually specified, will result in a grant to a single recipient...By January 15, 2026, the commissioner of employment and economic development must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over economic development or workforce development, as applicable, with the following information:

- (1) a detailed accounting of the use of any grant funds;
- (2) the portion of the grant, if any, spent on the recipient's administrative expenses;
- (3) the number of individuals served by the grant; and
- (4) any other reporting requirement specified for an appropriation under this act.”

The objective of this report is to provide the legislature with accurate and timely information on the status of appropriations made in Laws of Minnesota 2024, chapter 120. Data contained in this report are current as of 1/1/2026. A uniform reporting template was developed in order to effectively share data for each appropriation.

## Important Context

In consideration of the information in this report, it is critical to note that the appropriations included are varied in nature. While many of the appropriations support direct services, some provide funding to other types of work such as loan capitalization or purchasing a van.

The timing of this report does not align with typical program cycles, which normally end with the state fiscal year on June 30. Programs may thus be in differing stages of implementation depending on their scope and duration.

Appropriations are separated into two sections: Competitive Grant Program Appropriations and Legislatively Named Grant Appropriations. For those appropriations that require a report, that report is included after the grant reporting template.

## Competitive Grant Program Appropriations

### Launch Minnesota Innovation Grants

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(f) \$2,500,000 the second year is for Launch Minnesota and is available until June 30, 2027. This is a onetime appropriation. Of this amount: (1) \$1,500,000 is for innovation grants to eligible Minnesota entrepreneurs or start-up businesses to assist with their operating needs; (2) \$500,000 is for administration of Launch Minnesota; and (3) \$500,000 is for grantee activities at Launch Minnesota.

Total Spent Funds: \$417,257,74

Administrative Funds Spent: Administrative funds are aggregated given the nature of the grant

Number served: 53 Minnesota businesses have been awarded Innovation Grants

Launch Minnesota Innovation Grants target the most promising, innovative and scalable technology businesses in Minnesota. Innovation Grants reimburse business expenses, incurred in Minnesota, for research and development, direct business expenses and the purchase of technical assistance and services. Innovation Grants consisted of Business Operations Grants and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Matching Grants. Launch Minnesota grant funds must be spent in Minnesota.

## **PROMISE Act Grant Uptown Area Expansion**

Art. 1, Sec. 6, Subd. 2(z)(3)(iv) \$1,000,000 the first year is for South Minneapolis’s Hennepin Avenue Commercial corridor, South Hennepin Community corridor, and Uptown Special Service District.

Total Spent Funds: \$139,000

Administrative Funds Spent: Administrative funds are aggregated given the nature of the grant

Number served: 8 businesses have received awards

This appropriation was added to the PROMISE Act Grant program to expand the eligible geography. The PROMISE Act Grant Program provides award grants to eligible businesses in communities that have been adversely affected by structural racial discrimination, civil unrest, lack of access to capital, loss of population or an aging population, or lack of regional economic diversification. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2027.

## **PROMISE Act Grant 7-County Metro Area Expansion**

Art. 1, Sec. 6, Subd. 2(z)(3)(v) \$3,000,000 the second year is for grants to businesses in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington, excluding the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul

Total Spent Funds: \$0

Administrative Funds Spent: \$0

Number served: This area of funding has not been implemented during the reporting period.

This appropriation was added to the PROMISE Act Grant program to expand the eligible geography. The PROMISE Act Grant Program provides award grants to eligible businesses in communities that have been adversely affected by structural racial discrimination, civil unrest, lack of access to capital, loss of population or an aging population, or lack of regional economic diversification. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2027.

## **Employment Support Services to Persons with Mental Illness Grants**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4 \$5,055,000 the second year is for grants to programs that provide employment support services to persons with mental illness under Minnesota Statutes, sections 268A.13 and 268A.14. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027.

Total Spent Funds: \$4,893,543

Administrative Funds Spent: \$106,381

Number served: 1,144

This appropriation provided funding to the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) program. IPS projects provide a full range of employment services and supports to assist people with serious mental illnesses (e.g., schizophrenia spectrum, bipolar disorder, depression) to achieve competitive integrated employment. IPS services emphasize a rapid search for jobs consistent with the individual's goals, interests and experience. IPS is available to anyone who wants to work regardless of diagnosis, past work history or assessment of work readiness.

## **Community Butcher Shop Relocation**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(i) \$200,000 the second year is for grants to community butcher shops for costs associated with relocation of community butcher shops. This is a onetime appropriation. In order to be eligible for a grant:

(1) the community butcher shop must cater to residents and families that reside within census tracts, based on the most recent data published by the United States Census Bureau, where:

(i) 50 percent or more of the population are persons of color; or

(ii) 25 percent or more of the households have an income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level; and

(2) the relocation of the community butcher shop is as a result of reducing the environmental impact of the city business.

Total Spent Funds: Not Applicable

Administrative Funds Spent: Not Applicable

Number served: Not Applicable

The Request for Proposal was issued on 10/8/2024 and closed on 11/8/2024. No applications were submitted and the program was cancelled.

## **Legislatively Named Grant Appropriations**

### **Asian Economic Development Association**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(a) \$500,000 the second year is for a grant to the Asian Economic Development Association for asset building and financial empowerment for entrepreneurs and small business owners, small business development and technical assistance, and cultural placemaking. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027.

Total Spent Funds: \$0

Administrative Funds Spent: \$0

Number served: 0

Description: The objective of this grant is to facilitate asset building and financial empowerment for entrepreneurs and small business owners. Pursuant to the authorizing appropriation grant funds must be used for small business development and technical assistance, and cultural placemaking. Grantee has not submitted any reimbursement requests. This appropriation was cancelled due to lack of grantee response.

## **New American Development Center**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(b) \$1,000,000 the second year is for a grant to the New American Development Center to provide small businesses and entrepreneurs with technical assistance, financial education, training, and lending and to build the grantee's capacity. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$780,099.91

Administrative Funds Spent: \$18,650

Number served: 240

Description: A program to provide small businesses and entrepreneurs with technical assistance, financial education, training, and lending and to build the grantee's capacity. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

## **Entrepreneur Fund**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(c) \$1,000,000 the second year is for a grant to the Entrepreneur Fund to capitalize their revolving loan funds to address unmet financing needs in northeast Minnesota of for-profit business startups, expansions, and ownership transitions. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$157,500

Administrative Funds Spent: No administrative funds have been spent as the appropriation was dedicated for loan capitalization

Number served: DEED grant funds were used from the appropriation to finance 1 loan to DCC Holdings located in Duluth. The loan was made on November 11, 2025, in the amount of \$157,500. Loan funds were for expansion of DCC Holdings' business. While this loan was made to a holding company, it is supported by an operating company (Duluth Coffee Co), which has nearly 40 employees at their downtown Duluth coffee shop and restaurant.

Description: The grant awarded to Entrepreneur Fund is intended to capitalize its revolving loan funds, thereby enhancing the organization's capacity to address unmet financing needs for for-profit business startups, expansions, and ownership transitions in northeast Minnesota. This appropriation funded a revolving loan fund thus it does not expire.

## **Coalition of Asian American Leaders**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(d) \$200,000 the second year is for a grant to the Coalition of Asian American Leaders to support outreach, training, technical assistance, peer network development, and direct financial assistance for Asian Minnesotan women entrepreneurs and Asian-owned businesses. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2026.

Total Spent Funds: \$0

Administrative Funds Spent: \$0

Number served: 0

Description: The objective of this grant is to support Asian Minnesotan women entrepreneurs and Asian-owned businesses. Pursuant to the authorizing appropriation grant funds must be used to support outreach, training, technical assistance, peer network development, and direct financial assistance for Asian Minnesotan women entrepreneurs and Asian-owned businesses. Grantee is engaged in program development.

## **Fortis Capital**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(e) \$300,000 the second year is for a grant to Fortis Capital for a revolving loan fund to provide risk-mitigating capital for commercial development activities in underserved communities and to entrepreneurs from disadvantaged groups statewide. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027. Up to ten percent of the amount may be used for administrative costs.

Total Spent Funds: \$190,000

Administrative Funds Spent: \$0

Number served: 2 loans have been issued. DEED grant funds were used in the Fortis Capital financing for Provision LLC. The total amount of Fortis Capital's participation in the financing to Provision LLC was \$224,626. The DEED grant funds made up \$190,000 of this total. Provision LLC purchased the historic Camden Park State Bank building in North Minneapolis. Fortis Capital funds are being used alongside funds with Sunrise Bank to renovate the building to house commercial tenants.

Program Description: The objective of this grant is to administer a revolving loan fund to provide risk-mitigating capital for commercial development activities in underserved communities and to entrepreneurs from disadvantaged groups statewide.

## **Somali Museum of Minnesota**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(g) \$400,000 the second year is for a grant to the Somali Museum of Minnesota for capacity building. This a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$66,992.91

Administrative Funds Spent: \$1,138.00

Number served: Not Applicable

Description: The objective of this grant is to build the capacity of the Somali Museum of Minnesota to serve its mission to educate Minnesotans about Somali traditional culture and history. Pursuant to the authorizing appropriation grant funds must be used for internal capacity building for purposes of developing, strengthening, and building technical and professional skills and services, policies, procedures, and board governance in order to fulfill the mission of the organization. Given this purpose, the grant was not intended to serve individuals directly. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

## **Center for Community Resources**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(h) \$489,000 the second year is for a grant to the Center for Community Resources for a financial literacy program. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$48,278.12

Administrative Funds Spent: \$343.49

Number served: 19

Description: The objective of this grant is for the financial literacy program. Pursuant to the authorizing appropriation grant funds must be used to build and/or maintain a financial literacy program through this organization. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

## **Sabathani Community Center**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a) \$400,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to Sabathani Community Center for specialized community outreach and engagement, a marketing and communication plan, program evaluation, personal empowerment training for men, empowerment and truancy curriculum for youth, wellness training for seniors, a workforce strategies mentorship and jobs training program, a 15-passenger van, and service kiosks for the Sabathani Community Center, including a onetime paid internship to support these programs. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$322,339.63

Administrative Funds Spent: \$29,303.61

Number served: 25

Description: To support a health-centered approach to public safety that focuses on housing, employment, and targeted services for Black men. Funding for specialized community outreach and engagement, a marketing and communication plan, program evaluation, personal empowerment training for men, empowerment and truancy curriculum for youth, wellness training for seniors, a workforce strategies mentorship and jobs training program,

a 15-passenger van, and service kiosks for the Sabathani Community Center, including a onetime paid internship to support carer pathways programming.

The cost per participant includes funds allocated to the purchase and operation of a 15-passenger van, service kiosks for the Community Center, a paid intern, services for the residents of the community center, and several intensive training programs for the program participants. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

## **Shakopee Chamber Foundation**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3 (b) \$700,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to the Shakopee Chamber Foundation for the Shakopee area workforce development scholarship pilot program. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027. The commissioner of employment and economic development may enter into an interagency agreement with the Office of Higher Education, including agreements to transfer funds and to administer the program.

Total Spent Funds: \$13,300

Administrative Funds Spent: \$0

Number served: 0

Description: The direct appropriation for the Shakopee Chamber Foundation is for the Shakopee area workforce development scholarship pilot program. The Shakopee Chamber Foundation's workforce program will partner with Minnesota state colleges and universities to award scholarships for training for Scott County residents in high-demand occupations. The Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board will determine and approve eligible programs for degrees, diplomas, certificates, and industry-recognized credentials.

See mandated report from the organization in the Appendix.

## **Inspire Change Clinic**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(c) \$100,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to Inspire Change Clinic for their health care fellowship program designed to create pathways to medicine for high school and college students interested in pursuing a career in the health care workforce. The health care fellowship program is intended to remove barriers for minority students, foster inclusivity and diversity in the health care sector, and provide valuable opportunities for students, including mentorship programs, access to renowned health institutions in the state of Minnesota, and hands-on work experience. In addition to the reporting requirements in section 14, the commissioner must include the number of participants served by the grant and provide information about program outcomes. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$95,000

Administrative Funds Spent: \$0

Number served: 23

Description: This appropriation funds fellowships designed to create pathways to medicine for students interested in pursuing a career in the health care workforce and remove barriers for minority students, foster inclusivity and diversity in the healthcare sector. This appropriation was closed on June 30, 2025.

## **Bolder Options Program**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(d) \$250,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to Bolder Options Youth Mentoring Program to provide disadvantaged youth ages 12 to 22 with intensive one-to-one wellness, goal-setting, and academic-focused mentorship; programming that teaches life and job-seeking skills; career and college achievement coaches; and connections to employment, job training, and education opportunities. The grant must serve youth in the Bolder Options program in the Twin Cities and the city of Rochester. In addition to the reporting requirements in section 14, the commissioner must include the number of participants served by the grant. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$237,500

Administrative Funds Spent: \$22,877

Number served: 132

Description: The purpose of the direct appropriation for Bolder Options is to provide a grant to Bolder Options Youth Mentoring Program to provide disadvantaged youth ages 12 to 22 with intensive one-to-one wellness, goal-setting, and academic-focused mentorship; programming that teaches life and job-seeking skills; career and college achievement coaches; and connections to employment, job training, and education opportunities. The grant must serve youth in the Bolder Options program in the Twin Cities and the city of Rochester. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2027.

## **Change Starts with Community**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(e) \$1,000,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to Change Starts With Community for a violence prevention program. Grant money must be used to establish a comprehensive workforce development initiative, specifically tailored for at-risk youth and adults, located on site at Shiloh Cares Food Shelf in the city of Minneapolis. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$950,000

Administrative Funds Spent: \$72,300

Number served: 25

Description: The purpose of the direct appropriation for Change Starts With Community is to establish a comprehensive workforce development initiative, specifically tailored for at-risk youth and adults, located on site at Shiloh Cares Food Shelf in the city of Minneapolis. This appropriation is available until September 30, 2027.

See mandated report from the organization in the Appendix.

## Inspire MSP

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(f) \$100,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to InspireMSP to develop programming to assist middle school-aged children in Minneapolis and St. Paul to develop an interest in and connect with the creative industry in Minnesota. Money must be used for program development and career exploration in the creative industry for historically excluded youth by providing access to essential resources, networks, and hands-on experience. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$95,000

Administrative Funds Spent: \$6,440

Number served: 1,481

Description: The purpose of the direct appropriation for Inspire MSP is to develop programming to assist middle school-aged children in Minneapolis and St. Paul to develop an interest in and connect with the creative industry in Minnesota. Money must be used for program development and career exploration in the creative industry for historically excluded youth by providing access to essential resources, networks, and hands-on experience. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2027.

## Lake Country Ambulance Service

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(g) \$100,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to Lake County Ambulance Service to establish a training program for Cook County and Lake County high school students interested in pursuing careers as emergency medical technicians. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$80,333.50

Administrative Funds Spent: \$8,285

Number served: 5

Description: This appropriation funds an EMT training program for Cook County and Lake County for high school students interested in pursuing careers as emergency medical technicians. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2027.

## City of Austin

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(h) \$350,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to the city of Austin to develop and implement training programs for water operators and wastewater operators. Riverland Community College must offer the training programs. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027. Of this amount, the city of Austin may use up to five percent for administration of the program. The commissioner must provide an annual report by January 5 of each year until January 5, 2028, regarding the use of grant funds under this paragraph to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over economic development and higher education. The report must

include the number of students enrolled and number of students who have completed courses funded by this appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$0

Administrative Funds Spent: \$0

Number served: 0. The program will launch in the fall 2026 academic semester.

Description: This project is for creation of both water operator and wastewater operator training programs to be provided by Riverland Community College, and marketing of the programs through Riverland and Workforce Centers across southern Minnesota. Curriculum for both programs will be developed to meet the training requirements needed to pass the state exams for operation of water and wastewater facilities of different licensing classes as defined by the state agencies for each, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

See mandated report from the organization in the Appendix.

## **Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(i) \$250,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches for a STEM training and career preparation program targeted at the needs of BIPOC youth. The program shall serve youth who are at least 11 years of age and less than 24 years of age and shall provide career training, job skills development, mentorship, and employment opportunities. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027.

Total Spent Funds: \$14,077.39

Administrative Funds Spent: \$5,277.36

Number served: 239

Description: This appropriation supports a STEM training and career preparation program. The program focuses on serving BIPOC youth ages 11-24 and includes career training, job skills development, mentorship, and employment opportunities.

## **Jobs Foundation**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(j) \$200,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to the Jobs Foundation for direct training, support services, safety enhancements, and economic support for formerly incarcerated individuals participating in the Repowered work readiness program. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$190,000

Administrative Funds Spent: \$12,854.54

Number served: 24

Description: Legislative Direct Appropriation to support direct training, support services, safety enhancements, and economic support of our Work Readiness Program. To serve formerly incarcerated individuals 18 years of age or older at the time of enrollment. This appropriation was completed on June 30, 2025.

## **North Minneapolis Pet Resource Center**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(k) \$100,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to the North Minneapolis Pet Resource Center, also known as Mypitbullisfamilycom.Inc, Community Animal Medicine Professionals (CAMP) program to provide training, professional development workshops, mentorship and leadership programs, and develop recruitment and retention strategies. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$40,302.38

Administrative Funds Spent: \$9,500

Number served: 24

Description: Community Animal Medicine Professionals Program (CAMP). The CAMP Program is designed to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the veterinary and animal welfare fields through hands-on learning and classroom programming. Upon successful completion of the program, students will be able to obtain employment at area clinics, animal shelters and organizations in addition to being good stewards of animal care/practice information in their communities. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

## **African Immigrants Community Services**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(l) \$1,000,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to African Immigrants Community Services for workforce development for new Americans. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$926,730.39

Administrative Funds Spent: \$75,754.60

Number served: 136

Description: The African Immigrants Community Services workforce development program for new Americans provides essential job training, language skills, and cultural orientation to empower immigrants and refugees to integrate into the workforce and advance their careers successfully. This appropriation was closed on November 30, 2025.

## **WomenVenture**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(m) \$1,000,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to WomenVenture for supporting child care providers by providing business training, mentorship, services, and educational materials, by facilitating shared administrative staff and pooled management of services such as banking and payroll, by providing child care management software and software training, and by distributing subgrants and loans, which may be forgivable at WomenVenture's discretion. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027.

Total Spent Funds: \$193,514.57

Administrative Funds Spent: \$17,592.24

Number served: 192

Description: WomenVenture for supporting child care providers by providing business training, mentorship, services, and educational materials, by facilitating shared administrative staff and pooled management of services such as banking and payroll, by providing child care management software and software training, and by distributing subgrants and loans, which may be forgivable at WomenVenture's discretion.

## **Black Chamber of Commerce**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(n) \$1,000,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to the Black Chamber of Commerce for technical support to Black-owned small businesses, for implementing initiatives to address barriers facing the Black business community, and for networking, mentorship, and training programs. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027.

Total Spent Funds: \$62,803.25

Administrative Funds Spent: \$8,793

Number served: 107

Description: This appropriation is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to the Black Chamber of Commerce for technical support to Black-owned small businesses, for implementing initiatives to address barriers facing the Black business community, and for networking, mentorship, and training programs.

## **Karen Organization of Minnesota**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(o) \$250,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to the Karen Organization of Minnesota for job training and financial support and incentives for job training participants. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$71,454.67

Administrative Funds Spent: \$14,218.01

Number served: 127

Description: Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM) provides vocational training opportunities for immigrants and refugees in a variety of fields including human services, translating and interpreting, CDL Logistics, construction, and manufacturing, as well as general job placement assistance. Employment and training services are integrated with income supports navigation and financial coaching and education. Direct Appropriation funds will be used to supplement all KOM adult career pathways programs in the areas of staff development, cost of tools/services to improve case management and data tracking, client stipends, incentives, and support services, and curriculum development and evaluation. This appropriation closed on December 31, 2025.

## **Indigenous Roots**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(p) \$100,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to Indigenous Roots for soft skills training and career readiness training for youth. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$64,889.84

Administrative Funds Spent: \$9,430

Number served: 7

Description: The purpose of the direct appropriation for Indigenous Roots is to provide soft skills training and career readiness training for youth. This appropriation was closed on June 30, 2025.

## **Ramsey County – to People in Action**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(q) \$100,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to Ramsey County for a subgrant with People in Action to provide workforce development programming. This amount is available until June 30, 2026, and 40 percent of the amount must be expended within the city of St. Paul. Grants provided by People in Action must be awarded through at least two requests for proposals. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$0

Administrative Funds Spent: \$0

Number served: 45

People in Action has been conducting the work supported by the appropriation but the Ramsey County invoicing process has caused a delay in submitting reimbursement requests to the State of Minnesota.

Description: Ramsey County will provide funding to People in Action to administer a workforce training program as dictated in statute. People in Action will then issue a Request for Proposals to identify and fund other organizations who will provide workforce navigation to youth and adults. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

## **Metro Youth Diversion Center**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(r) \$500,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to the Metro Youth Diversion Center to support its Youth-Care Assessment and Readiness Education program to enhance workforce development opportunities for youth with a focus on underrepresented East African students. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$396,478

Administrative Funds Spent: \$18,228

Number served: 18

Description: The purpose of the direct appropriation for Metro Youth Diversion Center is to support its Youth-Care Assessment and Readiness Education program to enhance workforce development opportunities for youth with a focus on underrepresented East African students. This appropriation was closed on December 31, 2025.

## **Independent School District No. 709, Duluth**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(s) \$174,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to Independent School District No. 709, Duluth, for a software subscription to facilitate the career planning of students. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$165,300

Administrative Funds Spent: \$8,700

Number served: 2,302

Description: The purpose of the grant is to purchase a software subscription for career planning. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2027.

## **Independent School District No. 704, Proctor**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(t) \$171,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to Independent School District No. 704, Proctor, to develop a regional career and technical education program to serve Independent School District No. 704, Proctor, Independent School District No. 700, Hermantown, and Independent School District No. 99, Esko. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$121,072.28

Administrative Funds Spent: \$0

Number served: 0

Description: The purpose of the grant is to develop a regional Career and Tech Education program to serve Independent School District No. 704, Proctor, Independent School District No. 700, Hermantown, and Independent School District No. 99, Esko.

Programming is expected to serve 150-300 students and 3,000 adults annually when it is established. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

## **Brooklyn Park**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(u) \$1,000,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to the city of Brooklyn Park for the Brooklyn Park Small Business Center and for the city to expand the workforce development programming of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center through workforce development programs serving primarily underrepresented populations, including such programs as Brooklynk, Career Pathways, Youth Entrepreneurship, and Community Partnership. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$228,789.97

Administrative Funds Spent: \$20,623.95

Number served: 406

Description: The purpose of the direct appropriation for City of Brooklyn Park is for the Brooklyn Park Small Business Center and for the city to expand the workforce development programming of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center through workforce development programs serving primarily underrepresented populations, including such programs as Brooklynk, Career Pathways, Youth Entrepreneurship, and Community Partners. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2027.

## **Riverside Plaza Tenant Association**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(v) \$500,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to Riverside Plaza Tenant Association to address employment, economic, and technology access disparities for low-income unemployed or underemployed individuals through training in health care, technology, and construction or skilled trades industries. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$149,635.48

Administrative Funds Spent: \$17,214

Number served: 46

Description: Riverside Plaza Tenants Association is a non-profit that has Workforce training program for young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds to address employment, economic, and technology access disparities for low-income unemployed or underemployed individuals through training in healthcare, technology, and construction or skilled trades industries. The certifications graduates obtain make them eligible for many in-demand positions in the workforce at a livable wage. The program includes on the job training and career shadow experiences as part of the grantee's proposal. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

## **African Career, Education, and Resources, Inc.**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(w) \$300,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to African Career, Education, and Resources, Inc., to develop a program for health care skills training and computer skills training in collaboration with the Organization of Liberians in Minnesota. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$177,374.64

Administrative Funds Spent: \$28,500

Number served: 91

Description: The African Career Education and Resource, Inc (ACER, Inc) and The Organization of Liberians in Minnesota (OLM) are seeking funding to implement a culturally tailored workforce development program aimed at providing training and certification opportunities for underserved communities in Minnesota. The program will recruit and enroll participants in culturally based schools to train at least 70 students in healthcare-related skills and 32 students in basic computer skills. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

## **Equitable Development Action**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(x) \$75,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to Equitable Development Action for it to fund programs and provide technical assistance to underserved businesses. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$71,244.89

Administrative Funds Spent: \$7,123.02

Number served: 12 businesses have been served

Description: Equitable Development Action (EDA) is implementing a two-part initiative to support underserved small business in the Twin Cities. The Mentor-Protégé Program (MPP) aims to foster growth and development through strategic mentorship, personalized support, and resource sharing. The Technical Assistance Program provides structured guidance and practical assistance to help businesses enhance their operations, improve branding and marketing effectiveness, and access capital and networking opportunities. This appropriation closed October 31, 2025.

## **HIRPHA International**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(y) \$50,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to HIRPHA International for use on youth apprenticeships, entrepreneurship training, computer skills, and work readiness training. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$2,851.82

Administrative Funds Spent: \$1,651.82

Number served: 24

Description: The goal of the appropriation to HIRPHA International is to address the need in the Oromo Youth Community in the Twin Cities metro area. Specifically, this appropriation funds youth apprenticeship, entrepreneurial training, and computer skills and work readiness training. It will provide youth outreach and youth enrichment through apprenticeship and workforce connection. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

## **YWCA St. Paul**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(z) \$200,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to YWCA St. Paul for a strategic intervention program designed to target and connect program participants to meaningful, sustainable living wage employment. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$94,280.42

Administrative Funds Spent: \$19,000

Number served: 13

Description: YWCA St. Paul's Career Pathways provides customized services and ongoing support to help participants (primarily African American) overcome barriers to obtaining and sustaining employment. Participants attend the program as part of a cohort and learn basic skills for employment, including interpersonal dynamics, conflict resolution, customer service, attendance and attire expectations, and resume development. This appropriation closed December 31, 2025.

## **United Senior LaoAmerican Association**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(aa) \$50,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to United Senior Lao American Association to provide job and skills training for an underserved population. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$22,571.42

Administrative Funds Spent: \$1,226.42

Number served: 7

Description: This program offers opportunities for underserved adults who wish to access job and skills training in partnership with Minneapolis College, The National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters, Safe Food Training. Grantee requested to close the grant.

## **Hmong American Farmers Association**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(bb) \$100,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to Hmong American Farmers Association for workforce readiness, employment exploration, and skills development. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$0

Administrative Funds Spent: \$0

Number served: 0. Grantee is engaged in curriculum development.

Description: Hmong farmers in Minnesota have played a critical role in the food and farming sector in Minnesota for the past 25 years, leading the local food movement and revitalizing the farmer market system making up over 50% of produce vendors in the Twin Cities and surrounding metropolitan farmer markets. Yet, due to the inequities, Hmong farmers are unable to explore opportunities to further their skillsets and operations with new markets. The Hmong American Farmers Association will work with the state department and learning institution to develop a Train the Trainer workshop for bilingual Hmong speaking individuals and institute a bilingual bicultural Hmong hemp training program that will further workforce readiness, employment and entrepreneurial exploration, and skill development around hemp production, processing, and marketing. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

## **MN Zej Zog**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(cc) \$240,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to MN Zej Zog for workforce readiness, employment exploration, and skills development. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$127,119.59

Administrative Funds Spent: \$12,771.40

Number served: 39

Description: Finding Me is a new initiative of MN Zej Zog working with Hmong youths and adults in the 7-country metro, particularly the West Metro, to strengthen connections to Hmong entrepreneurs, professionals, and to find one's purpose in working to economically support themselves through trainings, mentorships, event participations and much more. This appropriation was closed on December 31, 2025.

## **Ramsey County – Justice Impact Navigator**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(dd) \$100,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to Ramsey County for a Justice Impact Navigator to support Ramsey County residents who have a justice impact or who are reentering the community after incarceration to connect to resources with a focus on employment and training supports. Funds must be used for a navigator pilot and other administrative expenses such as outreach, marketing, and resources for residents. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$69,910.92

Administrative Funds Spent: \$5,000

Number served: 220

Description: Justice Impacted Navigator will be regularly scheduled to present information regarding workforce services to groups of residents at Ramsey County Correctional Facility who will be released from incarceration. In addition, Navigator will visit the Justice Impacted Women's and Men's Support Groups (sponsored by Ramsey County judges) in the community. Navigator will also work directly with Ramsey County probation officers to build awareness of workforce services and seek enrollments from the probation caseloads. Up to 20 of the justice impacted residents will meet one to one with the Justice Impact Navigator for individualized attention and referrals to community services and employers. These meetings will consist of in person or online meetings. Participant will be supported based on their individual needs for a span of 2-6 months. This appropriation was closed on December 31, 2025.

## **Ramsey County – Digital Equity Specialist**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(ee) \$100,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund and is for a grant to Ramsey County for a Digital Equity Specialist to support Ramsey County residents with digital literacy resources and skills to connect to employment and training supports. Funds must be used for a digital navigator pilot serving in Ramsey County Career Labs and community-based locations and other administrative expenses, such as outreach, marketing, and resources for residents. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$71,589

Administrative Funds Spent: \$5,000

Number served: 138

Description: Activities will be focused on 1. digital access affordability resources so that the Ramsey County public can be informed of technology discount programs and programs for low-cost internet access and equipment and 2. digital literacy skills so that the Ramsey County public can learn about resources for gaining competency skills for utilizing basic technology (internet navigation, internet safety, email, online applications, and tools). Outreach visits by the Digital Equity Navigator will help to create linkages to City and County Library digital literacy opportunities and digital resources that they offer to the public. Unless a resident visits a library, often they are not aware of no-cost technology learning and access opportunities that are available. The Digital Equity Navigator will stay informed of programs and resources offered by the libraries and share those resources with CareerForce and other community workforce service providers so that the job seekers who are served by those providers can learn about and connect to the digital resources and learning and opportunities. This appropriation was closed on December 31, 2025.

## Film North

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(ff) \$100,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to Film North to attract a film festival. This is a onetime appropriation. The commissioner of employment and economic development may enter into an interagency agreement with Explore Minnesota, including agreements to transfer funds and administer the grant.

Total Spent Funds: \$0

Administrative Funds Spent: \$0

Number served: Not Applicable

Description: The appropriation to Film North was intended for a bid to bring the Sundance Film Festival to Northern Minnesota. Bid applications are \$100k. Ultimately, their proposal was not advanced to the bid stage and the money was returned. This appropriation [was transferred to Explore Minnesota and cancelled](#).

## Twin Cities Urban League

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(gg) \$400,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to the Twin Cities Urban League for support, capacity building, and expansion of the Work Readiness Program. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$198,536.98

Administrative Funds Spent: \$17,772.84

Number served: 33

Description: This is an expansion of Twin Cities Urban League 's Work Readiness Program, building on its legacy of empowering the African Descent community. Twin Cities Urban League's enhanced program features a comprehensive village of support delivering a range of services. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

## Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(hh) \$500,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to Arrowhead Opportunity Agency for the purposes of expanding workforce development opportunities in the region. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$209,563.34

Administrative Funds Spent: \$18,915.55

Number served: 7

Description: Through this project, AEOA Second Chance homes will have tax forfeited homes conveyed by the dounty to the dity they are located in. The city will then convey the properties to AEOA Second Chance Homes. Once AEOA acquires the homes they will have full-scale rehabilitation completed by a mix of local licensed contractors within Minnesota, along with AEOA staff. Participants in AEOA’s youth program may also participant in the work of rehabilitating the homes and work alongside and/or with the contractors. AEOA will oversee the work completed by the participants in their youth program and this will be in collaboration with Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board IRRRB.

Upon completion, the homes will be sold as workforce housing and to first time homebuyers. The grantee estimates that the rehabilitation and holding costs will be \$250,000.00 per home. These funds will be used for the acquisition and rehabilitation of the homes. The grantee also has \$250,000.00 from The Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) to cover the Gap Financing portion as we expect to sell the homes for approximately \$200,000.00. The proceeds from the sale of the homes will be recaptured and placed in a pool to continue this effort. AEOA plans to rehabilitate and sell a total 3 homes to first time home buyers throughout this grant period. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2027.

### **Minneapolis Downtown Council – Taste of Minnesota**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(ii) \$597,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund for a grant to the Minneapolis Downtown Council for infrastructure and associated costs for the Taste of Minnesota event, including but not limited to buildout, permits, garbage services, staffing, security, equipment rentals, signage, and insurance. This is a onetime appropriation. The commissioner of employment and economic development may enter into an interagency agreement with Explore Minnesota, including agreements to transfer funds and administer the grant.

Total Spent Funds: \$597,000

Administrative Funds Spent: \$20,000

Number served: 125,000

Description: Taste of Minnesota is a free, two-day, annual summer festival held in downtown Minneapolis, featuring 100+ food/drink vendors, 50+ local artists, and live music on Nicollet Mall and Washington Ave. This appropriation was closed on June 30, 2025.

### **Block Builders Foundation**

Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(jj) \$50,000 the second year is from the general fund for a grant to Block Builders Foundation. This appropriation must be used for programming targeted toward at-risk youth coaching, financial literacy education, juvenile offender diversion programming, and community outreach. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$47,500

Administrative Funds Spent: \$4,700

Number served: 40

Description: The purpose of the direct appropriation for Block Builders Foundation is to support programming targeted toward at-risk youth; includes coaching, financial literacy education, juvenile offender diversion programming, and community outreach. This appropriation was closed on June 30, 2025.

## **University of Minnesota Board of Regents – Center for Nursing Equity and Excellence**

Art. 1, Sec. 3 \$250,000 the second year is from the workforce development fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to perform the duties required to establish and carry out the duties of the Center for Nursing Equity and Excellence. This is a onetime appropriation.

Total Spent Funds: \$188,413.84

Administrative Funds Spent: \$0

Number served: 3733

Description: The Center for Nursing Equity and Excellence (CNEE) works with every school of nursing in the state, health care providers and others invested in improving health care in Minnesota. The aim is to achieve excellence in nursing care and health equity by retaining nurses, increasing enrollment and graduation in nurse education programs at all degree levels, expanding health equity via nursing workforce, and increasing the success of nursing students. This appropriation was closed on June 30, 2025.

## **Conclusion**

This report provides data for all grants supported with appropriations as described in Laws of Minnesota 2024, chapter 120. Additional information about any of the appropriations listed in this report can be requested by contacting DEED.

## Appendix: Chapter 120 Mandated Reports

### Shakopee Chamber Foundation – Shakopee Workforce Grants Mandated Report

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION	
Grantee: Shakopee Chamber Foundation	Contact: Tim Zunker
Phone: 952-641-9043	Email: <a href="mailto:tzunker@shakopee.org">tzunker@shakopee.org</a>
<b>PERIOD OF REPORT: <u>From start date of your SFY2025 grant through September 30, 2025.</u></b>	
<b>WORK PLAN PROGRESS:</b> Describe progress in implementing the activities, steps, or other strategies laid out in the approved work plan and progress toward or completion of goals and performance outcomes to date in the applicable areas below.	
<p>Progress in Program Operations and Towards Achieving Goals in Program Planning and Development, Staffing, Partnerships, Curriculum, MIS/Data Reporting Systems, Program Evaluation and Continuous Improvement Efforts:</p> <p>Our program planning and development have been led by Shakopee Chamber staff—specifically our President and Vice President of Community Development. We've made real headway in building the partnerships and funding foundation we needed to get this program off the ground.</p> <p>We've established solid partnerships with Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College, building on the existing collaboration we already have through the Career Lift program under the Drive for Five initiative here in Scott County. We've also started conversations with Shakopee High School about potentially bringing certification programs directly to the school for students 18 and older. Whatever training comes to Shakopee High School or gets offered through Career Lift will be open to all schools and individuals throughout Scott County, with a particular focus on reaching folks from underserved communities. We're working with organizations like Mi C.A.S.A. and Community Resource Center to make sure everyone has equitable access to these opportunities.</p> <p>What really makes this program work is how closely it's integrated with Scott County's Career Lift Initiative, which has already built relationships with local employers across the high-demand industries we're targeting. These Career Lift employer partners provide valuable employment pathways for program participants and include:</p> <p>Healthcare Sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Francis Regional Medical Center</li> <li>• Allina Health</li> <li>• BrightStar Care</li> <li>• Accelerated Care Solutions</li> <li>• Benedictine Living Community – St. Gertrude's</li> <li>• Benedictine Living Community – Windermere Way</li> </ul>	

- All Saints Senior Living
- Friendship Manor
- Oak Terrace Senior Living
- Amada Senior Care
- The Lutheran Home
- The Lutheran Home – Hope Residences
- River of Life Savage
- Mala Strana Care & Rehabilitation Center

Advanced Manufacturing:

- Rahr Corporation
- Anchor Glass
- Amazon

Hospitality:

- Canterbury Park

While these employer partners haven't contributed financially to this scholarship program—we secured our required 25% match through the Shakopee Chamber Foundation's fundraising efforts with community partners—their involvement through Career Lift gives our students clear pathways to employment. It really shows how interconnected workforce development is here in Scott County.

Our biggest achievement has been securing that required 25% non-appropriated match. We successfully raised over \$150,000 in private funding, including \$10,000 from the Shakopee Lions, \$75,000 from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), \$50,000 from West Bank Development (WBD), and \$15,000 from HEART Ministries. Combined with the \$598,000 in appropriated funds for training, we've created a robust \$748,000+ program that's going to significantly boost our capacity to address workforce needs in high-demand industries throughout Scott County.

Our program aligns with the legislative focus on Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care, Hospitality, and Law Enforcement, with most of our discussions so far centered on Advanced Manufacturing and Health Care. We're leveraging the existing Career Lift Initiative structure to expand training opportunities in these areas. The Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board regularly reviews and updates eligible programs, making sure we stay responsive to labor market shifts and emerging needs.

We've built a continuous improvement framework around regular collaboration with Dakota County Technical College, Inver Hills Community College, and the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board. We've established feedback loops with educational institutions, prospective students, employers, and community partners to keep refining our program offerings, application processes, and partnerships. Everything's been designed, vetted with partners, and aligned with legislative requirements. Now that our funding's completely in place, we're ready to launch services immediately and make sure we deliver this workforce development opportunity to our community before the June 30, 2027 appropriation end date.

Progress and Achievements in Program Services and Activities provided to Participants; describe (as applicable) progress and accomplishments in any of the following: recruitment and enrollment efforts, any academic, work readiness or life skills instruction; career exploration, career and goal planning, and guidance; mentoring, work experience, credentialed or certified occupational or safety training; case management, guidance counseling, and/or support services; as applicable. Note where services are “Group Services” to youth who are not individually case managed:

During this foundational phase, we've focused on building the infrastructure and partnerships needed to deliver comprehensive services to participants. Working closely with Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College, we've been actively developing our application process and establishing implementation guidelines. We've made sure everything aligns with the eligibility requirements set by the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board.

Now that we've successfully completed our fundraising effort and secured over \$150,000 in private matching funds, we're positioned to finalize those application processes and start enrolling eligible students. Our program framework is fully developed and ready to provide credentialed and certified occupational training in Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care, Hospitality, and Law Enforcement.

The integration with Scott County's Career Lift Initiative means our training participants will have direct access to employment pathways with established employer partners. These Career Lift partners span all our target industries—major healthcare providers, advanced manufacturing companies, and hospitality businesses throughout Scott County. This connection between the scholarship program and Career Lift gives students both training opportunities and clear paths to employment, strengthening the overall workforce development ecosystem in our region.

We're also exploring bringing certification programs directly to high schools throughout Scott County for students 18 and older. The proven infrastructure we've built through Career Lift will help us expand these training opportunities. This comprehensive approach—combining our college partnerships, potential high school engagement, and existing successful frameworks—positions us well to serve participants throughout the remaining grant period through June 30, 2027.

Progress and Achievements in the Program's Purpose, including Participant Completion and Workforce-related Performance Outcomes (if possible, show data on attainment of Diploma/GED and Employment, Post-Secondary Education, or Other Training Placements):

We haven't enrolled any students yet because we've been focused on securing the required 25% non-appropriated matching funds—a critical prerequisite for launching the program. We've successfully achieved that milestone with over \$150,000 in private funding from the Shakopee Lions (\$10,000), the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (\$75,000), West Bank Development (\$50,000), and HEART Ministries (\$15,000).

With this investment in place, we're positioned to start awarding scholarships to eligible students and achieving real participant outcomes. Our focus on high-demand industries—Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care, Hospitality, and Law Enforcement—combined with our partnerships with Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College, means participants will receive training that's aligned with regional workforce needs. The program operates hand-in-hand with Scott County's Career Lift Initiative, which maintains relationships with numerous employer partners across these

sectors, providing clear pathways for student placement upon completion of training. All our programming components are designed, vetted with partners, and aligned with legislative parameters, allowing us to implement immediately and achieve performance outcomes throughout the remaining grant period ending June 30, 2027.

**PROGRAM CHALLENGES**

Describe the challenges or barriers encountered in program implementation and delivery of services and activities. Explain how you have tried to address them. Identify any technical assistance needed from DEED to assist in addressing these challenges.

Our biggest challenge early on was securing the required 25% matching funds beyond the state appropriation—this was essential before we could launch the program. It required extensive strategic outreach to nonprofits, community partners, and other funding sources. We successfully addressed this by securing over \$150,000 in private matching funds, including \$10,000 from the Shakopee Lions, \$15,000 from HEART Ministries, \$75,000 from the SMSC, \$50,000 from WBD, and additional community support. This private investment, combined with the \$598,000 in appropriated funds, creates a robust \$748,000+ program ready to address workforce needs in high-demand industries throughout Scott County.

Building business partnerships for direct financial contributions has been challenging because the original legislation doesn't include a tax-credit provision, which limits incentives for employer participation. We've continued engaging employers through existing Career Lift relationships and working to demonstrate the program's value in other ways. Career Lift maintains active partnerships with numerous employers across healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and hospitality sectors. These relationships provide valuable employment pathways for program participants even without direct employer financial contributions to the scholarship fund. However, business partners expressed concerns about investing without assurances they'd be able to hire and retain trainees upon completion, which further complicated fundraising efforts with the employer community.

Our discussions with Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College have been highly productive. Now that the funding challenge is resolved, we're positioned to finalize application processes and move quickly into program delivery. Aligning everything with legislative requirements and workforce board approvals has been detailed work, but this thorough approach ensures we stay focused on high-demand industries while remaining flexible to emerging workforce needs.

We don't need any technical assistance from DEED currently. The program is well-positioned to launch services and achieve its goals before the June 30, 2027 appropriation end date.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, SUCCESS STORIES, AND EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES**

Describe any program highlights or individual participant accomplishments that you would like to share. Has the grantee had any surprise “wins” during the past quarter?

Submit one or two success stories that demonstrate progress toward or completion of goals such as obtaining a certificate or credential, diploma or GED, or placement in employment or post-secondary

institution (submit media release consent form and photo for any stories which identify individual participants).

Our most significant accomplishment has been successfully completing the fundraising effort to secure over \$150,000 in private matching funds. This represents a transformative investment in workforce development for our region and demonstrates strong community support for addressing workforce needs in high-demand industries. The fundraising success involved strategic partnerships with the Shakopee Lions (\$10,000 donation), the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (\$75,000 matching grant), HEART Ministries (\$15,000), West Bank Development (\$50,000 grant), and additional community supporters.

A key best practice has been leveraging the Career Lift program under the Drive for Five initiative. This proven infrastructure provides a solid foundation for expanding training opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing and Health Care, allowing us to benefit from established processes and relationships rather than starting from scratch. The integration of this scholarship program with Career Lift creates a comprehensive workforce development ecosystem where students receive both training support through scholarships and access to employment opportunities through Career Lift's established employer network across target industries.

Our partnerships with Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College represent another significant accomplishment. These educational partnerships, combined with community outreach partnerships with organizations like Mi C.A.S.A. and Community Resource Center, position us to serve diverse populations throughout Scott County with emphasis on folks from underserved communities.

The collaborative approach with the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board ensures we stay aligned with high-demand industries and legislative priorities. This partnership provides ongoing guidance on eligible programs and helps us maintain responsiveness to evolving workforce needs in our region.

With all foundational elements in place, the program is positioned for success in serving students and achieving measurable outcomes throughout the remaining grant period ending June 30, 2027.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE

Based on our experience implementing this workforce development scholarship program, we'd like to offer a couple of recommendations for legislative consideration to strengthen future workforce development initiatives:

**Tax Credit Provision for Employer Contributions:** The absence of a tax-credit provision in the original legislation presented significant challenges in securing direct financial contributions from business partners. While we successfully secured the required 25% match through nonprofit and community foundation sources, a tax-credit incentive would have made fundraising with employers considerably easier by providing them with tangible financial benefits for investing in workforce development. This

would align employer interests with program goals and potentially expand the pool of available matching funds for future cohorts or program expansion.

**Employer Hiring Commitment Mechanisms:** Business partners expressed concerns about investing in workforce development without assurances they'd be able to hire and retain program participants upon training completion. Legislative consideration of mechanisms that facilitate employer commitments—such as first-right-of-hire provisions, hiring incentives, or structured apprenticeship pathways for scholarship recipients—could address this barrier and encourage greater employer participation. Such provisions would strengthen the connection between training investments and employment outcomes while providing employers with greater confidence in their workforce development contributions.

These recommendations would enhance the program's sustainability, expand employer engagement, and strengthen the return on investment for both public appropriations and private matching contributions in future workforce development initiatives.



SFY2024-2025 Change Starts With Community  
Violence Prevention Jobs Program Grant Appropriation

Legislative Report  
12/08/2025

## Contact Information

MN Department of Employment and Economic Development  
Great Northern Building  
180 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Nancy Waisanen  
Youth Program Coordinator  
[Nancy.waisanen@state.mn.us](mailto:Nancy.waisanen@state.mn.us)

As required by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report costs approximately \$161.73 to prepare, including staff time, printing, and mailing expenses.

Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, Braille, or audio recording. Printed on recycled paper.

## Introduction

*Change Starts with Community* (CSWC) funding supports a violence prevention program for at-risk youth and adult, located at Shiloh Cares Food Shelf in the city of Minneapolis. The target demographic includes individuals aged 16-24. This was a onetime appropriation and was available until June 30, 2025.

Funds for this project are appropriated in [Minnesota Session Laws – 2024, Chapter 120, S.F. 5289, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3\(e\)](#). The amount available to *Change Starts with Community* for SFY 2025 is \$950,000.00 (Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development is permitted to retain up to 5% of the \$1,000,000.00 appropriation for administration and monitoring of the grant).

## Summary of Goals and Objectives Presented in the Work Plan

The Violence Prevention Jobs Program at Change Starts with Community (CSWC) was initiated in response to the urgent need to address youth unemployment, community violence, and lack of access to mental health and workforce development resources in North Minneapolis. The program originated through a community-led coalition of residents, private foundations, youth leaders, and faith-based partners in the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County who envisioned a safe, healing-centered space for youth and adults with engagement and economic opportunity. Built on a public health model, the program offers jobs as a violence prevention strategy to reduce gun violence, trauma, and recidivism. After training, participants receive structured stipends while gaining hands-on work experience at Shiloh Cares Food Shelf. DEED funds also provide employment for twelve adults at Shiloh Cares Food Shelf.

## Participant Data

### Participants Served: Individual Services (cumulative)

	Project to Date: 7/1/2024 –8/31/2025
<b>Total Youth Participants Served</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>(1) Gender</b>	
(1) Male	15
(2) Female	10
(3) Gender Non-Confirming	0
(4) Prefer Not to Answer	0
<b>(2) Age</b>	
(1) Under 14	0
(2) 14-15	0
(3) 16-17	14
(4) 18-19	1
(5) 20-21	1
(6) 22-24	2
<b>(3) Race/Ethnicity</b>	
(1) Hispanic/Latino	0
(2) American Indian or Alaska Native	0
(3) Asian/Pacific Islander	0
(4) Black, African American, or African	20
(5) White	0
(6) Multi-Race or Other	5
<b>(4) Education at Enrollment</b>	

(1) 8 <sup>th</sup> grade and under	0
(2) 9th Grade-12th Grade	18
(3) High School graduate or equivalent	NA
(4) Post-Secondary Education	NA
<b>(5) At-Risk Characteristics</b>	
(1) Limited English proficient	0
(2) Participants who receive Public Assistance	20
(3) Economically Disadvantaged	25
(4) Participants who report a disability	2
(5) High school drop-out – all participants included	0
(6) Participants who are justice involved	17
(7) Pregnant or parenting youth	0
(8) Foster Youth	0
(9) Participants showing as Homeless Participant/Runaway	2
(10) Not employed at program enrollment – all participants included	25
(11) Veteran – all participants included	0

**Program Services, Activities, and Other Related Assistance**

	<b>Number</b>
1. Received Education or Job Training Activities	25
2. Received Work Experience Activities	25
3. Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	25
4. Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities	0
5. Received Internship or Apprenticeship Activities	0
6. Received Case Management, Guidance, Counseling Services	25
7. Received Support Services	0
8. Received Follow Up Services	0

**Outcome Data**

<b>Indicators of Performance</b>	<b>Number</b>
1. Recidivism Rate of Justice-Involved Youth	0%
2. Remained in School	20
3. Obtained high school diploma or GED	1
4. Obtained unsubsidized employment	2
5. Average Wage of Employment	\$31.30
6. Youth Remained Employed in Shiloh Cares Food Shelf Program	25
7. Adults Remained Employed in Shiloh Cares NCSRC Program	12
8. Exited the Program	3
9. Number of participants rating experience as "Excellent"	19
10. Number of participants rating experience as "Very Good"	3

## Outcome Highlights

From July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, CSWC employed 25 BIPOC youth and 15 adults, each working between 20–48 hours per week youth worked 20-25 hours each week and paid stipends at \$18/hour and adult participants were paid \$23/hour. Youth participated in job training, stocked food at the food shelf, grew, managed and maintained the Agrihood urban farm, joined monthly trauma groups, and went on over a dozen career exposure trips to sites such as Duluth, Dougherty Family College, and the Minnesota State Capitol. CSWC also supported participants in acquiring drivers permits, driver's licenses, high school diplomas, financial literacy training through “Build Wealth MN”, and new employment placements.

No youth were re-arrested or experienced violent incidents during participation, 87% improved workforce readiness and time management skills, 75% completed financial literacy or driver’s education programs, 3 youth obtained their driver's licenses, 6 obtained drivers permits, and 2 transitioned to post-secondary school or full-time jobs.

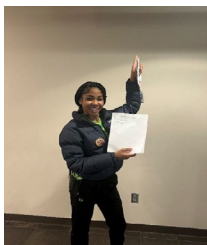
## Expenditure Data

Expenditures from June 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 for grants 5CSWC6300:

SFY 2025 Budget Category	SFY 2025 Budget	SFY 2025 Expenditures through August 2025
Administration	\$72,300.00	\$72,300.00
Direct Services/Project Staff	\$722,475.00	\$722,475.00
Contracted Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Participant Wages and Fringe	\$155,225.00	\$155,225.00
Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$950,000.00</b>	<b>\$950,000.00</b>

## Story of Impact

In 2025, Aniah entered the *Change Starts with Community* (CSWC) Violence Prevention Jobs Program at a pivotal



moment in her life. After losing a close friend to gun violence in North Minneapolis, Aniah struggled with unresolved grief, school disengagement, and frequent conflicts with peers.

Through intensive case management and trauma-informed mentoring, Aniah transferred to an alternative high school setting that better suited her needs and learning style. Her academic performance began to improve significantly, and she regained her focus on long-term goals. CSWC enrolled her in A+ Online Driver’s Education, which she completed

successfully, passing her written permit exam. Aniah also participated in *Build Wealth*, a youth financial literacy program, where she learned the basics of budgeting, saving, and planning for her future. During a program field trip to Dougherty Family College, for the first time, Aniah saw college as a real and attainable part of her journey.

“Before this program, I didn’t know what was next for me,” Aniah shared. “Now I see myself graduating in 2026, going to Dougherty Family College, and maybe even transferring to a four-year school. I want to make my family proud and give back to North Minneapolis.” Today, Aniah is not only on track to graduate on time, but she is also mentoring younger girls in the CSWC program, serving as a living example of resilience and growth. Her journey from grief and instability to purpose and leadership embodies the transformational power of early intervention, youth employment, and trusted community investment.

### **New Grant Funds**

The DEED grant funds for the SFY 2025 have been 100% expended. A new direct appropriation of state funds in the amount of \$950,000 has been granted to *Change Starts with Community* for SFY2026.



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## FY25 City of Austin Training Programs for Water Operators and Wastewater Operators Report

As required by Laws of Minnesota 2024, Chapter 120, Article 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(h)

January 9, 2026

## Contact Information

MN Department of Employment and Economic Development  
Great Northern Building  
180 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Ann Meyers  
Director, Adult Career Pathways  
[Ann.Meyers@state.mn.us](mailto:Ann.Meyers@state.mn.us)  
651-259-7174

As required by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately \$222.93 to prepare, including staff time, printing, and mailing expenses.

Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, Braille, or audio recording. Printed on recycled paper.

## **Legislative History**

[Laws of Minnesota 2024, Chapter 120, Article 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3\(h\)](#) authorized a direct appropriation of \$350,000 in FY25 from the Workforce Development Fund for a grant to the City of Austin to develop and implement training programs for water operators and wastewater operators. Riverland Community College must offer the training programs. This was a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027. Of this amount, the City of Austin may use up to 5% for administration of the program.

## **City of Austin Training Programs for Water Operators and Wastewater Operators Overview**

The City of Austin will utilize the appropriated funds to support the development and marketing of Water Operator training and Wastewater Operator training programs. The programs will be created and administered by Riverland Community College. The training programs will follow the guidance provided in materials from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The programs will be designed to prepare students to take the MDH and MPCA exams for licensure to operate the respective facilities for water and wastewater. Credentials available to participants will be Water Operator Certificates I and II and Wastewater Operator Certificates I and II, all through Riverland Community College, which is Minnesota Office of Higher Education compliant. These funds will not be used for tuition and/or individual support to individual participants.

The City of Austin's grant agreement with the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) started on May 27, 2025. The grant funds will be available through June 30, 2027. The majority of the project is to develop the curriculum for training. The programs will launch in the fall 2026 semester.

### *Geographic Area(s) to be Served*

Services will be marketed across Minnesota, with an emphasis on the Southern Minnesota area.

### *Target Population*

The programs target individuals of all individuals who are interested in training as water and/or wastewater operators. Participants will be licensed by the State of Minnesota after passing the state exams for operating such facilities.

### *Recruitment Strategies*

Students are being recruited through a diverse network of partners. Riverland Community College has amplified awareness of the programs through its career advisors, program navigators, and Adult Basic Education partners. In addition to this direct student outreach, the college utilized all college social media platforms, television, radio, and print outlets for recruitment and community awareness. Workforce Center staff have been sharing the information about the programs with their clientele.

All interested candidates have been encouraged to connect with area cities interested in hiring and funding the training for the prospective student. Interested candidates were also informed that they could self-fund tuition in the program while finding an employer match. Materials highlighted the availability of loans offered by Sallie Mae to cover expenses that may not be covered by other entities.

The Southeastern Minnesota League of Municipalities (SEMLM) assisted in providing information and communication to and from cities with both the Workforce Centers and Riverland Community College to

facilitate connections between potential training candidates and cities looking to hire such candidates. The SEMLM has a strong email communication system to reach cities in Southeast Minnesota and is building further contacts with cities in South Central and Southwest Minnesota. The SEMLM meets in person four times per year, providing opportunities for cities to discuss their operational needs. The SEMLM also has a quarterly email newsletter to share information and updates with cities across Southern Minnesota on this topic. The SEMLM shares information about the new programs with local media and will continue to do so as a way of reaching the public about these programs and opportunities.

Project staff

- Customized Training Business Consultant, 0.3 Full Time Equivalent Staff (FTE)
- Curriculum Developer, 1 FTE
- Part-time Instructor Water I and II, 0.25 FTE
- Part-time Instructor Wastewater I and II, 0.25 FTE

Specific industry recognized credentials to be awarded

Credentials available to participants are Water Operator I, Water Operator II, Wastewater Operator I, Wastewater Operator II

**FY25 Program Results**

The City of Austin and its partners will record demographic information for program participants, their activities, services received, and outcomes in DEED’s web-based client management application, WorkForce One. However, only those activities related to education, training, and employment are tracked in WorkForce One.

The table below presents the evaluation metrics for which data will be recorded. Data below represents the reporting period of 5/27/2025 (date of grant agreement execution) through 11/30/2025. No data has been collected in this reporting period due to the fact that training for participants will begin in the fall semester of 2026.

**Table 1. Program Evaluation Metrics**

	<b>TOTAL</b>
Number of participants served	ND
Number of participants enrolled in training	ND
Total complete training and attain a credential	ND
Total exit to unsubsidized employment	ND
Total exit to employment related to training industry	ND
Total exit to employment at or above \$16 per hour	ND
Average Wage at Exit	ND

ND = Data not available as project is in development stage.

**Table 2. City of Austin FY25-FY27 Budget**

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>Legislative Allocation</b>	<b>Total Expenses/Reimbursements</b>
Administration:	\$16,625.00	\$0.00
Direct Customer Training:	\$144,000.00	\$0.00

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>Legislative Allocation</b>	<b>Total Expenses/Reimbursements</b>
Outreach:	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Capacity Building:	\$151,875.00	\$0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$332,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

## University of Minnesota Center for Nursing Excellence and Equity Mandated Report

### 1. How much of the \$250,000 has been spent?

Expenses of \$188,413.84 have been incurred, and with encumbrances the full \$250,000 will be spent by June 30, 2026.

### 2. How much of the \$250,000 was spent on admin?

There will be no administrative expenses reported as expenses incurred all are programmatic and apply to the work.

### 3. How many people were served by the funding?

Activities in FY 2024 (12 months) and FY 2025 to date (6 months). And we have the following impact:

FY 2024 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025) = 2224 people served

FY 2025 to date (July 1, 2025 to December 15, 2025) = 1509 people served to date

Total across both = 3733

**The CNEE considers its customers or people served to be any individuals, organizations, or communities who directly benefit from its programs, services, or advocacy efforts.** This includes:

- **Nursing Students & Apprentices**
  - Individuals entering or advancing in nursing education (e.g., PNAM apprentices, students filling open program seats).
  - They are served through mentorship, apprenticeships, simulation summits, and initiatives that expand access to education.
- **Nursing Faculty & Program Administrators**
  - Faculty and leaders of nursing programs who receive support through accreditation readiness, mentorship, simulation groups, and workforce development resources. ○ Served by webinars, summits, and collaborative councils.
- **Healthcare Employers & Systems**
  - Hospitals, clinics, and long-term care providers partnering in apprenticeship programs, workforce summits, and retention initiatives.
  - Served by workforce solutions, pipeline development, and collaborative projects.
- **Policy Makers & Government Agencies**
  - State legislators, boards, and agencies who rely on CNEE data, reports, and testimony to inform policy and funding decisions.
  - Served by strategic plans, impact reports, and legislative proposals.
- **Professional Associations & Councils**
  - Nursing associations, accreditation bodies, and workforce councils engaged in collaborative planning and advocacy.
  - Served through convenings, presentations, and shared resources.
- **Community Members & Future Nurses**
  - High school students, career changers, and community members exploring nursing pathways (e.g., HOSA conference attendees, MyFutureInNursing site users).
  - Served by outreach events, career navigation, and public-facing resources.