

Minnesota Independence College and Community (MICC)
OHE Legislative Appointed Grant
Interim Report FY2026-2027

Outreach and Recruitment Efforts Summary

The Office of Admissions conducts comprehensive outreach annually to recruit a broad and diverse group of candidates for enrollment. The past year we have implemented a new CRM system to ensure consistent and fair outreach to all contacts and to prioritize offering a personalized and supportive approach to participants and families interested in MICC's programs. The admissions team also attended in-person events and meetings with local schools and organizations. We worked to connect with communities where there may be limited awareness of MICC programs and services.

Outreach and Recruitment Activity Highlights

- Since September 2025, Admissions staff have recorded 1,856 outreach activities in MICC's new CRM system, engaging a wide range of prospective participants, families, professionals, and community partners.
- Over the past year, MICC participated in 19 community tabling events to share resources and increase program awareness. These included events such as Penn Fest and the 2025 Richfield State of the Community, with outreach spanning communities across Minnesota.
- MICC hosted presentations and campus tours for eight different groups of students and educators, providing direct exposure to MICC's programs and services.
- Admissions staff regularly partner with MICC participant ambassadors during tabling events and presentations, ensuring participant voices and lived experiences are centered and amplified in outreach efforts.
- MICC served as both a sponsor and presenter at the Minnesota Autism Conference. In addition to sharing information about MICC programs, staff provided expert guidance on independent living supports.
- In February, Admissions cultivated a targeted list of 494 professionals who support MICC's target population and conducted focused outreach using tailored messaging.
- Since July, outreach efforts have included invitations for prospective participants to attend free on-campus and virtual events, including in-person Bingo nights and online informational resource sessions. These offerings expanded MICC's reach to individuals who may face financial barriers.
- MICC's outreach and recruitment efforts resulted in a fully enrolled Summer Program in June, serving 30 individuals.
- Intensive outreach conducted between November and January led to full cohorts for MICC's newest programs—Connect and Career Confidence—both of which now have waitlists.

Financial Assistance Award Process

The FY26-27 Grant contract included specific questions regarding some of MICC's Financial Assistance Award process and guidelines. Answers to those questions are outlined below.

TADS Financial Need Determination

The TADS Financial Aid Assessment is a product offered by Community Brands. Primarily geared towards the K-12 Private School market, MICC has utilized TADS for many years as a third-party to conduct and audit Financial Assistance applications.

TADS is a comprehensive online application that requests families to outline their various sources of income and expenses including:

- Jobs, Business/Trust income, other monthly income;
- Assets and Expenses including home, other real estate, autos;
- Assets including cash, stocks, retirement plans;
- Other expense including Medical, alimony/child support, day or elder care expenses, charitable giving;
- Miscellaneous debt.

(A worksheet provided by TADS to help families prepare for the application is included with this report.)

In addition to completing the application, families are required to submit supporting documentation that is triggered by their responses to various questions. This may include most recently filed taxes, W-2s, pay stubs, and other income documentation. They also may be required to submit proof of various debts claimed on their application.

Once an application is complete, it goes into the audit process. TADS staff review supporting documentation to make sure the application correctly reflects the documents provided. They also check for inconsistencies within the application and follow up directly with families for additional clarification or information when those arise.

The TADS formula has certain default allowances for various expense areas and asset classes that go into calculating the Household Contribution to Education (HCE). MICC follows the TADS default level for each category with two exceptions: we exempt student income and savings from the calculation; and we don't put an upper limit on post-secondary tuition for other students in the family. (This is because MICC can't be claimed as an educational expense on the FAFSA application.)

TADS issues a summary report for all applicants that includes the Household Adjusted Income, the Calculated Contribution and the Calculated Need for each student. MICC offers a percentage of the Calculated Need (generally 30-50%) as the student's Financial Assistance Award for the year.

Additional Questions

Good Standing:

A student's standing in the program is generally behavior based. A student may be considered not in good standing if they are suspended, have a high number of incidents, or are not following an agreed upon behavior plan. A student also may be considered not in good standing if bills are not being paid and the family is being unresponsive regarding past due balances.

Awards greater than 50% of tuition:

The Chief Executive Officer may approve awards greater than 50% when there are extenuating documented circumstances regarding a student. These may include students without an official guardian or guarantor. Other circumstances may include an extreme family crisis (such as the death of a parent). Awards greater than 50% are very rare.

Demographic Breakdown

Gender Identity	College	Community	Total
Cisgender male	31	69	100
Cisgender female	17	41	58
Transgender female	0	1	1
Non-binary	2	0	2
Racial/Ethnic Identity	College	Community	Total
White	39	101	140
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	4	8
Black/African American	2	2	4
Hispanic/Latinx	0	2	2
Multiracial	2	2	4
Not collected	3	0	3
			161