



## **SFY 2025 Youth Support Services Competitive Grant**

Final Report

12/3/2025

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

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## Background

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 each year in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 and 2025 for a competitive grant program to provide grants to organizations that provide support services for individuals. Of this appropriation, \$475,000 per SFY was available for grant awards under the Youth Support Services competitive grant program. The grants had to have a focus on individuals from low-income communities and/or young adults (ages 14-24) from families with a history of intergenerational poverty, and/or communities of color. ([Minnesota Session Laws - 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 53, S.F. 3035, Article 20, Section 2, Subdivision 3\(k\)](#))

## Grant Requirements

Eligible applicants were local government units (including tribal governments), nonprofit/community-based organizations, community action agencies and public-school districts. The maximum amount of funding that could be requested by any single applicant was \$100,000 per year.

Services provided under this appropriation must serve individuals from the eligible populations in one or more of the following areas:

- Job training,
- Employment preparation,
- Internships,
- Job assistance to parents,
- Financial literacy,
- Academic and behavioral interventions for low-performing students, and/or
- Youth intervention activities

## Overview of the Request for Proposals Process

DEED developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Youth Support Services Competitive Grant funds. This RFP was posted on DEED's website on February 24, 2023, under [Competitive Grants and Contract Opportunities](#). Proposals were due by 11:59 p.m. on April 21, 2023.

The Office of Youth Development team shared the Youth Support Services RFP with their networks. Pursuant to State law, the State Register included information about RFPs available through DEED, including the Youth Support Services competitive grant.

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

## Grantees

Sixty-five proposals were submitted in response to the Youth Support Services RFP, requesting over \$5.8 million dollars in funding for the SFY 2024-25 grant cycle (over 12 times the amount available to award). All proposals were read and scored by a group of community and state-level reviewers. There were 30 reviewers divided among 6 proposal review teams; 23 (77%) of reviewers were community reviewers.

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

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

## Project Descriptions

### Brooklyn Park Economic Developmental Authority – SFY 25 - \$40,000

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

Website: [www.brooklynk.works](http://www.brooklynk.works)

Local Contact: Jay Strobel, EDH Director, [jay.strobel@brooklynpark.org](mailto:jay.strobel@brooklynpark.org)

## **City of Duluth, Workforce Development – SFY 25 - \$35,000**

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

Website: [duluthmn.gov/workforce-development](http://duluthmn.gov/workforce-development)

Local Contact: Elena Foshay, Director, [efoshay@duluthmn.gov](mailto:efoshay@duluthmn.gov)

## **Comunidades Organizando el Poder y La Accion Latina (COPAL) – SFY 25 - \$40,000**

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

Website: [copalmn.org](http://copalmn.org)

Local contact: Francisco Segovia, Executive Director, [Franciscos@copalmn.org](mailto:Franciscos@copalmn.org)

## **Cristo Rey Jesuit High School – SFY 25 - \$40,000**

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

Website: [cristoreytc.org](http://cristoreytc.org)

Local Contact: Jason Morrison, President, [jasonmorrison@cristoreytc.org](mailto:jasonmorrison@cristoreytc.org)

## **Elpis Enterprises – SFY 25 - \$40,000**

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

Website: [elpisenterprises.org](http://elpisenterprises.org)

Local Contact: Paul Ramsour, Executive Director, [paul@elpisenterprises.org](mailto:paul@elpisenterprises.org)

## **Face to Face – SFY 25 - \$40,000**

Face to Face’s Employment and Education program works to advance economic opportunities for youth while providing support for them to create future career and educational goals. Primarily serving the Twin Cities, participating youth are provided with career readiness services and connection with high growth in-demand

jobs. Wrap around services such as basic needs support and case management services are available to support youth through programming.

Website: [face2face.org](http://face2face.org)

Local Contact: Hanna Getachew-Kreusser, Executive Director, [Ggetachew-kreusserh@face2face.org](mailto:Ggetachew-kreusserh@face2face.org)

### **Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health – SFY 25 - \$40,000**

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

Website: [Hennepin.us](http://Hennepin.us)

Local Contact: Tonya Bertez, [tonya.bertez@hennepin.us](mailto:tonya.bertez@hennepin.us)

### **North Shore Health Care Foundation – SFY 25 - \$40,000**

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

Website: [northshorehealthcarefoundation.org](http://northshorehealthcarefoundation.org)

Local Contact: Anna Carisa-Barrett, Executive Director, [nshcf@boreal.org](mailto:nshcf@boreal.org)

### **Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council – SFY 25 - \$40,000**

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

Website: [swmnpic.org](http://swmnpic.org)

Local Contact: Carrie Bendix, Executive Director, [cbendix@swmnpic.org](mailto:cbendix@swmnpic.org)

### **Tree Trust – SFY 25 - \$40,000**

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

Website: [treetrust.org](http://treetrust.org)

Local contact: Michael Huntington, Board Chair, [michael.huntington@treetrust.org](mailto:michael.huntington@treetrust.org)

## Urban Roots MN – SFY 25 - \$40,000

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

Website: [urbanrootsmn.org](http://urbanrootsmn.org)

Local contact: Hayley Ball, Executive Director, [hayleyball@urbanrootsmn.org](mailto:hayleyball@urbanrootsmn.org)

## Workforce Development, Inc. – SFY 25 - \$40,000

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

Website: [workforcedevelopmentinc.org](http://workforcedevelopmentinc.org)

Local contact: Jinny Rietmann, Director, [Jrietmann@wdimn.org](mailto:Jrietmann@wdimn.org)

## Program Activities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The chart below denotes the activities that each organization is providing through their SFY 25 Youth Support Services grant.

Project	Job Training	Employment Preparation	Internship or Work Experience	Job Assistance to Parents	Financial Literacy	Academic and Behavioral Interventions for Low Performing Students	Youth Intervention Activities
Brooklyn Park EDA	x	x	x		x		
City of Duluth	x	x	x			x	
COPAL	x	x	x		x	x	
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School	x	x	x	x	x		
Elpis Enterprise	x	x	x		x		x
Face to Face	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Hennepin Co HSPH	x	x	x	x			
North Shore HCF	x	x			x	x	
SW MN PIC	x	x	x		x		
Tree Trust	x	x	x		x		
Urban Roots MN	x	x	x		x		
Workforce Development	x	x			x		
Total	12	12	10	3	10	4	2

## Program Data

The SFY 2025 Youth Support Services demographic, activity, and outcome data included in this report reflects the cumulative totals of all 12 SFY 2025 Youth Support Services grantees from the start of the contracts on July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. One of the grants was extended to September 30, 2025, and one was extended to June 30, 2026, due to modifications in grant program plans and timelines.

## SFY 2025 Youth Support Services – Demographic, Activity, and Outcome Data

Total Participants Served: 1,031

Total Individuals served in Group Services 1,626

Gender	Total	Percentage
Male	542	52.6%
Female	479	46.5%
Other	6	0.6%
Prefer Not to Answer	4	0.4%

Age	Total	Percentage
14-15	254	24.6%
16-17	383	37.1%
18-19	147	14.3%
20-21	152	14.7%
22-24	95	9.2%

Race/Ethnicity	Total	Percentage
Hispanic/Latino	528	51.2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	25	2.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	58	5.6%
Black, African American, or African	239	23.2%
White	200	19.4%
Multiracial	55	5.3%
Other/Not disclosed	50	4.8%

Education Level	Total	Percentage
8th grade and under	4	0.4%
9th Grade – 12th Grade	766	74.3%
High School Graduate or equivalent	170	16.5%
Post-Secondary Education	47	4.6%

Other Demographics	Total	Percentage
Limited English proficient	33	3.2%
Receiving Public Assistance	171	16.6%
Foster Youth (or aged out of foster care)	32	3.1%
With a disability	185	17.9%
High school drop-out	43	4.2%
Offender (previous criminal/juvenile justice involvement)	58	5.6%
Pregnant or parenting	76	7.4%
Basic Skills Deficient	104	10.1%
Homeless or Runaway	105	10.2%
Not employed at program enrollment	301	29.2%
Veteran	0	0.0%
Economically Disadvantaged	835	81.0%

## Program Services and Activities Data

Program Service or Activity	Total	Percentage
Received Education, Employment Preparation, or Work Readiness/Job Training Activities	968	93.9%
Received Work Experience, Internship, or Apprenticeship Activities	718	69.6%
Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	572	55.5%
Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities	891	86.4%
Received Mentoring Activities	775	75.2%
Received Support Services	630	61.1%
Received Financial Literacy Education	664	64.4%
Low-performing Students that Received Academic and Behavioral Interventions (Includes Study Skills, Tutoring, and Alternative School Services)	55	5.3%

## Performance and Outcome Data

Performance or Outcome	Total	Percentage
Attained Work Readiness Goals	709	68.8%
Attained Education Goals	482	46.8%
Received Academic Credit or Service-Learning Credit	58	5.6%
Obtained High School Diploma, GED, Remained in School, Obtained a Certificate or Degree, or Dropout - Returned to School	246	23.9%
Entered Post-Secondary Education, Vocational/Occupational Skills Training, Apprenticeship, or Military	44	4.3%
Entered employment	495	48.0%
Retained employment, increased wages or advanced career	583	56.5%
Completed Program Objective	130	12.6%

## Participant Satisfaction Data

Participant Satisfaction	Total	Percentage of responses
Number of participants rating experience as "Excellent"	312	46.9%
Number of participants rating experience as "Very Good"	192	28.9%
Number of participants rating experience as "Average"	81	12.2%
Number of participants rating experience as "Below Average"	46	6.9%
Number of participants rating experience as "Poor"	34	5.1%
<b>Total Number of Surveys Completed</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Expenditures

Entity	SFY 2025 Allocation	SFY 2025 Expenditure	Percent of SFY 2025 Allocation Expended
DEED Administration	\$25,000	\$25,000	100.0%
Subgrantees (Youth)	\$475,000	\$439,082.19	92.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$464,082.19</b>	<b>92.8%</b>

## Success Stories

### Brooklyn Park Economic Developmental Authority

T was a junior in high school when he learned about BrookLynk and the resources offered. At the beginning of the summer, T was not sure of what to expect. This was his first time doing two things: a summer internship and learning about trades. In the past, he heard about trades programs and careers but never anything firsthand. In the summer of 2025 T joined the Minnesota Trades Academy internship and learned about different trades and opportunities available to him. Whether it was carpentry, painting, or welding, he got the experience to pick a career pathway. His goal at the beginning of the summer was to learn as much about the different trades as possible and that he did. T has one more year of high school left but union representatives have already gotten in contact with him to get him onboarded into their organizations as soon as he graduates. We look forward to supporting T as he embarks on his pathway towards the trades.

### City of Duluth, Workforce Development

Kayla (pseudonym) has an IEP and struggles to find conventional success in school. Through being a mentor to incoming freshmen during Summer Transitions Academy she decided she wanted to become a teacher, largely due to how natural it felt for her to teach other youth. This career path had not occurred to her before, but she began helping the civics teacher, unprompted, with behavior issues and strategizing ways to improve the students' engagement. Since school started Kayla has been working at DASH and leading the opening circle. Kayla is graduating end of May 2025 and will be hired as an intern with the Conflict Resolution Center in Duluth. She went on college tours at Lake Superior College and Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College during the first and second semester of her Senior year. She said she never saw herself going to college but now she has completed her FAFSA, applied for scholarships, and has been accepted to Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College (FDLTCC). She is planning on pursuing a degree in childhood development.

### Cristo Rey Jesuit High School

Cristo Rey's Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP) places students in meaningful, real-world work experiences with leading business and nonprofit partners across the Twin Cities. The power of CWSP is reflected in the voices of our students. For student J, the experience was transformational. Placed at a U.S. Bank branch in Minneapolis, he recalls starting out shy and unsure of himself: "When the branch manager first showed me the banking systems, I said to myself that I couldn't do this. Now look at me." That internship inspired J to pursue a degree in finance, and today, he's not only a college student but also a U.S. Bank teller—working at the same branch where he began. "When I was an intern, I realized my manager had confidence in me and that was key to helping me grow," he shares.

### Comunidades Organizando el Poder y La Accion Latina (COPAL)

One of the English language learners from our Southwest high school presentation was inspired and decided to enroll in the youth program. He was interested in studying business, so we suggested he come and meet our Youth Tax Preparers who areas studying business and finance at colleges across the state. He was able to connect with five older Latine students just like him and is very excited to continue on into higher education. He even decided after one conversation that he is interested specifically in international business and maybe law.

## Face to Face

KC came into the program over a year ago. She had been referred to our program through our Youth Justice Program. She had been working with them on some legal issues she had. With help from her Career Navigator, KC was able to get hired and maintain her employment with supportive services. KC reported to her Navigator during this time that she was involved in a domestic violence situation during this time that resulted in her losing her employment. Her Navigator worked with one of Face to Face's Housing Case Managers to move her into safe housing. After obtaining appropriate housing, KC started an internship at a clinic due to her interest in a career in health care.

## Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council

At just 17, A faced more challenges than most teens ever imagine. She was living in foster care with her grandmother, alongside her younger brother and sister. Though a bright student, A struggled with attendance and was behind in school credits—her future felt uncertain. With the support of her school social worker, she connected with MVAC and began a transformative journey. She started working at a local flower shop after school, where she found not just a job, but a community. Her joy was infectious—she once said, “Even the garbage smells good!” That simple quote captured her spirit: finding beauty even in the mess. Her confidence blossomed when she participated in a YIP event, presenting flower arrangements to visiting students. It was a moment that pulled her out of her shell and showed her just how capable she was. Determined to build a future, A explored career paths and enrolled in a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course over the summer. She balanced her studies with increased hours at the flower shop and successfully completed the program. She also completed her behind-the-wheel training and is now confidently practicing for her driver's test. At a recent school meeting, it was revealed that she had not only caught up on credits but exceeded graduation requirements. This achievement means her final semester will be less stressful, giving her time to work more as a CNA and save for independent living after graduation.