



SFY 2025 Bolder Options

Final Report

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

332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200
St. Paul, MN 55101

Nancy Waisanen

Nancy.Waisanen@state.mn.us

mn.gov/deed

As requested by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately \$400 to prepare, including staff time, printing and mailing expenses.

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Introduction

The Bolder Options funding supports youth facing barriers to academic and career success by connecting them with caring adult mentors and structured wellness, goal setting, and future planning supports. Services include weekly mentoring, case management, enrichment activities, college visits, workplace tours, internships, and matched contributions to MN Saves 529 college accounts.

Bolder Options serves youth, ages 10-14, in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Rochester through a first-year, 1:1 mentoring program. Youth, ages 14-21, may then transition into alumni programming for college and career exposure, leadership development, and workforce readiness supports to bridge young people into post-secondary success.

Funds for this project are appropriated in [Minnesota Session Laws – 2024, Chapter 120, S.F. 5289, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3\(d\)](#). The amount available to the Bolder Options for SFY 2025 is \$237,500.00 (Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development is permitted to retain up to 5% of the \$250,000.00 appropriation for administration and monitoring of the grant).

Summary of Goals and Objectives Presented in the Work Plan

The funding supports The Bolder Options’ 12-week course designed to equip young individuals with the essential life skills for life. The first six weeks consists of in-class financial literacy topics, covering money motivations, career exploration, budgeting basics, banking, credit/credit building, and understanding debt. Facilitators assist youth to better understand their real life money situation. The second half of the 12-week course focuses on preparing the youth for the job training phase by exploring career and job options and teaching participants techniques for conducting a successful job search. Each participant sets personal and professional workforce goals, learns soft skills, such as communication, time management, problem-solving, team collaboration, and conflict resolution, and builds a professional resume and cover letter. Mock interviews are held to practice answering common interview questions and proper interview etiquette. After training, participants secure a position through one of our local businesses and organization partners to gain real-world experience in their area of interest.

Participant Data

Participants Served: Individual Services (cumulative)

	Project to Date: 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025
Total Participants Served	132
(1) Gender	
(1) Male	59
(2) Female	70
(3) Gender Non-Confirming	3
(4) Prefer Not to Answer	0
(2) Age	
(1) 15 and Under	115

(2) 16-17	15
(3) 18-19	2
(4) 20-21	0
(5) 22-24	0
(3) Race/Ethnicity	
(1) Hispanic/Latino	24
(2) American Indian or Alaska Native	5
(3) Asian/Pacific Islander	2
(4) Black, African American, or African	30
(5) White	26
(6) Multi-Race or Other	45
(4) Education at Enrollment	
(1) 8 th grade and under	33
(2) 9 th Grade-12 th Grade	99
(3) High School graduate or equivalent	0
(4) Post-Secondary Education	0
(5) At-Risk Characteristics	
(1) Limited English proficient	4
(2) Participants who receive Public Assistance	105
(3) Economically Disadvantaged	65
(4) Participants who report a disability	10
(5) High school drop-out – all participants included	0
(6) Participants who are justice involved	NA
(7) Pregnant or parenting youth	1
(8) Foster Youth	2
(9) Participants showing as Homeless Participant/Runaway	0
(10) Not employed at program enrollment – all participants included	110
(11) Veteran – all participants included	0

Program Services, Activities, and Other Related Assistance

	Number
1. Received Education or Job Training Activities	40
2. Received Work Experience Activities	40
3. Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	40
4. Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities	40
5. Received Internship or Apprenticeship Activities	8
6. Received Case Management, Guidance, Counseling Services	0
7. Received Support Services	0
8. Received Follow Up Services	NA

Outcome Data

Indicators of Performance	Number
1. Attained work readiness or education goals	40
2. Completed program objective	30
3. Obtained high school diploma or GED or remained in school	132
4. Enrolled in Post-Secondary Education	4
5. Entered Vocational/Occupational Skills Training	4

Indicators of Performance	Number
6. Number of participants rating experience as "Excellent"	First year 1:1 mentorship – 90 and 48% said that they like being a part of Bolder Options. I Believe – 4.5/5 rating for session quality & engagement.
7. Number of participants rating experience as "Very Good"	I Achieve – average rating for sessions was 4.2 out of 5

Expenditure Data

Expenditures from June 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 for grant 5BO6300:

SFY 2025 Budget Category	SFY 2025 Budget	SFY 2025 Expenditures through September 2025
Administration	\$22,877.00	\$22,877.00
Direct Services/Project Staff	\$198,373.00	\$198,373.00
Contracted Services	0.00	0.00
Participant Wages and Fringe	\$16,250.00	\$16,250.00
Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Direct Customer Training	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$237,500.00	\$237,500.00

Story of Impact

In Rochester, youth expressed interest in trades careers. Our Alumni Coordinator organized five trades nights, bringing electricians, carpenters, heavy equipment operators, and union representatives directly to youth. One participant applied for a job immediately afterward. Another young person secured a Nursing Assistant position at Mayo Clinic, aligned with her goal of becoming a nurse.

New Grant Funds

Currently, state grant funds for the SFY 2025 have been 100% expended. New direct appropriation state funds of \$237,500 have been granted to the Bolder Options for the SFY26-27 biennium.