



# **SFY 2025 EMERGE Community Development**

Final Report

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

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As requested by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately \$290 to prepare, including staff time, printing and mailing expenses.

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## Introduction

The legislation directed the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to grant funds to EMERGE to address employment and economic disparities for low-income, unemployed, or underemployed individuals who are primarily East African. Funds are used for operations and administrative costs of the Cedar-Riverside Opportunity Center and its on-site partners in support of career pathways, certified credentials, workforce readiness, financial literacy, and employment placement and retention services.

Funds for this project are appropriated in in [Minnesota Session Laws – 2023, Chapter 53, S.F. 3035, Article 20, Section 2, Subdivision 3\(kkk\)](#). The amount available to EMERGE Community Development for SFY 2025 is \$475,000.00 (Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development is permitted to retain up to 5% of the \$500,000.00 appropriation for administration and monitoring of the grant).

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

The funding supports EMERGE's workforce development services and activities at the Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center which are designed to:

1. Increase re-engagement of the community and increase enrollment in workforce development programs and services over the program year.
2. Reach more area residents by extending hours of operation for an additional eight hours in the evening and weekends, beyond the weekday operational hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.
3. Increase access to employment, training, and education by connecting youth and adults to workforce training and services. Career coaches assist individuals with creating an Individual Service Strategy (ISS) with short-term and long-term education and employment goals. Coaches also make referrals to other EMERGE services such as career training, transitional employment, reentry services, benefits navigation, and financial coaching.
4. Provide area residents with workforce training, education, and services focusing on:
  - Work readiness and foundational skill building workshops which offer work readiness assessments, digital literacy and financial literacy training, and resume writing classes.
  - Job Clubs for employment search and peer support.
  - The Youth Career Services Center, which offers career exploration camps, career assessment, and youth-focused workshops with local partners.
  - Career training and certification in occupations paying \$20 per hour or more.
5. Assist individuals with employment placement and retention with the goal of local residents obtaining and retaining living-wage employment at target wages of \$15 per hour or more.

## Participant Data

Project to Date: 7/1/2024 – 9/30/2025

Total Participants Served: 1307

(1) Gender	Participants Served
(1) Male	761
(2) Female	537
(3) Other	9

(2) Age	Participants Served
(1) 14-15	12
(2) 16-17	46
(3) 18-19	55
(4) 20-21	94
(5) 22-24	146
(6) Above 24	985

(3) Ethnicity/Race	Participants Served
(1) Hispanic/Latino	18
(2) American Indian or Alaska Native	22
(3) Asian/Pacific Islander	44
(4) Black, African American, or African	1,005
(5) White	99
(6) Multiracial	115

(4) Education Level	Participants Served
(1) 9th Grade-12th Grade	232
(2) High School graduate or equivalent	728
(3) Post-Secondary Education	284
(4) Other or Unknown	21

(5) Other Demographics	Participants Served
(1) Limited English proficient	151
(2) Participants who receive Public Assistance	415
(3) Economically Disadvantaged Individual	1,123
(4) Participants who report a disability	85
(5) High school drop-out	187
(6) Participants who are justice involved	542
(7) Pregnant or parenting youth	46
(8) Homeless Participant/Runaway	507
(9) Not employed at program enrollment	1,071
(10) Veteran	8

(6) Program Services, Activities, and Other Related Assistance	Participants Served
Received Education or Job Training Activities	382
Received Work Experience Activities	97
Received Internship or Apprenticeship Activities	75
Received Case Management, Guidance, Counseling Services	1,110
Received Mentoring Activities	135
Received Career Exploration, Guidance and Planning Activities	494
Received Support Services	595
Received Follow Up Services	246

## Performance Outcome Data

EMERGE operates three full-time centers, including the EMERGE Career and Technology Center (ECTC), the Cedar-Riverside Opportunity Center (C-ROC), and Second Chance programs at the Enterprise Center. Based on Calendar Year 2024, EMERGE served 1,919 participants, 87% who identified as BIPOC and 92% as low income.

During the past year, 1,307 individuals were enrolled in EMERGE workforce programming and received work readiness, digital literacy, financial education and coaching, transitional employment, work experience internships, and/or access to career training. EMERGE has participated in four job fairs reaching 366 community members, connected over 1,083 participants to a career/employment readiness coach, and completed an individualized employment plan (IEP). In addition, 445 individuals obtained employment through EMERGE at an average starting wage of \$20.31. EMERGE participants who earned a career credential in the program earned at post-program average starting wage of \$22.94. Ninety percent of individuals who obtained employment through EMERGE remained employed for at least 90 days; 84% remained employed for at least 6 months, and 80% remained employed for at least 1 year.

Objectives	Number
A. Attained Work Readiness Goal(s)	516
B. Attained Education Goal(s)	236
C. Received Academic Credit or Service-Learning Credit	0
D. Obtained High School Diploma or GED	0
E. Remained in School or Drop Out Returned to School	135
H. Enrolled in Post-Secondary Education	29
I. Entered Vocational/Occupational Skills Training; specify: <b>Barbicide Training, Basic Life Support, Boom/Scissor Lift, Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Class A, Certified Nursing Assistant, Community Entrepreneurship, Construction, Customer Service, Electrical Low Voltage, Emergency Medical Tech (EMT), Forklift, HAAS Machine Certification, Intro to Construction, Intro to Long Term Care, Intro to Solar Installation, IT Fundamentals, Lash Technician, Manufacturing Foundations (levels 1 and 2), Office Administration, OSHA 10 and 30 Certification, Personal Care Assistant (PCA), Phlebotomy, Power Tools 101, Public Works Micro Pathways, ServSafe Certification, Sterile Processing Tech, Sustainable Landcare Technician, Trained Medication Administration, Vascular Access Technician</b>	265
F. Obtained a Safety Certificate; specify: <b>Barbicide Training, OSHA 10 and OSHA 30, Power Tools 101</b>	55
G. Obtained an Industry-Recognized Credential; specify: <b>Boom/Scissor Lift, CDL Class A Permit and/or License, Certified Nursing Assistant, Construction, Customer Service, Diesel Technician, Esthetician, Forklift, Information Assurance and Security Certification, Lash Technician, Manufacturing Foundations, Medical Administrative Assistant, Office Administration, Personal Care Assistant, Phlebotomy, Medical Administration, ServSafe Certification, Sustainable Landcare, Trained Medications Administration, Vascular Access Technician</b>	174
J. Entered Apprenticeship or Union Pre-Apprenticeship Program; specify:	0
L. Entered Part-Time Employment	214

Objectives	Number
M. Average Wage at Part-Time Employment	21.06
N. Entered Full-Time Employment	113
O. Average Wage at Full-Time Employment	\$18.72
P. Entered Military	0
Q. Entered Job Search and Unemployed	1,071

## Expenditure Data

Expenditures from July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025:

SFY 2025 Budget Category	SFY 2025 Budget	SFY 2025 Expenditures to date
Administration	\$42,642.50	\$43,181.82
Direct Services/Project Staff	\$394,357.50	\$384,780.77
Support Services	\$8,000.00	\$16,222.41
Direct Customer Training	\$30,000.00	\$30,815.00
Total	\$475,000.00	\$475,00.000

## Success Stories

### Participant H's Story:

H. has arrived in the United States about a year ago. When she first enrolled in the program, she faced significant language barriers and struggled to communicate effectively in English. Despite these challenges, H. remained highly motivated and dedicated to her professional growth. She enrolled in English Learning classes to learn more in English. After six months, H. enrolled in the health training program, although she did not pass the certification test on her first two attempts, she continued to study diligently and sought additional language support. Her persistence paid off after taking the test three times; she successfully earned her certification. Now, she is working full-time at the airport as a food attendant and Workforce Coach is working to get a job for her in the health field.

### Participant L's Story:

L. first connected with EMERGE in 2022, enrolling in the Career Services program where he received support with job searching and career development. Through this assistance, he successfully secured full-time employment with Walmart as a Cart Attendant and exited the program upon completion.

In December 2024, after experiencing a job loss, L. returned to EMERGE seeking renewed support and access to additional resources. He re-engaged in his job search with the guidance of his career coach and

took full advantage of training opportunities provided by EMERGE. He completed several workforce development training courses, including *Career Advancement*, *Building Strong Communities*, *OSHA for Construction*, and *Intro to Construction* at North Hennepin Community College—programs funded by EMERGE.

During this time, L. also earned his driver's license, further expanding his employment options. His dedication paid off when he secured a full-time position as a Van Driver, where he worked for over a year, before being laid off earlier this year.

Following this setback, L. took initiative to further his qualifications by obtaining his CDL permit. He recently applied for and was hired by the Metropolitan Transportation Network as a full-time School Bus Driver. He is currently undergoing training to earn his full CDL in preparation for the upcoming school year.

In addition to his professional progress, L. is actively taking English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to improve his speaking, reading, and writing skills. Looking ahead, he has expressed a strong interest in pursuing training in Automotive Mechanics as the next step in his career journey.

L. story is one of resilience, determination, and continuous growth. EMERGE is proud to be a part of his journey and looks forward to supporting him as he continues to build a strong and successful future.

## **New Funds**

State grant funds for the SFY 2025 have been 100% expended. A new direct appropriation of \$213,750 in state funds have been granted to EMERGE for SFY2026.