



SFY 2025 Pillsbury United Communities

Final Report

12/01/2025

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

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Introduction

Pillsbury United Communities (PUC) Career Pathways program prepares underserved youth, ages 16-24, for successful careers in Minnesota's future workforce. Founded through DEED in 2021, the program aims to serve 25 unduplicated students annually, focusing on students in Minneapolis. The focus is to place youth in two-semester (or less) certificate or credential programs to fast-track students into careers with high-wage earning potential. The program is unique in that it provides customized training and workforce readiness programming designed to the individual needs of the participant to prepare them for occupational, academic, and professional success and to thrive in the local economy. PUC Career Pathways also provides youth with customized case management, career readiness, mentoring, wrap-around support services, and assistance navigating training and job opportunities.

Funds for this project are appropriated in in [Minnesota Session Laws – 2023, Chapter 53, S.F. 3035, Article 20, Section 2, Subdivision 3\(mmm\)](#). The amount available to the Pillsbury United Communities 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

Career Pathways serves Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), ages 16-24, living in and around Minneapolis, and who are not currently enrolled in a postsecondary education. Students must be eligible for the FAFSA (federal financial aid) based on household income. Priority of service will be given to youth if any of the following apply:

- Low income or qualifies for federal free/reduced price lunch program in school (required)
- Basic skills deficient or behind one or more grades in school
- Dropped out of high school or is at risk of dropping out
- Is homeless or highly mobile
- Is in foster care or aged out of foster care
- Has been involved in the juvenile justice system
- Is pregnant or parenting
- Is a youth with a disability
- Is an English Language Learner
- Is not currently enrolled in an accredited university or institution.

Recruitment is highly focused on Minneapolis Public Schools and in communities based in Minneapolis who serve underserved youth/young adults including churches/mosques, chapter organizations, after-school clubs, and educational programs. A main recruitment channel in Minneapolis Public Schools involves relationships with Work-Based Learning Coordinators and Career Counselors to set up opportunities to engage with students either in classroom speaking opportunities, career fairs, or lunchroom tabling for students to meet PUC's Career Pathways team and talk about the open opportunities available.

Participant Data

Participants Served: Individual Services (cumulative)

	Project to Date: 7/1/2024 – 9/30/2025
Total Participants Served	37
(1) Gender	
(1) Male	13
(2) Female	24
(3) Gender Non-Confirming/Other	0
(4) Prefer Not to Answer	0
(2) Age	
(1) Under 14	0
(2) 14-15	0
(3) 16-17	1
(4) 18-19	15
(5) 20-21	10
(6) 22-24	11
(3) Race/Ethnicity	
(1) Hispanic/Latino	7
(2) American Indian or Alaska Native	0
(3) Asian/Pacific Islander	1
(4) Black, African American, or African	29
(5) White	0
(6) Multi-Race or Other	0
(4) Education at Enrollment	
(1) 8 th grade and under	0
(2) 9 th Grade-12 th Grade	37
(3) High School graduate or equivalent	0
(4) Post-Secondary Education	0
(5) At-Risk Characteristics	
(1) Limited English proficient	0
(2) Participants who receive Public Assistance	17
(3) Low Income and Economically Disadvantaged	37
(4) Participants who report a disability	2
(5) High school drop-out – all participants included	0
(6) Participants who are justice involved	0
(7) Pregnant or parenting youth	8
(8) Foster Youth	2
(9) Participants showing as Homeless Participant/Runaway	0
(10) Not Employed at Enrollment	10

Program Services, Activities, and Other Related Assistance

	Number
1. Received Education or Job Training Activities	36
2. Received Work Experience Activities	0
3. Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	0
4. Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities	33
5. Received Internship or Apprenticeship Activities	0
6. Received Case Management, Guidance, Counseling Services	36
7. Received Support Services	33
8. Received Mentoring Services	0

Outcome Data

Indicators of Performance	Number
1. Attained work readiness and education goals	10
2. Received Academic Credit or Service-Learning Credit	36
3. Remained in School or Dropout Returned to School	1
4. Enrolled in Post-Secondary Education	36
5. Entered Vocational Skills Training in carpentry, phlebotomy, esthetician, or barber training	36
6. Obtained unsubsidized employment	4
7. Average Wage of Employment	\$17.00/hour
8. Earned an Occupational Certificate, Credential, or Degree	10
9. Entered Job Search and Unemployed	4
10. Not in Job Search and Not in School (Opportunity Youth at Exit)	6

Outcome Highlights

In SFY 2025, about three dozen PUC Career Pathways students attended high-demand trainings. PUC exceeded its goal of youth served in the program during SFY 2025, serving 34 instead of the planned 25 students. Nine students graduated from their programs, seven students achieved jobs in their respective fields, including electrical construction, dental assistant, carpentry, and phlebotomy. One student is continuing school to earn the next credential on their career pathway. The remaining 24 students are still active in training and on track to complete their credentials. All students identify as Black, Asian, or Latinx with significant barriers to educational opportunities, including single parenting, a disability, and being the first in their family to attend post-secondary education. Through case management, goal setting, wraparound services, and professional development, students successfully complete trainings, secure jobs, and contribute to the workforce and economic development of Minnesota.

Story of Impact

While in the PUC Career Pathways program, Jose worked tirelessly to construct an actual house. Jose earned rave reviews from his instructor and was able to share his knowledge with his classmates any time they had questions. Jose completed his certificate at Hennepin Tech this May where he studied carpentry. He is now working fulltime in the field as a licensed carpenter. He has also expressed an interest to learn more about building trades, including plumbing and HVAC.

Expenditure Data

Expenditures from June 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 for grant 4PUC6300:

SFY 2024 Budget Category	SFY 2024 Budget	SFY 2024 Expenditures through September 2025
Administration	\$43,182.00	\$40,059.46
Support Services	\$26,818.00	\$25,964.07
Direct Customer Training	\$150,000.00	\$152,854.03
Contracted Services	\$10,000.00	\$9,371.41
Participant Wages and Fringe	\$55,000.00	\$26,718.22
Direct Services	\$190,000.00	\$185,686.89
TOTAL	\$475,000.00	\$440,654.07

SFY 2025 Budget Category	SFY 2025 Budget	SFY 2025 Expenditures through September 2025
Administration	\$43,000.00	\$5,536.77
Support Services	\$27,000.00	\$4,114.61
Direct Customer Training	\$150,000.00	\$12,481.73
Contracted Services	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Participant Wages and Fringe	\$55,000.00	\$2,351.61
Direct Services	\$190,000.00	\$36,419.79
TOTAL	\$475,000.00	\$60,904.51

New Grant Funds

SFY2025 grant funds are available through June 20, 2026. A new direct appropriation of \$237,000 state funds has been granted to Pillsbury United Communities for SFY2026-2027 biennium.