



SFY 2025 Shakopee Chamber Foundation

Annual Progress Report

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

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Introduction

Shakopee Chamber Foundation (SCF) was granted state funding to establish a workforce development scholarship program to address critical workforce shortages in high-demand industries throughout Scott County. The program was designed to provide scholarships for training in Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care, Hospitality, and Law Enforcement—sectors experiencing significant workforce needs in the region.

Funds for this project are appropriated in [Minnesota Session Laws – 2024, Chapter 120, S.F. 5289, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3\(b\)](#). The amount available to the Shakopee Chamber Foundation in SFY 2025 is \$700,000.00 (Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development is permitted to retain up to 5% of the appropriation for administration and monitoring of the grant). This is a one-time appropriation.

Summary of Goals and Objectives Presented in the Work Plan

The scholarship program operates through a collaborative partnership model involving the Shakopee Chamber Foundation, Dakota County Technical College, Inver Hills Community College, and the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board. Minnesotans access services through scholarship opportunities that cover training costs for eligible degree, diploma, certificate, or industry-recognized credential programs. The program addresses critical workforce shortages in four key sectors identified as high-demand occupations in Scott County and the broader region: Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care, Hospitality, and Law Enforcement. These industries represent significant economic drivers in the region and face ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified workers.

The program is open to all schools and individuals throughout Scott County, with emphasis given to individuals from underserved communities. Outreach efforts are coordinated through partnerships with organizations such as Mi C.A.S.A. and Community Resource Center to ensure equitable access to training opportunities. The program leverages the existing infrastructure from the *Career Lift Initiative*, under the Drive for Five initiative, which established successful partnerships with educational institutions and community organizations to expand training opportunities in these high-demand sectors. The program requires a 25% non-appropriated match beyond the state appropriation, demonstrating community investment and commitment to addressing workforce development needs.

Training is delivered through established partnerships with Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College. The program is also exploring the possibility of bringing certification programs directly to Shakopee High School for students 18 years of age and older, which would make these opportunities accessible to high school students throughout Scott County.

Eligible programs are reviewed and updated through regular collaboration with the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board, ensuring that programming remains aligned with high-demand industries and legislative priorities. The program's application processes and implementation guidelines are designed to align with eligibility requirements set by the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board, with any proposed additions to eligible industries submitted to the Board for approval as needed.

Participant Data

At the time of this report, no students have been served by the Pilot Scholarship program. The Shakopee Chamber Foundation plans to begin offering scholarships to students during SFY26-27. Prior to serving students, SCF staff have developed collaborative partnership and fundraised the required 25% non-appropriated match from local employers and organizations.

Expenditure Data

Expenditures from September 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 for grant 5SCF6300:

SFY 2025 Budget Category	SFY 2025 Budget	SFY 2025 Expenditures through September 2025
Administration	\$0.00	\$0.00
Direct Services/Project Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contracted Services	\$66,500.00	\$13,300.00
Direct Customer Training	\$598,500.00	\$0.00
Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$665,000.00	\$13,300.00

Outcomes

The Shakopee Chamber Foundation has successfully fundraised and secured over \$150,000 in private matching funds during the first year of the grant. This represents a significant investment in workforce development for the region and demonstrates strong community support for addressing workforce needs in high-demand industries. The fundraising success involved strategic partnerships with the Shakopee Lions (\$10,000 donation), the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (\$75,000 matching grant), HEART Ministries (\$15,000), West Bank Development (\$50,000 grant), and additional community supporters.

A key best practice has been leveraging the Career Lift program under the Drive for Five initiative. This proven infrastructure provides a solid foundation for expanding training opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing and Health Care, allowing the Shakopee Chamber Foundation to benefit from established processes and relationships rather than starting from scratch. The integration of the scholarship program with Career Lift creates a comprehensive workforce development ecosystem where students receive both training support through scholarships and access to employment opportunities through Career Lift's established employer network across target industries.

Partnerships with Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College represent another key accomplishment. These educational partnerships, combined with community outreach partnerships with organizations like Mi C.A.S.A. and Community Resource Center, position SCF to serve diverse populations

throughout Scott County with emphasis on folks from underserved communities. In addition, collaboration with the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board ensures SCF remains aligned with high-demand industries and legislative priorities. This partnership provides ongoing guidance on eligible programs and assists in maintaining responsiveness to evolving workforce needs in the region.

New Grant Funds

As of October 31, 2025, state grant funds for the SFY 2025 are 2% expended. They are expected to be fully expended by the grant end date, June 30, 2027. No new direct appropriation state funds have been granted to the Shakopee Chamber Foundation for the SFY26-27 biennium.