

MINNESOTA BLUEPRINT FOR SHARED VISION FOR YOUTH

Interagency Projects Supporting Positive Outcomes for At-Risk Youth

Vision: “By age 25, Minnesota’s young people will be ready for the responsibilities and rewards of economic self-sufficiency, healthy family and social relationships, community involvement, stable housing and life-long learning.”

MISSION STATEMENT: *State and local agencies will collaborate to assure that Minnesota’s neediest youth will acquire the talents, skills, and knowledge necessary to ensure their healthy transition to successful adult roles and responsibilities.*

Outcomes				
Improve Transition Outcomes for Ex-Offenders	Improve Transition Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care	Improve Transition Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities	Prevent and End Homelessness	Reduce High School Dropout Rates
Strategies				
The WDA 16 employment counselor will work with the county probation officers/correction officers to identify potential young adults that would be eligible and provide them with training and workforce preparation.	The WDA 16 employment counselor works with County foster care social workers to take referrals and meet with young people aging out of foster care, and continue to share information about the young adult program with staff so that we can collaborate on clients to help young adults with work and career planning.	The WDA 16 employment counselor regularly meets with school counselors and work experience coordinators at many of the high schools in Washington County. The employment counselor keeps them up to date on policy changes and how many students that we are able to help with work experiences each year. Schools include Tartan High school, Forest Lake Central Learning Academy/ALC, Metro 916 programs, Cottage Grove ALC, and Stillwater high school and ALC.	The young adult program counselor maintains regular communication with staff at Canvas Health, Youth Service Bureau, NorthStar Youth Outreach Center and St. Croix Family Resource Center, agencies all providing some combination of youth outreach, counseling and/or drop-in services to Washington County youth; and St. Andrew’s Lutheran church in Mahtomedi that provides a clothing closet, general case management, resource support and employment search support, as well as	Cover cost of GED testing and provide incentives to young adults on the program for GED completion.

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			overnight stays at Guardian Angels church in Oakdale.	
The WDA employment counselor will work with city diversion programs to identify potential young adults that would be eligible for the program and provide career planning and workforce preparation	WDA 16 employment counselor will also work with public assistance workers (eligibility specialists) to identify young adults that have aged out of foster care to assist them with their transition into the workforce.	The WDA 16 employment counselor works closely with Canvas Health (a mental and chemical health counseling agency) to identify young adults that are ready to work and start their transition into the workforce.	Washington County Community Services operates a Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) comprised of social workers that provides direct services and resources to homeless individuals, including youth. HOST staff were conducting a test run of scheduled office hours in our Woodbury CareerForce office location prior to the pandemic. Washington County's CareerForce youth services counselor seeks referrals from the HOST team and updates them on services available.	We have a close partnership with ABE program staff in Districts 833, 622 and 831. The young adult employment counselor is onsite at GED/ABE classrooms to meet personally with students in the programs and inform them of available services. ABE program staff refer appropriate students to the young adult program if they are looking for work or career planning.
The Re-Entry Assistance Program (RAP) program for offenders at Washington County includes staff from Community Corrections, Sheriff's department, Public Health, Community Services and Canvas Health. The group meets once a week and discusses new		Contracted services with Tree Trust in the summer provide many youth with disabilities a first, or successive, work experience opportunity to develop work habits and history, to improve success in transitioning to unsubsidized work.		Family Means, a community based program, provides after-school and summer programming for children and teens in the low income communities of Landfall and Cimarron specifically. The young adult program provides work experience funds to pay

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<p>applications, on-going service and conducts pre-lease meetings with inmates. They provide complete wrap around services for the individual prior to release and upon their release. The CareerForce staff works with this team and referrals are made to the Young Adult program when someone meets eligibility and wants the help.</p>		<p>The WDA 16 employment counselor will work closely with the pre-ETS counselor at the office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) for Washington/Ramsey counties to assess and enroll eligible young adults into MYP or WIOA youth services.</p>		<p>wages for youth to work as program assistants. The collaboration allows older youth to serve as mentors to younger students in the communities attending the after-school and summer programs. The result is that older youth increase their leadership and work readiness skills and younger youth have positive role models within their own community. Many younger youth have been overheard saying that they want to be a program assistant when they get older and understand that they can't unless they stay in school.</p>
<p>The WDA employment counselor works with the County Jail Commander to arrange meeting with inmates onsite at the Stillwater Jail to provide available resources for individuals upon release, as well as participate in resource fairs for inmates.</p>				<p>The WDA employment counselor connects regularly with Youth Service Bureau to identify appropriate young adults participating in their services and programs who could use help with job search or placement, workplace preparation, and career</p>

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				planning to assist with school retention.