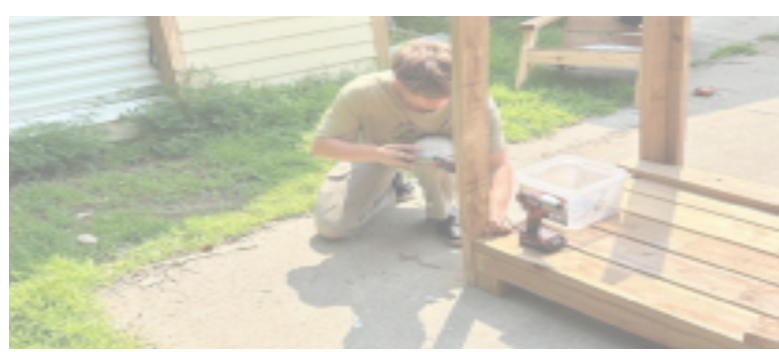


Minnesota Youth Program



WHY MINNESOTA YOUTH PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT FOR MINNESOTA:

- The number one predictor of future success in the workforce is early exposure to work experience.
- Helping more young people develop the work readiness skills they need will help them find success in work and life.

SFY2025 AT A GLANCE

- SFY25 Funding Amount: \$8.56 million
- Cost Per Participant: \$1,966
- Number Served in SFY25: 4,352
- Number Served through Outreach-to-Schools: 43,791
- BIPOC Youth: 59%
- Youth from families receiving public assistance: 58%
- 50% were female, 49% were male, 1% did not self-identify
- 86% percent successfully attained education or work readiness goals in SFY25
- 57% earned academic or service learning credit
- 23% entered employment, post-secondary, occupational training, apprenticeship or military

MYP SERVES AT-RISK YOUTH IN ALL 87 COUNTIES, WHO ARE:

- Ages 14-24
- Economically disadvantaged or face severe barriers to employment and school success
- Youth with disabilities: 49%
- Teen parents: 4%
- Youth offenders: 5%
- Homeless, runaway, and foster care youth: 10%

MYP BENEFITS YOUTH

- Immediate earning from structured, well-supervised work experiences
- Work readiness and life skills establish work habits and skills
- Focus on career pathways and in-demand jobs
- Educational opportunities to earn academic or service learning credit
- Increased self-esteem and citizenship, parenting, and leadership skills

MYP BENEFITS COMMUNITIES

- At risk youth remain in school
- Dropouts return to school
- Offenders pay restitution to crime victims with their earnings
- Reduced public assistance costs

SUCCESS STORIES:

“My name is Porter, and I recently graduated from Annandale High School. As a hands-on learner, classroom work was challenging, and college didn’t seem like an option. But after working with my CMJTS Career Navigator, Jodi, I applied and was accepted into the Electrical Line Worker Program at MN State Wadena. Jodi introduced me to the Heavy Equipment Operator Program at Wright Technical Center, where I earned my OSHA 10 certification and CMJTS recently helped get my CDL needed for my Electrical Lineman schooling.



Adriana was 17 and in foster care when she enrolled in the MVAC Youth Program. She began her work experience at a local flower shop where she found not just a job, but a community. Adriana also enrolled and completed a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course that allowed her to catch up and exceed credits needed for graduation. Her journey is a testament to what happens when courage meets opportunity. She’s not just moving forward—she’s paving the way.



Dei’Shawn demonstrated incredible personal growth and an infectious energy during his summer with Tree Trust’s Youth Employment Program. Through consistent communication with his supervisors and an openness to feedback, he made huge strides in channeling his energy in positive, productive ways. During long days or challenging tasks, he was the first to volunteer and encouraged his teammates to keep going, bringing laughter and joy to the whole crew. Dei’Shawn earned the Founder’s Award for Outstanding Personal Growth.



Working as a farm laborer and equipment operator, Henry enrolled in WDI’s youth program to earn OSHA 30 certification and complete the Operating Engineers Pathway - International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49. After graduating high school in 2025, Henry began his Local 49 registered apprenticeship, working full time as an equipment operator for M. A. Mortenson. He makes \$33.08 per hour with \$29.25 in fringe benefits, for a total package of \$62.33 an hour.



While working as a STEP UP Intern with the Minneapolis Police Department, Javon, showed incredible courage and compassion when he helped save a man’s life on the 3rd Street Bridge while walking to work. Javon didn’t hesitate to help. “He told me he didn’t want to live anymore. I just listened and reminded him that struggling doesn’t mean you’re broken.” Javon stayed with the man and kept him calm until help arrived. “Even though I was nervous, I knew it was important to stay with him. Just being there might have made all the difference.”



MYP INTERACTS WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

- MYP allows services to in-school youth, while the federal WIOA Youth Program targets out-of-school youth and dropouts.
- MYP allows the youth workforce system to respond quickly to additional opportunities for summer youth and year-round employment when other funding sources become available, such as TANF and Vocational Rehabilitation employment services.

MYP'S OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS / CAREER ADVISOR COMPONENT

provides high school students with one-on-one career exploration and guidance, targeting under-represented youth in the workforce. MYP assists school districts in providing career services most in need in their area and to meet "World's Best Workforce" requirements.

MYP's Outreach to Schools / Career Advisor component addresses the following goals:

- Assist high school students in selecting and preparing for a career path of their choice.
- Provide career counseling and regional labor market information to youth and families in collaboration with school counselors.
- Build on the work of Local Workforce Development Boards in identifying strategic industries and high growth, in demand occupations.
- Raise local youth and parent awareness and usage of Minnesota's workforce development system and engage local workforce, education, and economic development partners.

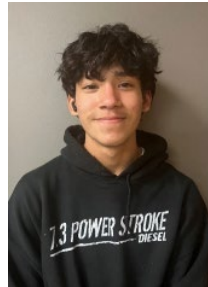
At 17, Frank discovered his passion for welding and enrolled in SWMNPIC's welding training program where he earned six college credits in welding and blueprint reading from Minnesota West. He also received on-the-job training where his employer, Smith's Trucking, hired him shortly after he completed the program. His worksite supervisor, Chad said, "Frank is a good worker, and he gets along with everyone." Frank shared, "You'll never know you'll be good at something until you try it."



Faith was reserved when she started the Tree Trust Summer Youth Employment Program. As the summer progressed, she grew more socially engaged and quickly became a valued team member with a strong work ethic, a powerful ability to learn, and consistent attention to detail. Her Crew Leader shared, "It makes my job easier to have a person like Faith in the crew." A testament to her reliability, growth, and emerging leadership, Faith earned both the Perfect Attendance Award and the Governor's Award.



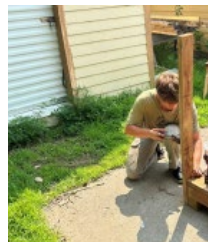
Neftali was eager to develop new skills that could lead to a well-paying job after graduation. He had a strong interest in construction but, with no prior experience, was nervous about fulltime work in a fast-paced industry. His Scott County youth employment counselor helped him discover the Youthbuild program, where he gained hands-on construction training and confidence in his abilities, earned a paycheck, all while maintaining perfect attendance throughout the program. Neftali now plans to pursue a career in construction and credits his Youthbuild instructor for making learning fun and engaging, and for helping him believe in his potential to succeed.



Sumeya says, "I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do with my summer. I wanted to do something meaningful, something that would help me grow. That's when I found out about Career Solution's CareerONE from my school counselor. This program gave me a real look at what it's like to have a job. I learned how to be on time, work with different people, and to stay focused even when the day felt long. I also learned how to build a resume. I have the chance to join CareerTWO, where I'll be getting my Certified Nursing Assistant Certification. That's a big deal to me because I have always wanted to work in healthcare and help others. This program helped me grow in confidence, responsibility, and direction."



During his time in the Carver County Summer Youth Program, Gabriel, age 17, helped to build a guest cabin at Carver Park Reserve in Victoria for Three Rivers Park District. During his time in Youthbuild, Gabriel was recognized for his remarkable work ethic, consistent performance, eagerness to learn, and dedication. He led by example, which greatly contributed to the overall success of the team. Gabriel said Youthbuild was a valuable experience for his preparation for a construction career and appreciated of his worksite instructor's patience and effective teaching style.



Statutory authority: MN Statutes 116L.56

For more information:

Kay Tracy, Director
Office of Youth Development
MN Department of Employment and Economic Development

Phone: 651.259.7555

mn.gov/deed/myp

March 2026