



SFY 2026 Change Starts with Community

Progress Report

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

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Introduction

Change Starts with Community (CSWC) funding supports a violence prevention program for at-risk youth and adult, located at Shiloh Cares Food Shelf in the city of Minneapolis. The target demographic includes individuals aged 16-24.

Funds for this project are appropriated in [Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3\(mm\)](#). The amount available to Change Starts with Community for SFY 2026 is \$950,000.00 (Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development is permitted to retain up to 5% of the \$1,000,000.00 appropriation for administration and monitoring of the grant). This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2028.

Summary of Goals and Objectives Presented in the Work Plan

The funding supports Change Starts with Community's 12-week course designed to equip young individuals with the essential life skills for life. The first six weeks consists of in-class financial literacy topics, covering money motivations, career exploration, budgeting basics, banking, credit/credit building, and understanding debt. Facilitators assist youth to better understand their real life money situation. The second half of the course focuses on career exploration, soft skills, mock interviews and successful job search techniques, setting personal and professional workforce goals, and building a professional resume and cover letter. After training, participants receive structured stipends while gaining hands-on work experience at Shiloh Cares Food Shelf. DEED funds also provide employment for twelve adults at Shiloh Cares Food Shelf.

Participant Data

Data: Demographic, Activity, and Outcome Data

Total Participants Served: 25

Gender	Total
Male	17
Female	8
Other	0
Prefer Not to Answer	0

Age	Total
14-15	0
16-17	16
18-19	8
20-21	0
22-24	1

Race/Ethnicity	Total
Hispanic/Latino	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0

Race/Ethnicity	Total
Asian/Pacific Islander	0
Black, African American, or African	22
White	0
Multiracial	3
Other/Not disclosed	0

Education Level	Total
8th grade and under	0
9th Grade – 12th Grade	25
High School Graduate or equivalent	0
Post-Secondary Education	0

Other Demographics	Total
Limited English proficient	0
Receiving Public Assistance	23
Foster Youth (or aged out of foster care)	0
With a disability	2
High school drop-out	0
Offender (previous criminal/juvenile justice involvement)	0
Pregnant or parenting	0
Basic Skills Deficient	0
Homeless or Runaway	3
Not employed at program enrollment	25
Veteran	0
Economically Disadvantaged	25

Program Services and Activities Data

Program Service or Activity	Total
Received Education or Job Training Activities	25
Received Work Experience Activities	0
Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	25
Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities	0
Received Internship or Apprenticeship Activities	0
Received Case Management, Guidance, Counseling Services	25
Received Support Services	0
Received Follow Up Services	0

Outcome Data

Performance or Outcome	Total
Recidivism Rate of Justice-Involved Youth	0
Remained in School	0
Obtained high school diploma or GED	0
Obtained unsubsidized employment	0

Performance or Outcome	Total
Average Wage of Employment	0
Youth Remained Employed in Shiloh Cares Food Shelf Program	0
Adults Remained Employed in Shiloh Cares NCSRC Program	0
Exited the Program	20
Number of participants rating experience as "Excellent"	20
Number of participants rating experience as "Very Good"	5

Expenditures

Expenditures from August 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 for grants 6CSWC6300:

SFY 2026 Budget Category	SFY 2026 Budget	SFY 2026 Expenditures through June 2026
Direct Services/Project Staff	\$785,520.00	\$358,603.92
Participant Wages and Fringe	\$164,480.00	\$51,295.50
TOTAL	\$950,000.00	\$409,899.42

Story of Impact

Isaiah Success Story

Accomplishments: Isaiah enrolled in CSWC's Youth Group Violence Intervention program while involved in the juvenile justice system and after dropping out of high school. Through consistent case management, mentorship, and coordination with Minneapolis North High School, CSWC re-enrolled Isaiah and supported him in staying on track academically while meeting his probation requirements. Isaiah successfully completed his probation and was released from supervision, he has went on to graduate from Minneapolis North High School on time in June 2026 — a goal that once seemed out of reach. Isaiah has set sights on a career in commercial trucking and plans to enroll in a CDL training program in fall 2026 to become a licensed truck driver.

Feedback & Satisfaction: Isaiah credits CSWC with "believing in me when I didn't believe in myself and showing me a way forward instead of just pointing out what I was doing wrong."

Lorenzo Success Story

Accomplishments: Lorenzo came to CSWC's Youth Group Violence Intervention program while navigating the juvenile justice system and after dropping out of high school. With hands-on case management and support re-enrolling at Minneapolis North High School, Lorenzo worked to complete his probation successfully and graduated high school on time in June 2026. Lorenzo discovered a passion for welding through CSWC's programming and plans to enroll in a trade school welding program in fall 2026, working toward a certification and a stable, skilled career.

Feedback & Satisfaction: Lorenzo shared that CSWC "gave me a plan when I didn't have one, and staff who actually showed up for me even when I made it hard."

New Grant Funds

The state grant funds for the SFY 2025 have been fully expended. This progress reports covers the new direct appropriation of state funds, in the amount of \$950,000, that has been granted to Change Starts with Community for SFY 2026.