

Final Data: State Fiscal Year 2014 Youth Competitive Grants
Twin Cities Tree Trust
(Summer 2013-14)

Participant Summary

Total	234	Hispanic/Latino:	27
Male:	167	American Indian:	4
Female:	67	Asian/Pacific Islander:	8
		Black/African American	81
14-15:	101	White:	114
16-17:	60		
18:	30		
19-21:	43		
22-24:	0		

GOAL 1: Provide work experience for metropolitan youth who are economically disadvantaged, or at-risk, ages 14 through 21.

The Tree Trust entered into a metro-wide partnership with 5 Metropolitan Work Service Areas (WSA 9 Hennepin-Carver, WSA 12 Anoka, WSA14 Dakota-Scott, WSA 15 Ramsey and WSA 16 Washington) to join in providing Summer Employment opportunities to 234 low-income, special needs youth, and aged 14-21.

Youth were recruited from local schools, County Public Assistance offices, Juvenile Corrections, and a wide variety of youth serving agencies particular to the area served.

The Youth Competitive Grant allowed expansion of youth served through summer experiences in all 5 Work Service Areas. Without this funding source those served would not have been provided the opportunity to learn fundamental work readiness skills and income to support their and their family's needs.

GOAL 2: Promote mastery of work-readiness competencies and 21st Century skills as demonstrated through workplace portfolios and other assessments.

All youth received work readiness training through placement at sites based in their community. Youth learned and demonstrated Work-readiness competencies which act

as a building block for all future employment opportunities. Some workers were placed at individual worksites such as child care, janitorial or retail placements. The majority of participants worked on Conservation Crews performing need community identified landscape and environmental improvements for Municipal Parks and Nature Centers.

GOAL 3: Promote skill acquisition (academic and work readiness) through project based instruction

In addition to the work readiness skills learned through active participation in the summer employment program, all participants can earn elective High School credits. Mobile computer labs travel to worksites conducting 4 instructor led lessons covering Personal Budgeting, Project costing, Resume construction and a Letter to the Community. Upon program completion, youth's individual lesson results are loaded onto a flash drive which is given to each youth at an end of summer celebration.

In addition to their portfolios, youth are reviewed twice during their experience; the second review considered in awarding a mid-summer raise.

These two tools (portfolio and supervisor feedback), allow youth to demonstrate their skill attainment through their summer work experience, and reinforce the real time application of their employability (evaluations) and life skills (portfolio).

GOAL 4: Increase youth's exposure to environmental improvement issues in their communities

All summer participants (the majority who are in their first work experience) are tasked with learning and demonstrating their ability to effectively compete in employment they will most likely encounter as they enter the world of work. While many youth demonstrate their "nature deficiency" initially on Conservation Crews, the true value of Teamwork, ability to work with others, taking individual responsibility for their actions, and confidence in themselves became very apparent in post program surveys. Parents agreed: 98% would like their child to work for Tree Trust again.

GOAL 5: Provide high-quality work sites and overall participant and employer satisfaction

The continued value of positive worksite development cannot be overrated. Community partners highly value the contributions individual workers provide. In addition Conservation Crew host sites provide all the material necessary for the completion of the crew's project. This can easily run into tens of thousands of dollars per crew as

nature center boardwalks, block retaining walls, municipal park stairways, campsite fire rings and multiple scores of projects are completed.

Through post program surveys of youth and parents, Tree Trust maintains constant quality assurance and improvement plans. These surveys support the program goals, as youth report their satisfaction rate (93% overall excellent or very good), what they learned through participation (nearly 100% report developing or improving their skills related to : following directions, developing pride in their work, confidence, employer expectations and the importance of staying in school). These findings are supported by parent's reporting increased work ethic, attitude towards employment, personal responsibility, ability to manage money and time, and attitude towards school.

YOUTH COMPETITIVE GRANT DATA SUMMARY
SFY 2014 Annual Report Data (Cumulative Through June 30, 2014)

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION		
Grantee: Tree Trust	Contact: Norm Champ	
Phone #: (952) 767-3891	E-mail Address: normc@treetrust.org	
TOTAL SERVED – GROUP SERVICES		
<p>The number provided above is to include all persons who participate in a group activity (or activities) led by a young person funded by a grant. For example, the number of persons listening to a series of presentations by the youth participant. Another example might be the number of other family members of the participant who also participate and benefit from this grant. The youth providing the service/benefit should be categorized below, along with any other youth who receives individualized services through this grant (such as a case-managed youth).</p>		
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS SERVED – INDIVIDUAL SERVICES		
Total Individual Participants Served		234
Gender	A. Male	167
	B. Female	67
Age	A. 14 – 15	101
	B. 16 – 17	60
	C. 18	30
	D. 19 – 21	43
	E. 22 – 24	0
Ethnicity / Race	A. Hispanic/Latino	27
	B. American Indian or Alaska Native	4
	C. Asian/Pacific Islander	8
	D. Black or African American	81
	E. White	114
Education Level	A. 8 th grade and under	49
	B. 9 th Grade – 12 th Grade	168
	C. High School graduate or equivalent	4
	D. Post-Secondary Education	11

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Other Demographics	A. Limited English Proficient	14
	B. Youth From Families Receiving Public Assistance	55
	C. Foster Youth	7
	D. Youth with a Disability	172
	E. High School Drop-Out	24
	F. Youth Offender	25
	G. Pregnant or Parenting Youth	4
	H. Basic Skills Deficient	92
	I. Homeless or Runaway Youth	1
	J. Not Employed at Program Enrollment	214
	K. Veteran	0
PROGRAM SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, AND OTHER RELATED ASSISTANCE		
A. Received Education or Job Training Activities	234	
B. Received Work Experience Activities	234	
C. Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	234	
D. Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities	234	
E. Received Mentoring Activities	234	
F. Received Support Services	234	
INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE		
A. Attained Work Readiness or Education Goals	208	
B. Received Academic Credit or Service Learning Credit	171	
C. Obtained High School Diploma, GED, Remained in School, Obtained a Certificate or Degree, or Dropout – Returned to School	157	
D. Entered Post Secondary Education, Vocational/Occupational Skills Training, Apprenticeship, Military, Job Search or Employment	N/A	
E. Completion Rate	100%	
CUSTOMER SATISFACTION		
A. Number of participants rating experience as “Excellent”	129	
B. Number of participants rating experience as “Very Good”	89	

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C. Number of participants rating experience as "Average"	8
D. Number of participants rating experience as "Below Average"	8
E. Number of participants rating experience as "Poor"	0
F. Total Number of Surveys Completed	234