

**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				
<p>Opportunities for Offenders and Older Workers South Central provided programming specifically for offenders through the Adult Workforce Development Competitive Grant. These customized services intend to help offenders overcome their barriers and obstacles to build the skills necessary for success in the workforce. This grant has ended but the WorkForce Center continues to provide New Leaf Workshops, which is Creative Job Search curriculum customized for offenders.</p> <p>Partners include: Adult Basic Education, MN DEED Job Service, MN Valley Action Council, MRCI WorkSource, House of Hope, Human Services, Life-Work Planning Center, Manpower,</p>	<p>Youth Intervention Program MVAC has been providing specialized services to youth in foster care for the past 8 years through the Youth Intervention Program which was funded by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs. This program serves foster care youth between ages 16-21 with an emphasis on youth transitioning out of foster care. The purpose of the program is to provide career and life skills curriculum to explore, identify and attain positive educational, career and life goals.</p> <p>Partners include: Human Services, Corrections/Probation, Foster Care Agencies, Foster Parents, Mental Health Professionals, and School Counselors/Social Workers.</p>	<p>Disability Employment Initiative MVAC provided specialized services to youth with disabilities through the Disability Employment Initiative. Service strategies include: Integrated Resources Teams, Guideposts to Success and Partnerships. This grant has ended but we continue to utilize these key strategic approaches.</p> <p>Partners include: Local School Districts, Community Interagency Transition Committees (CTIC), MRCI WorkSource, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, State Services for the Blind, State Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Social Security Administration, SMILES, Goodwill Easter Seals and PACER.</p>	<p>Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) MVAC provides services to stabilize families or individuals in their current housing unit or re-house without a day of homelessness. The program also assists families or individuals who are homeless find permanent housing and maintain that housing. Youth ages 14-21 are a priority group to receive these services. There is specific funding set aside for this age group as well as additional support services.</p> <p>Homeless Response Teams The Homeless Response Team is facilitated by MVAC staff and includes a variety of members of the community such as police officers, social services, homeless shelter staff, school staff and</p>	<p>MVAC provides programming to in-school youth to encourage them to stay in school and complete their high school diploma or equivalent.</p> <p>The work experience is used as a "carrot" to motivate youth. When students are in school and successfully meeting their requirements, they can participate in work experience. For some youth that are having a negative experience in the classroom setting, a work experience can be an area where they excel. Youth that successfully complete a work experience can earn academic credit. School districts receive a summary of the youth's work preparation and work experience activities and award academic credit ranging from .5 -7 credits.</p>

