

SFY 2025 City of Brooklyn Park

Progress Report

10/21/2026

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

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Introduction

The Minnesota State Legislature appropriated $1,000,000 in SFY 2025 to the City of Brooklyn Park (Minnesota Session Laws – 2024, Chapter 120, S.F. 5289, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3(u)). This appropriation was for the Brooklyn Park Small Business Center and for the city to expand the workforce development programming of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center through workforce development programs serving primarily underrepresented populations, including such programs as Brooklynk, Career Pathways, Youth Entrepreneurship, and Community Partnership. The enacted legislation permits the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to retain five percent of these funds for administration and monitoring, making the total grant amount available equal to $950,000. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027.

Overview of Program and Goals

The goals of the funding are to enhance workforce development programs provided to Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center youth and young adults and to support the operations of the City's Small Business Center.

Workforce Development - Over the past ten years, BrookLynk, the cities of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center's shared workforce development division, has designed, scaled and operated successful workforce development programs consisting of work readiness training, career coaching and planning, paid summer internships and support, young adult career pathways programming, a Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP), and individualized support. BrookLynk programs collaborates with dedicated employer partners, provides employer trainings and a work ready pipeline in which to recruit workers. In the coming program years, BrookLynk anticipates serving more than 500 youth ages 14-24 annually.

Small Business Center - The Brooklyn Park Small Business Center (BPSBC) aims to create a multicultural collaborative environment that nurtures creativity and innovation, offers resources and community support, and empowers local entrepreneurs to develop their businesses and contribute to the community's inclusive economic growth. The BPSBC provides affordability with memberships and event spaces priced below market rates, and flexibility with spaces and programs that adapt to the evolving needs of the local small business community. As an economic resource hub, the BPSBC also focuses on capacity and wealth building by providing resources and support to help small businesses grow.

Participant Data

The participant demographic, activity, and outcome data included in this report reflects the total from the start of the grant contract on August 10, 2024 through June 30, 2026. Final performance data will be available after the grant concludes on June 30, 2027.

Demographic Data

Total Participants Served: 740

Gender	Total	Percentage
Male	361	48.8%
Female	378	51.1%
Other	4	0.5%
Prefer Not to Answer	2	0.3%

Age	Total	Percentage
14-15	51	6.9%
16-17	322	43.5%
18-19	164	22.2%
20-21	86	11.6%
22-24	35	4.7%

Race/Ethnicity	Total	Percentage
Hispanic/Latino	69	9.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	12	1.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	136	18.4%
Black, African American, or African	462	62.4%
White	29	3.9%
Multiracial	18	2.4%
Other/Not disclosed	13	1.8%

Education Level	Total	Percentage
8th grade and under	12	1.6%
9th Grade – 12th Grade	502	67.8%
Not Enrolled in High School and No Diploma/GED	21	2.8%
Some Post-Secondary/College Coursework	110	14.9%
Completed College Degree or Program	13	1.8%
High School Graduate or equivalent	45	6.1%

Other Demographics	Total	Percentage
Limited English proficient	41	5.5%
Receiving Public Assistance	221	29.9%
Foster Youth (or aged out of foster care)	21	2.8%
With a disability	94	12.7%
High school drop-out	4	0.5%
Previous criminal/juvenile justice involvement	50	6.8%
Pregnant or parenting	18	2.4%
Basic Skills Deficient	54	7.3%
Homeless or Runaway	28	3.8%
Not employed at program enrollment	455	61.5%
Veteran	0	0.0%
Low-Income Youth	258	34.9%

Program Services and Activities Data

Program Service or Activity	Total	Percentage
Received Education, Employment Preparation, or Skills Training	740	100.0%
Received Work-Based Learning or Work Experience	161	21.8%
Received Internship or Apprenticeship Activities	238	32.2%
Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	16	2.2%
Received Career Exploration, Career Guidance and/or Planning Activities	740	100.0%
Received Mentoring Activities	313	42.3%
Received Support Services	350	47.3%
Received Case Management, Guidance, Counseling Services	350	47.3%

Performance and Outcome Data

Performance or Outcome	Total	Percentage
Attained Work Readiness Goals or Educational Goals	293	39.6%
Obtained High School Diploma or GED	34	4.6%
Remained in School or Drop Out Returned to School	133	18.0%
Obtained a Safety Certificate; specify: OSHA	83	11.2%
Enrolled in Post-Secondary Education	24	3.2%
Entered Part-Time Employment	31	4.2%
Average Wage at Part-Time Employment	$15.99	N/A
Entered Full-Time Employment	17	2.3%
Average Wage at Full-Time Employment	$20.00	N/A
Entered Military	0	0.0%
Entered Job Search and Unemployed	52	7.0%
Completed Program Objective	735*	99.3%*

*Completed Program Objective for 2026 (313 of 334, 93.7%) reflects unique participants, calculated within each program's own enrollment to eliminate cross-program duplication. The SFY25 baseline (422) was reported prior to this deduplication methodology and is carried forward as officially submitted; BrookLynk is reviewing SFY25 program-level records to verify this figure and will report any correction in the next submission.

Participant Satisfaction Data

Participant Satisfaction	Total	Percentage of responses
Number of participants rating experience as “Excellent”	424	62.7%
Number of participants rating experience as “Very Good”	228	33.7%
Number of participants rating experience as “Average”	22	3.3%
Number of participants rating experience as “Below Average”	2	0.3%
Number of participants rating experience as “Poor”	0	0.0%
Total Number of Surveys Completed	**676**	**100.0%**

Expenditure Data

The grant contract started on August 10, 2024 and runs through June 30, 2027. Expenditures through June 30, 2026, by cost category, are reported below.

Budget Category	Approved Budget	Expenditures through June 2026
Administration (up to 10% allowed)	$95,000	$45,234.12
Support Services	$10,000	$6,040.10
Direct Customer Training	$180,000	$76,400.00
Contracted Services	$507,500	$262,000.00
Participant Wages and Fringe Benefits	$80,000	$32,327.64
Direct Services	$77,500	$77,500.00
Total	**$950,000**	**$499,501.86**

Outcome Data

BrookLynk developed several strong partnerships over the past three years. Hennepin Technical College served as the core training partner for construction and trades. The Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest and Brooklyn Center Community Schools delivered accredited trades cohorts. Junior Achievement provided entrepreneurship curriculum and the City of Brooklyn Park Recreation and Parks Department and Zanewood Recreation Center provided programming space. Hennepin County Teen HOPE and the Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation served as referral partners connecting justice-involved and high-barrier youth to the programming. Osseo Area Schools, Brooklyn Center Community Schools, and area high schools recruited youth for work readiness training, and local employers hosted paid internships.

The signature accomplishment of the grant period was the coordinated launch of three career-focused programs, Construction and Trades, the Finishing Trades Institute cohort, and Youth Entrepreneurship Phase 1. The integration of financial literacy, artificial intelligence readiness, and professional skill building resulted in financial outcomes for the summer of 2025 among the strongest of the period. BrookLynk functioned as an anchor institution in the two cities, reinforcing its role as an effective on ramp to education and employment for disadvantaged youth and young adults.

The Small Business Center opened and was fully operational throughout the grant period.

Stories of Impact

From Participant to Job Coach – A Full Circle Journey – Moises was a sophomore at Brooklyn Center High School when he learned about BrookLynk and the resources offered through the college and career office. It was not until his junior year that he completed the Get Ready! training then transitioned into an internship with BrookLynk, working at North Hennepin Community College as an Admissions and Outreach Intern. In this role, Moises took calls from students and families who were interested in the application process, booked appointments for the Admissions office, and handled general office tasks. At this time, Moises was already involved in community through his internship at Reconnect Rondo, connecting with St. Paul community members regarding a land bridge project that would revitalize the community.

The community engagement did not stop there. Moises took a step forward by becoming a Get Ready! trainer for the first time in 2025. At first, there were nerves, but co-training with a Brooklyn Park colleague made for a fun and immersive training, strengthening Moises's connection to BrookLynk and the community served.

Fast forward to this summer, Moises accepted a role with BrookLynk as a Job Coach. In a role he describes as a full circle moment, he is helping youth that were in the same position he was in three years ago, youth who are looking towards the future. His aim is to help youth find where they fit in and what opportunities are out there and, of course, trying out new things.

This fall, Moises will be going into his third year of college at Macalester. His areas of study are Political Science and International Studies, where his goal is to continue his work in his community. We look forward to supporting Moises as he embarks on his journey!

New Grant Funds

As of June 30, 2026, state grant funds for grant 5CBP6300 were over half expended and are expected to be fully expended by the grant's final end date.