

SFY 2025 Shakopee Chamber Foundation

Progress Report

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

Kay Tracy, Director
Office of Youth Development
(Phone) 651-259-7555
Kay.Tracy@state.mn.us

mn.gov/deed

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Contents

Introduction....4

Summary of Goals and Objectives Presented in the Work Plan....4

Program Data....5

Data: Demographic, Activity, and Outcome Data....5

Program Services and Activities Data....6

Performance and Outcome Data....6

Expenditures....7

Story of Impact....7

New Grant Funds....7

Introduction

Shakopee Chamber Foundation (SCF) was granted state funding to establish a workforce development scholarship program to address critical workforce shortages in high-demand industries throughout Scott County. The program was designed to provide scholarships for training in Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care, Hospitality, and Law Enforcement—sectors experiencing significant workforce needs in the region.

Funds for this project are appropriated in Minnesota Session Laws – 2024, Chapter 120, S.F.5289, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3(b). The amount available to the Shakopee Chamber Foundation is $665,000.00 for the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027. Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development is permitted to retain up to 5% of the $700,000.00 appropriation for administration and monitoring of the grant. This is a one-time appropriation.

Summary of Goals and Objectives Presented in the Work Plan

The scholarship program operates through a collaborative partnership model involving the Shakopee Chamber Foundation, Dakota County Technical College, Inver Hills Community College, and the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board. Minnesotans access services through scholarship opportunities that cover training costs for eligible degree, diploma, certificate, or industry-recognized credential programs. The program addresses critical workforce shortages in four key sectors identified as high-demand occupations in Scott County and the broader region: Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care, Hospitality, and Law Enforcement. These industries represent significant economic drivers in the region and face ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified workers.

The program is open to all schools and individuals throughout Scott County, with emphasis given to individuals from underserved communities. Outreach efforts are coordinated through partnerships with organizations such as Mi C.A.S.A. and Community Resource Center to ensure equitable access to training opportunities. The program leverages the existing infrastructure from the Career Lift Initiative, under the Drive for Five initiative, which established successful partnerships with educational institutions and community organizations to expand training opportunities in these high-demand sectors. The program requires a 25% non-appropriated match beyond the state appropriation, demonstrating community investment and commitment to addressing workforce development needs.

Training is delivered through established partnerships with Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College. The program is also exploring the possibility of bringing certification programs directly to Shakopee High School for students 18 years of age and older, which would make these opportunities accessible to high school students throughout Scott County.

Eligible programs are reviewed and updated through regular collaboration with the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board, ensuring that programming remains aligned with high-demand industries and legislative priorities. The program's application processes and implementation guidelines are designed to align with eligibility requirements set by the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board, with any proposed additions to eligible industries submitted to the Board for approval as needed.

Program Data

Participants data in the tables below is cumulative, from the start of the grant period on July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026.

Data: Demographic, Activity, and Outcome Data

Total Participants Served: 29

Gender	Total
Male	8
Female	21
Gender Non-Confirming/Other	0
Prefer Not to Answer	0

Age	Total
14-15	0
16-17	0
18-19	2
20-21	4
22-24	2
25 and older	21

Race/Ethnicity	Total
Hispanic/Latino	6
American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0
Black, African American, or African	15
White	8
Multiracial or other	5

Education Level	Total
8th grade and under	0
9th Grade – 12th Grade	0
High School Graduate or equivalent	15
Post-Secondary Education	14

Other Demographics	Total
Limited English proficient	1
Receiving Public Assistance	5
Low Income and Economically Disadvantaged	19
Participants who report a disability	4
High school drop-out	0
Participants who are justice involved	3
Pregnant or parenting	NA
Foster Youth	NA

Other Demographics	Total
Participants showing as Homeless/Runaway	3
Not employed at program enrollment	7
Veteran	1

Note: Participant demographics reflect all participants served as reported in the Career Lift Demographic Summary (ET010). Hispanic/Latino ethnicity is reported separately from race; the participants under Multi-Race or Other did not self-identify a race. Low Income reflects participants at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines

Program Services and Activities Data

Program Service or Activity	Total
Received Education or Job Training Activities	0
Received Work Experience Activities	0
Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	0
Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities	0
Received Internship or Apprenticeship Activities	0
Received Case Management, Guidance, Counseling Services	0
Received Support Services	11
Received Mentoring Services	0

Performance and Outcome Data

Performance or Outcome	Total
Attained work readiness or education goals	11
Completed program objective	11
Obtained high school diploma or GED	TBD
Remained in School or Dropout Returned to School	TBD
Obtained unsubsidized employment	TBD
Average Wage of Employment	TBD
Not in Job Seach and Not in School	TBD
Exited the Program	0
Number of participants rating experience as "Excellent"	TBD
Number of participants completing Survey	TBD

Note: Completions include 10 of 11 participants who completed the Certified Nursing Assistant course (class start July 20, 2026) and 1 of 4 participants who completed CDL training. Eleven participants began Health Care Math & Medical Terminology on August 31, 2026 and are currently enrolled.

Expenditures

Expenditures from September 1, 2024 through July 31, 2026 for grants 5SCF6300:

Budget Category	Planned Budget	Expenditure
Administration	$0.00	$0.00
Direct Services/Project Staff	$0.00	$0.00
Contracted Services	$66,500.00	$39,900.00
Direct Customer Training	$598,500.00	$4,496.25
Support Services	$0.00	$0.00
Total	**$665,000.00**	**$44,396.25**

Story of Impact

The Shakopee Chamber Foundation has successfully fundraised and secured over $150,000 in private matching funds during the first year of the grant. This represents a significant investment in workforce development for the region and demonstrates strong community support for addressing workforce needs in high-demand industries. The fundraising success involved strategic partnerships with the Shakopee Lions ($10,000 donation), the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community ($75,000 matching grant), HEART Ministries ($15,000), West Bank Development ($50,000 grant), and additional community supporters.

A key best practice in the program has been leveraging the Career Lift program under the Drive for Five initiative. This proven infrastructure provides a solid foundation for expanding training opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing and Health Care, allowing the Shakopee Chamber Foundation to benefit from established processes and relationships rather than starting from scratch. The integration of the scholarship program with Career Lift creates a comprehensive workforce development ecosystem where students receive both training support through scholarships and access to employment opportunities through Career Lift's established employer network across target industries.

Partnerships with Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College represent another key accomplishment. These educational partnerships, combined with community outreach partnerships with organizations like Mi C.A.S.A. and Community Resource Center, position SCF to serve diverse populations throughout Scott County with emphasis on folks from underserved communities. In addition, collaboration with the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board ensures SCF remains aligned with high-demand industries and legislative priorities. This partnership provides ongoing guidance on eligible programs and assists in maintaining responsiveness to evolving workforce needs in the region.

New Grant Funds

Grant funds are expected to be fully expended by the grant end date, June 30, 2027. No new direct appropriation state funds have been granted to the Shakopee Chamber Foundation for the SFY26-27 biennium.