



Workforce Development Grant Program Report

Purpose	Assist with education and training initiatives that address regional workforce needs and gaps emerging in industries and schools.
Strategic Plan Alignment	Business Development ✓ Community Development ✓ Workforce Development ✓

What did we do?	FY18	FY19
Budget	\$200,000	\$250,000
# of Projects	6	5
# of People/Students Served	966	5,124
Agency Investment	\$200,000	\$249,392
Total Project Investment	\$733,300	\$709,611
Leverage	2.7 : 1	1.8 : 1
Key impact measures	FY18	FY19
# Employer/Industry Grants	1	2
# Education Institution Grants	4	3
# Nonprofit Grants	1	0
# People Trained or Certified	238*	824*
# High School Students Earning College Credits	128*	0
# High School Students or Community Members Exploring Careers	0	4,300*
# Community Members Engaged	600*	0

What were the results?
<p>FY19: Workforce is the largest barrier to regional economic growth, a problem not unique to northeastern Minnesota. Businesses across the state are increasingly in need of workers. New workforce challenges have arisen including: opioids, substance abuse/addiction, housing, mental health, transportation.</p> <p>The program convenes industry and educational institutions to identify workforce gaps, employment barriers and training solutions. Examples of projects included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child care worker certification: Approximately 22 scholarships were awarded to area child care center workers to help pay for their schooling to become a credentialed Child Development Associate (CDA). In addition, Mesabi Range College launched a high school outreach program for up to 20 high school students and community members in Cook County to receive financial support for career exploration, college-level coursework in early childhood education, and the option to earn the CDA.

What were the results?

- **Culinary program:** HCC offered its culinary program in Grand Marais to help meet the demand for skilled kitchen workers in Cook County’s hospitality-based economy. Students may choose either a 17-week Culinary Arts Certificate (16 credits) or a 34-week program to earn a One-Year Culinary Arts Diploma (31 credits). The goal is to produce an influx of skilled kitchen staff as well as grow local culinary workers.

FY18: Examples of projects included:

- Work skills training program for employees with special needs.
- Accelerated welding certification.

**This report will be adjusted after all projects are completed.*

Fiscal Year 2019 Awards

Grantee	Description	# of People/Students Served (*Estimated)	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
Cook County Higher Education	Culinary program marketing campaign and recruiter	247*	\$50,000	\$144,800
Northeast Higher Education District	MSHA safety training	525*	\$10,000	\$20,000
Northeast Higher Education District	Robotic process automation training	10*	\$52,000	\$234,000
Northeast Higher Education District	Child care worker certification	42*	\$62,392	\$159,392
Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training	Skilled trades awareness campaign and career exploration	4300*	\$75,000	\$151,419

Fiscal Year 2018 Awards

Grantee	Description	# of People/Students Served	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
Northeast Higher Education District	Minnesota Infinity online courses	128*	\$25,000	\$25,000
Northeast Higher Education District	Work Skills 101/201 program	33*	\$50,000	\$160,800
Northeast Higher Education District	Accelerated welding program	240 hour program – 6 students certified 80 hour program (US Steel) – 20 students certified 40 hour program (Hibbing Taconite) – 5 students certified	\$100,000	\$456,000

Fiscal Year 2018 Awards				
Grantee	Description	# of People/Students Served	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
United Way of Northeastern Minnesota	"Bridges Out of Poverty" workshop	174	\$5,000	\$20,000
Virginia School District – ISD 701	Virginia/Eveleth-Gilbert school collaboration meetings	300	\$9,250	\$60,750
Virginia School District – ISD 701	Virginia/Eveleth-Gilbert school collaboration meetings	300	\$10,750	\$10,750