



**HENNEPIN – CARVER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
WIOA YOUTH & MINNESOTA YOUTH PROGRAM UNIFIED LOCAL PLAN**

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), each local Workforce Development Board must develop and submit a Unified Local Youth Plan to the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

The Unified Local Youth Plan is the workplan, budget and performance documents for the 2023 WIOA Youth Program Year and the 2024 State Fiscal Year Minnesota Youth Program (MYP). The plan includes an overview of outreach and recruitment (in-school and out-of-school youth), program design, serving opportunity youth, assessments and development of individual service strategies, work experience and career pathways services, follow-up services, and more. The Unified Local Youth plan incorporates a workplan for WIOA Youth providers of the Hennepin-Carver Workforce Area and MYP providers for suburban Hennepin County. The plan incorporates the priorities that were outlined in the Youth Career Development Services RFP in 2020:

- Proactively engage youth participants, alumni, and community partners in development of programs and strategies.
- Identify and incorporate employer needs in services to reflect industry demand.
- Integrate new technology, data, and virtual learning into their programs.
- Provide culturally competent services to young people of diverse backgrounds and needs, especially those identifying as people of color, immigrants, English Language Learners, and having a disability.
- Coordinate to align services and resources with other providers of employment services and youth support services in Hennepin and Carver Counties.
- Connect participants with work experience and training that prepares them for in-demand industries based on market research from reliable and up to date sources.
- Enhance career pathways through apprenticeship and internship opportunities.

The current WIOA Youth and MYP service providers for suburban Hennepin County were recommended and selected via a competitive process through Request for Proposals in February 2021, to provide services for program years 2021 and 2022. With approval from DEED, existing contracts with the WIOA Youth and MYP sub-grantees of suburban Hennepin County will be extended for one additional program year (through June 30, 2024). Carver County will continue to provide WIOA Youth services directly via the Joint Powers Agreement in place. The providers for suburban Hennepin County include:

Organization	Program
BrookLynk	WIOA Youth, MYP
Ka Joog	MYP
Tree Trust	WIOA Youth, MYP

The Unified Local Youth Plan was written/compiled by Hennepin-Carver Workforce Development Board (HCWDB) staff and partner program staff and additional input has been requested from the HCWDB Internal Operations work group. The Board Action Request related to this workplan includes the allowance for staff to make any technical corrections or revisions received from other involved parties before the submission to DEED on April 14, 2023.

OVERVIEW OF WIOA YOUTH AND MYP PROGRAMS

The WIOA Young Adult Program ([WIOA Youth](#)) serves disconnected youth ages 14 to 24 who may be experiencing homelessness, involvement in the juvenile justice system, poverty, and other barriers to education, training and employment. The program incorporates a framework of services which must include intake, objective assessments, the development of individual service strategies, case management, supportive services, and follow-up services. WIOA



Youth prioritizes services to out-of-school youth and work experience. A minimum of 75% of funding must be used to serve out-of-school youth, and a minimum of 20% of funding must be spent on work experiences. Emphasis is placed on individual participant need and all programs and services must be client driven and not program driven. Programs must be geared to the needs of the youth and the regional economy of Hennepin County.

The Minnesota Youth Program (MYP) is the most flexible youth funding source meant to address gaps in service identified by workforce development areas. It offers critical work experience opportunities to low income and at-risk suburban youth ages 14 to 24. The goal is to meaningfully invest in young people who are the most likely to face threats to long term economic success and connect them with experiences at a critical period in their lives. Research has shown that the number one predictor of future success in the workforce is early exposure to work experience. Work readiness training is focused on employer-driven behaviors such as attendance, punctuality, teamwork, communication skills, and problem-solving, and is delivered in an interactive manner. MYP provides youth with hands-on opportunities to apply skills they learn in the classroom, improving students' grades, attendance and graduation rates, and introduction to career pathways.

CONCLUSION

The Hennepin-Carver Workforce Development Board staff and the Youth Providers request that the Hennepin-Carver Workforce Development Board approve the submission of the Unified Local Youth Plan for the Program Year 2023 / State Fiscal Year 2024 to DEED for continued provision of youth employment and training services for suburban Hennepin County and Carver County.