

United States Senate

May 25, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair Murray, and Ranking Member Blunt,

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested in the Fiscal Year 2023 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Sincerely,



Tina Smith
United States Senator

**Smith, Tina(D-MN) Labor and Health and Human Services
Congressionally Directed Spending Requests**

| Recipient Name | Project Purpose | Project Location |
|---|--|------------------|
| Aitkin County Government | <p>"The project is a collaborative project between Community Corrections, Health and Human Services, the Jail and the Sheriff's Department to provide transitional services and support to clients with substance use and/or mental health needs. Programming would provide a concentrated effort to make the transition from in-custody to the community. The program would benefit the county by supporting our high risk and high needs clients with better opportunities to be successful upon transition from incarceration which, in turn, would make our communities safer.</p> <p>When other funding such as medical insurance or behavioral health funding is not available the grant funds will be used to provide short term mental health and chemical use treatment options in the jail. This service would be offered for individuals for up to 30 days to get a front end start on recovery and wellness before transitioning back into the community. Technology will be added in the jail to provide a virtual training and treatment option for inmates. Treatment in the jail is a new option for inmates.</p> <p>Transportation assistance and/or reimbursement will be incorporated into the project to support individuals in getting to and from treatment, appointments, healthy activities, and court.</p> <p>Community based activities and supports would include additional support to expand our current Club House. Club House currently provides mental health support, programming, education, and a safe and sober location to socialize. This funding would help to enhance this existing program by providing more opportunities for safe and sober activities and community involvement."</p> | Aitkin MN |
| Stepping Stone Emergency Housing | <p>"The impact of additional square footage will allow Stepping Stone to renew many of the services/programs that were put on pause due to COVID. We simply didn't have the necessary space to confidently ensure the mitigation of spreading infectious diseases. An example of these services/programs include but are not limited to: Anoka County Emergency Assistance, Anoka County library, financial literacy classes, Jobs Club and Housing Club, and mental health counseling and therapy.</p> <p>With the addition of approximately 6,000 sq ft, we will not only add necessary space for our residents to sleep, we will also be adding space for residents to safely meet in small groups with these essential professionals. These critical support services are what makes Stepping Stone stand out when compared to other congregate emergency shelter settings.</p> <p>The other important purpose that is unique to this project is that Stepping Stone is the only congregate homeless shelter in the five counties of: Anoka, Washington, Dakota, Carver, and Scott. Certainly there are other shelter models in these counties, but we are it for single youth and adults in a congregate shelter facility. As the only shelter in the Suburban Metro Continuum of Care, it is essential that we remain open and available for those who need us the most. "</p> | Anoka MN |
| The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota | <p>"The requested equipment is an essential piece of technology to enable researchers to perform cryo-electron tomography studies. Currently, this technology is not available anywhere within MN. Consistent with the goal of establishing MN as an international hub for health and biomedical research, placing this powerful, state-of-the-art imaging technology within the new Minnesota BioImaging Center at The Hormel Institute will support transformative cancer and biomedical research capabilities and services unavailable anywhere in MN and most of our neighboring states in the Midwest.</p> <p>MBiC will be a state-of-the-art center for biomolecular structure and function research that will serve the needs of research across Minnesota and our neighboring states. The Hormel Institute is a center of excellence for structural biology using the cutting edge Cryo-EM imaging technology now - this plan will dramatically expand expertise at the Institute and across the region in the application of a new technology that won the Nobel-prize in Chemistry in 2017.</p> <p>MBiC will have a sustained, transformative, and multi-level impact on the research and training capabilities within and beyond Minnesota.</p> <p>This project will create new jobs, create new capabilities that will attract new science-based businesses, and attract researchers from all over the Midwest and beyond to collaborate and work in the Austin and Mower County area. It will also expand our STEM activities with Riverland Community College and the local K-12 schools. Providing these research capabilities and services will create jobs in rural MN, enable the rapid advancement of the world class research ongoing in MN at The Hormel Institute, UMN and the Mayo Clinic, and establish an advanced bioimaging center of quality and impact unrivaled in the Midwest and in much of the USA. As such, the center will attract leading researchers from across the country and the world to The Hormel Institute and other research units at UMN and the Mayo Clinic, to work."</p> | Austin MN |
| Riverland Community College | <p>DEED data classifies manufacturing and transportation jobs as high-wage and high-demand fields with growth of 6-7% by 2030. Riverland is working with industry partners to meet these workforce challenges by revising curriculum and exploring the Learn and Earn model. Riverland recently approved a new Automation Robotics Engineering Technology Associate of Applied Science Degree, to add to our Welding and Industrial Maintenance Diplomas which train workers for the manufacturing sector. However, the equipment costs to build state-of-the-art learning labs that match what is used in industry far exceed our public higher education budget. In the transportation sector, new Federal CDL regulations require entry-level drivers of commercial vehicles to receive training from a registered provider. Riverland is the only approved provider of CDL education in southern Minnesota. In response, Riverland recently hired an additional full-time instructor which will allow us to double enrollment in our credit program. Businesses like school bus, waste management, hazmat, and snow removal also need our help to educate safe, licensed drivers. These partners asked Riverland to offer faster, customized courses for their entry-level employees. To do this, Riverland needs additional equipment and staff to focus on customized training. In alignment with Minnesota State Equity and Inclusion initiatives and to reflect our changing student population, our goal is to recruit diverse faculty in these technical programs to serve our students. This project is an approach to workforce development that offers a win-win opportunity for students and employers and will help meet workforce demands in transportation and manufacturing, Riverland students will benefit from this initiative to provide a Learn and Earn model which allows for increased flexibility to earn an income while in school and puts their skills to work more immediately through on-the-job training. It removes existing financial barriers for students who are considering educational opportunities. These career fields also provide high-wage jobs which can allow an individual and/or family to earn a livable wage that contributes to our local economy. In addition, manufacturing and transportation are economic drivers in our southeast Minnesota region. Without a skilled workforce these industries cannot thrive. In the small to middle-sized communities we serve, the loss of one manufacturing or logistics company is devastating to individuals, families, and the entire community. This initiative is a proactive approach to facilitating workforce development that will have a great return on investment for our local economic vitality. Each of our academic programs has an advisory committee made up of industry partners who provide input on industry demands and needs. They fully endorse the Learn and Earn model as a win-win strategy. These local southern Minnesota industry partners will see local benefit as we are able to strengthen training opportunities for their current and future workforce. We are confident that this project will be a great return on investment. Please see letters of support from a few of our community and business partners in these sectors that are anxious to do their part to help us build sustainable talent development programs.</p> | Austin MN |
| The Works Museum | <p>"The Works Museum serves as a critical component of Minnesota's STEM education community, supporting students and educators with high-quality learning experiences and preparing today's children for tomorrow's high-tech jobs. This project supports both immediate and long-term needs for Minnesota including:</p> <p>Supporting educators in addressing pandemic learning losses and achieving grade-specific student learning outcomes by providing Science Standards-aligned programming that brings engineering concepts to life and enhances student learning;</p> <p>Impacting the STEM opportunity gap by providing subsidized access to under-resourced schools and increasing equity through expanding community-based programs that eliminate barriers to participation; and Working toward our vision of a future STEM workforce representative of our diverse community by reaching more students, especially those from communities underrepresented in STEM, with early engineering experiences that inspire long-term STEM interest and career dreams.</p> | Bloomington MN |

Amount Requested (\$000)

\$250

\$386

\$1,900

\$1,975

\$125

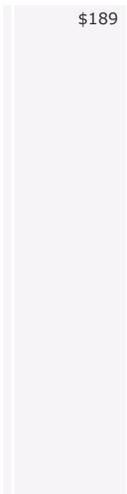
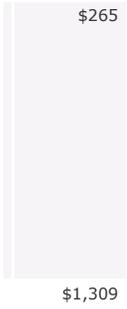
All students have the ability to do sophisticated science, but a STEM opportunity gap exists between students attending under-resourced schools and those in more affluent schools. The latter may provide STEM enrichment, after-school programs, and hands-on learning practice with tools and equipment, opportunities many schools cannot provide. Under-resourced schools often have high populations of students from communities underrepresented in STEM, including students from low-income households, students of color, and English-language learners, creating further disparities.

Pandemic learning disruptions exacerbated these disparities. In Minnesota's 2021 testing, only 43% of students met or exceeded science standards, 8% lower than in testing prior to the pandemic. Yet, "while every group of students saw pandemic impacts to their learning, students of color, English-language learners, and students from lower socioeconomic households were most impacted (MPR News, August 2021)."

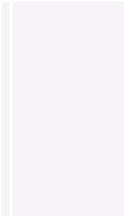
Educators at under-resourced schools have expressed an urgent need for students to experience the hands-on STEM learning that was difficult to provide during distance learning and the value of our workshops on student learning outcomes. They've also shared that budget constraints and bussing costs are barriers to field trips, and that subsidized access and programming brought directly to their school communities is key to ensuring that all students have equal access.

While meeting these immediate needs for accessible, equitable elementary engineering programming is critical, this work also addresses Minnesota's long-term need for an educated STEM workforce. The Works Museum's programs help to close the gap between workforce need and student interest in Minnesota – projected to experience a shortage of 200,000 STEM employees in the next decade alone – by ensuring that a pathway exists for all elementary-age students to access engineering, technology, and manufacturing careers. "

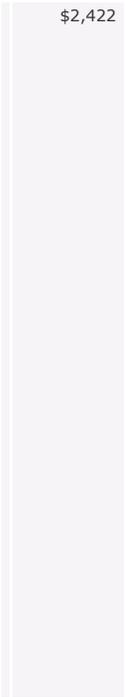
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| Missions Inc. Programs | Stratis Health and the Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care (MNHPC), with the support of many stakeholders, launched the Minnesota Serious Illness Action Network (SIAN) in June 2020 to address urgent care and community needs for those with serious illness. During the first two years, the SIAN convened three virtual forums. More than 150 participants attended each forum, representing clinicians, health care organizations, payers, policymakers, state agencies, researchers, caregivers, and patient and family advocates. The first forum (August 2020) enabled participants to share new and emerging practices, tools, and resources relevant to the needs in serious illness care related to the COVID-19 pandemic and to identify strategies that capitalized on the lessons learned during the pandemic to improve serious illness care going forward. The second forum (August 2021) focused on payment and policy changes needed to create sustainable care and services for those with serious illness. Their third forum (November 2021) focused on caregiving for those with serious illness, organized around the RAISE (Recognize, Assist, Include, Support and Engage) Family Caregiving Advisory Council recommendations submitted to Congress just two months prior to the forum. Stratis Health is seeking CDS funds to continue the SIAN in federal Fiscal Year 2023 to move the actions forward that were recommended in the three forums. Funds will be used primarily for Stratis Health and MNHPC staff time to advance SIAN recommendations from prior forums. We will engage stakeholders, facilitate the two convenings of the SIAN, and develop a pilot to test proposed strategies. | Bloomington MN |
| Normandale Community College | <p>"This project will allow Normandale to develop a state-of-the-art IPE center that can become a model for community colleges in Minnesota and beyond. It has the potential to transform health sciences education at the associate level, resulting in a healthcare workforce that is prepared to meet the challenges of a post-pandemic environment.</p> <p>Anticipated Outcomes for the Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide manikin and simulation-based education and training in small-group sessions by creating dynamic and efficient integrated training packages and case scenario curricula. - Assist to identify and implement innovative and emerging educational initiatives in nursing, dental, nutrition, exercise science and community health programs. - Improve patient care and safety by providing an outcome-based, integrative learning vehicle where critical patient care skills are introduced and improved in a safe environment with student's educational needs as the focus. - Promote communication and collaboration with members of other professions to provide high quality and safe patient care. - Curriculum development, implementation and assessment that address IPE learning strategies and meet accreditation standards for nursing and dental hygiene programs. - Raise health awareness and recruit new students from diverse backgrounds by providing tours of the facility. - Offer interactive and hands-on critical skills team education and training workshops, and continuing professional education. <p>As described above, the Twin Cities region currently faces significant job vacancies in healthcare occupations, and current data predict ongoing needs for more nurses, dental hygienists, and other allied health professionals. More important, healthcare continues to evolve, particularly since the pandemic began. The region needs healthcare workers who can work collaboratively to better meet patient needs. A community college IPE center will provide students with the in-demand skills that will allow them to transition smoothly into a variety of care settings and quickly integrate into healthcare teams to improve patient outcomes.</p> <p>The Center would provide other benefits to the community as well. The expanded simulation center would increase continuing education opportunities for the existing healthcare workforce. The availability of a well-trained, interprofessional workforce will also be a tremendous benefit for Normandale's partners, the region's healthcare providers (please see letters of support for a sample of Normandale's partners). Finally, Normandale's dental clinic could be opened to the community, providing oral healthcare on a sliding scale to the communities surrounding the college.</p> <p>In addition to contributing to the health of Minnesota's citizens, the Center would act as a model for IPE at the community college level, both within the state and nationally. The Center for Interprofessional Education and Simulation would serve as a hub for innovation and the fostering of partnerships other Minnesota health sciences programs and with industry to create and develop processes and procedures that enhance integrated patient care."</p> | Bloomington MN |
| Normandale Community College | <p>"This project will allow Normandale to develop curriculum for use in a new state-of-the-art IPE center that can become a model for community colleges in Minnesota and beyond. It has the potential to transform health sciences education at the associate level, resulting in a healthcare workforce that is prepared to meet the challenges of a post-pandemic environment.</p> <p>The overarching goal of this proposal is to develop interprofessional education that will provide faculty members and students with opportunities to learn and practice skills that improve their ability to communicate and collaborate in team-based care by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changing the paradigm of the education of health professionals to ensure the development of clinical and professional competencies to enhance patient satisfaction and safety. - Innovation in teaching, learning, and clinical practice to advance interprofessional health care education. - Incorporation of values and ethics for interprofessional education and collaboration to maintain a climate of mutual respect and shared. - Preparation for team leadership, electronic learning, competency assessment, and outcome measurement as routine components of education and training for all students. - Supporting and sustaining a pervasive institutional culture that is culturally competent and service-oriented health sciences student. <p>As described above, the Twin Cities region currently faces significant job vacancies in healthcare occupations, and current data predict ongoing needs for more nurses, dental hygienists, and other allied health professionals. More important, healthcare continues to evolve, particularly since the pandemic began. The region needs healthcare workers who can work collaboratively to better meet patient needs. A community college IPE center will provide students with the in-demand skills that will allow them to transition smoothly into a variety of care settings and quickly integrate into healthcare teams to improve patient outcomes.</p> | Bloomington MN |



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| CAPI USA | <p>"This Immigrant Opportunity Center (IOC) initiative is critical component in CAPI USA's mission to guide immigrants and refugees in their journey toward self-determination and social equality. As an immigrant-led organization annually serving 11,000+ Hennepin County residents at locations in Brooklyn Center and South Minneapolis, CAPI was initially founded as the Center for Asian and Pacific Islanders in 1982 to help Southeast Asian refugees resettle following the Vietnam War. In 2008, CAPI changed its name to be more inclusive of all immigrant and U.S.-born populations of color.</p> <p>In the turmoil of recent years, CAPI has increasingly stepped up to take on leadership roles in multi-agency collaboratives and large-scale resettlement initiatives. An example of this includes the Minnesota Department of Human Services asking CAPI to lead in the overall case management of 250 recently-arrived Afghan evacuee families this year. These families are receiving support from CAPI to locate housing, essential/ basic needs, transportation, school and various benefits program enrollments,, and other needs. Assuming project funding, CAPI anticipates that a significant portion of the 200 persons served by this project will be refugee families seeking to take their next step towards building careers and financial stability.</p> <p>As outlined in the Statement of Needs, the multifaceted needs of Minnesota's immigrant and BIPOC communities too often take a backseat to one-size-fits-all program models and disjointed funding streams. CDS funding of the Immigrant Opportunity Center would provide a rare opportunity to holistically and cohesively address the unique career, financial, and educational needs of 200 immigrant, refugee, or BIPOC individuals - regardless of their English language levels or understanding of Western workplace/ education norms at the time of program enrollment.</p> <p>While building local talent that possesses the foundational skills and industry credentials needed to achieve family-supporting wages, the IOC project would similarly fund the engagement of a broad network of employers in areas of talent shortages. Dedicated resources would be provided for ongoing employer development, cultural education/ advocacy, and hiring events.</p> <p>This Immigrant Opportunity Center initiative will positively impact the lives of 200 Minnesotans seeking greater opportunity in a new place, and equip both constituents and business leaders with the resources they need to thrive."</p> | Brooklyn Center MN |
| Hennepin Technical College | <p>"According to DEED Labor Market Information, the Occupational Employment Statistics shows that this industry will continue to see substantial growth and high wages for employees. Data also shows that the industry is in high need of skilled workers to fill open positions. As technologies continue to advance, industry demand will continue to grow. The ARET program expansion will help HTC to work closely with industry to meet their workforce demands, but it requires substantial investment in the equipment required for training.</p> <p>2018-2028 Labor Market Data:</p> <p>According to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, the number of jobs, job growth and wages are all increasing in this industry across Minnesota. Examples of career fields ARET program graduates are employed in are below.</p> <p>2018 Estimated Employment 2028 Estimated Employment (percent change) Median Hourly Wage 2018-2028 Labor Market Total Openings</p> <p>Industrial Machinery Mechanics: 6,824 7,263 (6.4%) \$28.03 6,893 Mechanical Engineering Technicians: 1,394 1,430 (2.6%) \$30.44 1,412 Industrial Engineering Technicians: 3,388 3,465 (2.3%) \$27.35 3,416 Electrical/Electronics Repairers - Commercial and Industrial: 1,259 1,286 (2.1%) \$32.71 1,134 Electro-Mechanical & Mechatronics Technicians: 528 540 (2.3%) \$26.89 533</p> <p>HTC enrolls approximately 7,000 students annually: 40% are part-time students, 45% identify as students of color, 62% are from underrepresented communities, 25% are the first in their family to attend college. The HTC student demographics are similar to that the residents in Brooklyn Park, which is home to 51% people of color and 28% people who speak a language other than English in their home.</p> <p>According to the "Brooklyn Park is Business Forward" publication, Brooklyn Park is a hub for high tech manufacturing. 23% of employment in Brooklyn Park is in the manufacturing sector. There are 150 manufacturing businesses located immediately in Brooklyn Park, and state partnerships have allowed for the development of over 400 jobs at manufacturing businesses since 2016.</p> <p>The recent coronavirus pandemic caused people to lose their jobs and heightened financial insecurity for many and our communities are now eagerly seeking an affordable education in highly skilled careers fields with growing demand and high wages. Unemployment in Brooklyn Park is currently 4% and of those who are unemployed, 11.3% have attained a high school diploma but have not attended college.</p> <p>Currently, 43% of students in the ARET program reside in the northern metropolitan area and commute to HTC's Eden Prairie campus for school, which speaks to the high student demand for this program. Eliminating the need to commute to school will alleviate a number of barriers to student success, leading to an increased enrollment of students into the industry, improved graduation rates, a decrease in the shortage of skills technicians in industry. These impacts positive impacts in our local community also significantly improve the economic vitality of Minnesota."</p> | Brooklyn Park MN |
| Dakota Child and Family Clinic | <p>"In 2012, Dakota Child and Family Clinic transitioned into a nonprofit clinic in place of Eagan Child and Family Clinic. In the past 3 years alone, our clinic has had over 5,000 patients utilizing our primary care services. As this number continues to grow along with the increased desire for mental health services, we are quickly running out of space in our original clinic. DCFC is important to the community given that we charge for services based on a sliding fee scale and covers households who are at or below 250% of the current Federal Poverty guidelines. Current statistics show percentages of the population that fall under 200% of the Federal Poverty guidelines: 17% of residents in Dakota County and 23% of residents in Hennepin County (MNCompass.org). These statistics still leave out a large portion of the population who are eligible for our services and those who reside in other areas of the state.</p> <p>While DCFC sees patients who reside all over in Minnesota, the majority of our patients reside in Dakota County (55%) and Hennepin County (25%). Within these counties, 9.5% of residents under the age of 65 do not have any form of health insurance (MNCompass.org). This does not include individuals and families who are underinsured. This also fails to factor in the lack of coverage for mental health services within many health insurance plans. Offering free or low-cost mental health services is often the only way that our patients would have access to these services.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has had an egregious impact on the mental health of our community. At the beginning of the pandemic, DCFC saw the need for barrier free testing in our community. Within two weeks, we were able to prepare and execute a plan for a testing site. From then, we administered over 10,000 tests. This provided an opportunity to not only tend to the current needs of our community, but also further understand the impact that a positive test had on an individual or family. We saw a greater need for mental health support and were able to hire a therapist to meet a few times a month with patients who had been impacted by COVID. We quickly realized that the need for support greatly outweighed the capacity of our therapist, resulting in the hire of our second therapist.</p> <p>It was not only COVID positive patients that expressed the need for more mental health support, but a large portion of our community who were dealing with the impact of quarantine and isolation. Whether COVID-related or not, over 50% of youth and adults with major depression are not receiving any form of treatment (Mental Health America, https://www.mhanational.org/issues/2021/ranking-states). We believe it is our role to fill gaps such as this where applicable. "</p> | Burnsville MN |



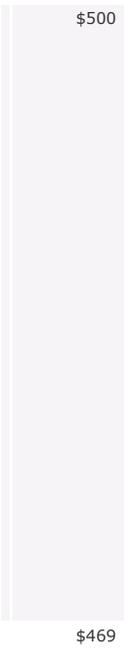
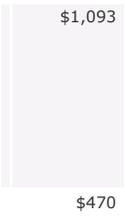
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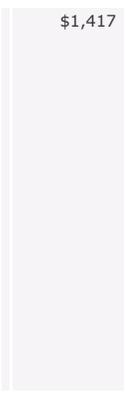
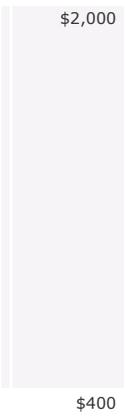
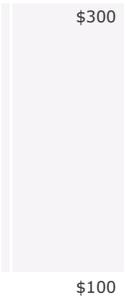
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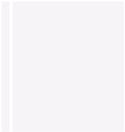
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| M Health Fairview Ridges Hospital | The M Health Fairview provider system serves a population of 1.1 million residents over 12 counties. M Health Fairview Ridges Hospital provides a broad range of acute care services for 400,000 Minnesota River Valley residents. Ridges Hospital is the third busiest emergency center in Minnesota and is moving to become a Primary Stroke Center after its next stroke designation survey. The cardiac catheterization laboratory served almost 1400 patients last year. With this one-time investment, Fairview Ridges Hospital could continue to provide high quality services for the growing Minnesota River Valley communities and their residents. As a non-profit organization, we pride ourselves on providing all patients with the highest quality of care. Our community supports access to high quality care which includes the best up-to-date available equipment for the laboratory. This CPF funding will help us maintain our high-quality care standards for western Dakota and eastern Scott counties and surrounding Minnesota communities. | Burnsville MN |
| Advocates for School Trust Lands | "Upon statehood, the Founding Fathers of our country granted Minnesota school children trust lands to provide funding for schools in perpetuity. Today, our students are the beneficiaries of 2.5 million acres of land held in trust for school funding as required by trust law and the MN State Constitution. In prior years, this trust has been diminished; fiduciary obligations were violated. Under the national leadership and guidance of Advocates for School Trust Lands (ASTL formerly CLASS) we have begun to restore that trust obligation by passing legislation creating a School Trust Lands Office and a School Trust Lands Director. As a result, the value of the Permanent School Fund (PSF) and the annual distribution to schools has increased. However, there is much more work to be done to fulfill our trust obligation. Minnesota school children needs the ongoing leadership and historical expertise ASTL provided in the past and will provide in the future with the help of this financial request. ASTL is the only organization that represents the beneficiaries and will stand up for and honor the trust obligations as intended by our Founding Fathers. Well informed beneficiaries are essential to the trust protections as they have been in Minnesota." | Champlin MN |
| River Valley Health Services | Minnesota has always served the poor, the sick, the invisible. There are only so many dollars to go around and River Valley Health Services with its low overhead, volunteer workers, donations, and brand for providing services to the minority populations has an enviable return on investment for every health care dollar. All its services are free, and everyone gets help, no questions asked. No one gets turned away. No means test, no ID cards. If necessary, services are provided in trailer parks, apartments, churches, whatever makes sense. No one has ever abused this service. Everyone is so appreciative | Chaska and Shakopee MN |
| Southeastern Minnesota League of Municipalities | <p>"Southern MN needs water/wastewater operator training at Riverland Community College, centered in Albert Lea. Many water and wastewater operators in CD1 will retire within five years, and there is already a shortage of operators here. Training programs at this time are a significant distance from our region, requiring extra travel time and cost, lodging costs, extra meal costs, and local facility coverage expenses for cities. Operators have difficulty getting much time away for training due to their responsibilities for managing technical water/wastewater facilities, sometimes as sole operators. Some operators in smaller cities have second jobs making it difficult to be gone. Most have family responsibilities that make it very difficult to be gone. Some very small cities have one person as both water AND wastewater operator, making it extremely challenging and costly.</p> <p>By minimizing travel time, more people can attend to upgrade their licenses, or become new operators. With less travel-related expenses, cities can afford more training for current operators and other staff or interns looking to begin careers as operators.</p> <p>Creating these training programs requires</p> <p>developing full curriculums for two separate programs, one for water and another for wastewater, hiring instructors, connecting with area workforce centers, creating internship programs with area cities, and promoting the program with prospective students, area cities, workforce centers, and current and future operators.</p> <p>Clean water makes this request a necessity for southern MN. We need local training in CD1, because when people train here, they stay here, and we desperately need more operators here."</p> | Chatfield MN |
| Intermediate School District 917 | <p>"This project's purpose is to implement innovative programs in Intermediate School District 917 and our nine member districts to actively advance social justice efforts by strengthening our human-centered approach to education and amplifying the voices of students, families, and staff. During the past few years, students, staff, families, and communities have recognized the importance of schools as systems that improve or hinder social justice, and we aim to serve as a hub to bring the incredible work of non-profit institutions, higher education institutions, and pK-12 school districts together to, as the Minnesota Humanities Center puts it, "positively shape our collective future."</p> <p>Intermediate School District 917's vision is to model an innovative culture with diverse pathways serving students and families through equitable practices with highly trained staff. By incorporating the social justice work of the Minnesota Humanities Center and Metropolitan State University into the teacher and leader preparation and development processes of school districts in the south metro, we can make huge strides toward achieving our district vision, increasing the numbers of teachers of color in our state, and improving the academic, social-emotional, and career outcomes for students in our district, our nine member districts, and beyond.</p> <p>Our students want more staff who understand them, who look like them, and/or who have traveled alternate pathways in their personal and professional lives. In a letter of student demands from Roseville Area Schools (where ISD 917 Superintendent, Dr. Michael Favor, was previously Assistant Superintendent), students outlined 10 demands to amplify their voices in their schools and communities, diversify the curriculum, and learn in diverse environments. Students want teachers who welcome ALL students into their classrooms each day. They want to learn history, language arts, science, fine arts, and music through diverse lenses and texts. They seek safe spaces, stronger relationships with adults, accountability for actions, zero tolerance for racist acts and statements, and a more diverse faculty. We thank the students of Roseville for speaking on behalf of many students throughout Minnesota. We have heard similar feedback from students across districts throughout the state, and we seek to amplify their voices further. Our schools must do better.</p> <p>We have so much to learn from those of us who have developed resilience and persistence by overcoming obstacles and adversity, bias and barriers, and low expectations, yet many of our systems are not designed for their success. Our program is designed to reduce barriers, diversify our educational workforce, and improve student outcomes by centering humanity in all we do in education. For the past 50 years, the Minnesota Humanities Center has partnered with organizations to provide "a gateway to expanded understanding, curiosity, and learning." Metro State University has a long history of graduating racially, socio-economically, and culturally diverse educators who develop the knowledge and skills needed to build on their unique life experiences for the betterment of their students.</p> <p>We hope you will support our purposeful efforts to bring organizations together to center humanity in schools and create and support a more diverse educational workforce."</p> | Dakota County & Hennepin County MN |
| Best Buddies International, Inc. | <p>"In Minnesota, only 7.2% of students with intellectual disabilities spend most of their day in inclusive settings (U.S. Department of Education, 2019-2020). Lower than in 42 states, and 9.5% lower than the national average, this exclusion and isolation of students with IDD from their regular education classrooms function as significant physical barriers inhibiting interactions between the student populations.</p> <p>As a result of participation in our programs, youth with IDD gain social and leadership skills that lead to their increased sense of self-worth, employability, and independence. Best Buddies has been identified as a Peer-Mediated Instruction & Intervention evidence-based practice that supports inclusion (Steinbrenner et al, 2020). An independent evaluation concluded that adolescents with IDD involved in one-to-one friendships through Best Buddies showed "lower frequencies of peer victimization, better adaptive behavior, higher levels of self-esteem, and fewer psychological symptoms" than those not matched in the program. In addition, the same evaluation concluded that "'Best Buddy' relationships were similar to friendships with best friends, with additional levels of support, nurturing and 'scaffolding' in skill development" (Prinstein and Aikins, 2005). The Center for Evaluation and Policy at Indiana University cited Best Buddies as an "exemplary model" in promoting non-disabled student interaction with students with disabilities in a 2008 report.</p> <p>Our Minnesota programs will create opportunities for greater access to community-based inclusion, subsequently providing the type of environment that will help a person with IDD develop vital social skills needed for the successful transition of students with IDD into postsecondary education and the workforce."</p> | Delano, Golden Valley, Eden Prairie, Edina, Excelsior, Arden Hills, Owatonna, Minnetonka, Apple Valley, Lakeville, Plymouth, Farmington, New Brighton MN |



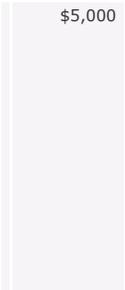
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| Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes, Inc. | <p>"L.E.A.P. (Learn, Explore & Play) is an early childhood full-day preschool program to be held inside the existing Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes and serving families in Becker County, Minnesota. This will be a curriculum-based, structured educational program focused on school-readiness, social-emotional skills, and building overall character in today's youth. The program will be offered from 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM, and families will have the option of enrolling their child additionally in the continued after school program for the same group of students which runs from 3:30 PM - 6:15 PM, conveniently located in the exact same space. Those students enrolled in L.E.A.P. Preschool will have priority to enroll in the afterschool program, allowing parents/guardians much more flexibility for when they get off work and come pick their child(ren) up. With this program, parents/guardians will have the opportunity to enroll their preschooler in structured, positive program for upwards to 7:30 AM until 6:30 PM, significantly longer hours than any other program in the area. The purpose of this preschool program is to provide a high-quality educational and fun daytime child care experience for local youth in addition to helping close the gap for access to affordable, trusted child care with hours that work with local employers' schedules. This preschool will serve children ages 36 months to kindergarten and there will be between 18-30 spots available for both independent families and employer child care partnerships."</p> | Detroit Lakes MN |
| Minnesota State Community and Technical College (M | <p>"Minnesota is in the midst of a growing child care crisis where many communities have zero options of quality child care providers (known as "child care deserts"). A child care desert is defined as a zip code where 30 or more children under the age of 5 and no child care centers or where there are at least 3 times the number of children than there are available spaces for child care. Affordability is one factor, but location and supply also play significant roles. According to a report from The Center for American Progress, the lack of child care supply has disproportionately impacted rural areas and two-thirds of Minnesota's zip codes could be defined as a child care desert. M State seeks to address this issue by offering its innovative early childhood education program in area high schools. In 2021, M State partnered with high schools in Perham and Rothsay, giving students an opportunity to earn credits towards an early childhood college degree. A student who began the early childhood course sequence as a high school junior could have half of a one-year certificate completed by the time they graduated, with no cost to the students for tuition or textbooks. The credits they earned would transfer into either M State's 18-credit Early Childhood certificate or the college's Early Childhood Transfer Pathway in preparation for earning a four-year degree. The program supports the advancement of individuals seeking to open their own in-home child care facility or to gain employment in early education as assistant teachers in Head Start facilities or child care centers. Additional funding is needed in order to make these courses accessible through a hybrid of in-person and virtual instruction. The outcome would be an increased number of partnerships with high schools and stakeholders in the Greater North West region of Minnesota as well as an increase of early childhood education professionals added to a workforce that benefits Minnesota families and communities at large. For students choosing not to proceed towards a degreed program, they receive a foundation in the importance of early childhood development that will prepare them in adulthood when raising families of their own. Evaluation and Assessment. To obtain feedback from EC students participating in this program, we will develop an instrument to determine the impact of the supports provided through this contract. In addition to our standard end-of-course and end-of-program surveys, we will use Qualtrics to assess the students' opinions on the impact that the supports from CDS provided. Using both Likert-type scale questions and open-ended prompts we expect to learn where the key challenges were hopefully relieved and successes were hopefully facilitated, and where there were remaining challenges that can be addressed in future semesters. "</p> | Detroit Lakes MN |
| Minnesota State Community and Technical College | <p>"This project should receive funding because of its ability to increase access to education and improve student learning outcomes, which will directly affect Minnesota's workforce shortage. Increase access to education: Multiple challenges exist to provide healthcare students with the required clinical experiences for their program; one challenge is finding sufficient clinical training sites for the number of students enrolled in our programs. Enrollments are limited due to clinical site availability in our region. By adding on-campus and mobile simulation labs, we will expand the seats in our healthcare programs, increasing the number of graduates added to the workforce each year.</p> <p>Increase the student pipeline: Additionally, the mobile simulation lab will provide career-focused healthcare experiences and exploration for high school students and underemployed individuals in rural communities. Our target audience is reflected in the communities we serve, including Black, Indigenous, veterans, disabled and first-generation students. Careers in healthcare can reduce poverty for low-income families.</p> <p>Improve student learning outcomes: We value innovative learning experiences that promote multidisciplinary collaborations; simulation training exposes students to a variety of valuable learning experiences and encourages teamwork, critical thinking and communication. Additionally, it mimics a real-life hospital/clinic setting, using the most advanced technology, equipment and methods. Simulation training allows students to improve their skills, shape their confidence and demonstrate knowledge without risk to patients in a clinical setting, while exposing students to a wide variety of patient case scenarios. Students will be able to rely on both clinical rotations and simulation lab experiences for their education."</p> | Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena MN |
| Building Strong Communities | <p>"Founded to promote diversity and increase equity in Minnesota's construction and building trades, Building Strong Communities is unique and merits congressionally directed spending. The Building Strong Communities Apprenticeship Readiness program reduces disparities through job training and employment among Minnesota's underrepresented populations. While hiring a diverse team helps construction companies deal with labor shortages, more importantly, a diverse workforce builds economic power and stability for communities that have historically been left out. The next generation of workers will be part of an increasingly diverse talent pool. Our goal is to ensure this pool of workers has access to the opportunities available through the construction and building trades, including family-sustaining wages and benefits.</p> <p>This program benefits the local community on an individual and community-wide level. We benefit individuals by increasing economic security among populations most affected by employment and educational disparities. We invest significant time and energy in ensuring each participant receives individualized attention from an advocate for up to 15 months to assist with support services and job success. Both Advocates and the Building Strong Communities team work with social service providers, other workforce nonprofits and our school partner to address barriers to enrolling in construction apprenticeships, such as GED/high school diploma completion, drivers' licensure, and personal challenges. This person-centered approach improves outcomes, and provides direct access to economic mobility.</p> <p>At a community level, our program provides benefits by strengthening local economies, increasing tax revenue, addressing labor shortages, and bolstering job creation and retention. Our program also lowers taxpayer burden by reducing strain on public resources like unemployment and other public benefits."</p> | Duluth MN |
| College of St. Scholastica, Inc. | <p>"The CSS School of Nursing collaborates with multiple rural healthcare agencies and over 700 clinical sites to provide educational experiences for nearly 1,000 nursing students each year. Students receive clinical experience through the Essentia Health system, St. Luke's (letters of support provided), the St. Louis County Health Department, Benedictine Health Center, a variety of long-term care facilities, community health clinics, Indian Health Service sites, and family practice private clinics in rural and urban settings. Many are located in medically underserved and rural areas; equipping students with the appropriate skills ensures they enter their clinical rotations prepared and confident in their abilities to serve their communities.</p> <p>In healthcare education, simulation/skills labs have become critical components in preparing all levels of professionals, and are increasingly viewed as essential by accreditation agencies. Students practice patient care skills and learn how to think like a nurse. They master how to conduct health assessments, put in IV lines, administer medication, position patients, and ensure safety protocols are being followed. It is also a chance for students to practice soft skills, such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.</p> <p>Additionally, TeleICUs and emergency services are being used to provide patient care, particularly in rural parts of the United States. Tele-emergency services provide immediate and synchronous audio/video connections between rural low-volume hospitals and an urban emergency department. As a nursing school that supports rural nursing, providing students the opportunities to participate in simulations providing patient care in such a manner is crucial.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the critical need for nurses, making this project a priority. According to 2020 reports, half of the states in the country faced shortages of nurses during the pandemic, including Minnesota. A Spring 2021 nationwide survey of nurses by Vivian Health, a healthcare career company, said 43% of respondents were considering</p> | Duluth MN |



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| | <p>leaving healthcare, and two-thirds of nurses said they felt more stressed about their jobs than a year previously. Additionally, more than one million nurses will retire in the next decade, which is anticipated to put even greater demands on healthcare staffing and increase the need for exceptionally skilled healthcare professionals. Only 15% of nursing professionals in Minnesota serve the expansive northeastern region - including thousands of CSS nursing graduates - making the area's healthcare workforce critical and easily impacted by the quality of education healthcare professionals receive."</p> | |
| First Witness Child Advocacy Center | <p>"The effects of trauma from abuse can be short or long-term, impacting relationships, childhood development, the ability to learn, appropriate sexual development, and leads to acting out behaviors, self-injurious behaviors, depression and anxiety. We know from Adverse Childhood Experiences studies that trauma impacts reducing factors that include the child's level of resilience, coping strategies, and the non-offending caregiver's response and support after the disclosure of abuse. In addition to the devastating health consequences of child maltreatment, the economic costs are massive in terms of healthcare, treatment and counseling, incarceration, and lost productivity; Prevent Child Abuse America estimated the cost of child maltreatment in 2012—including both direct and indirect costs—to be \$80 billion (Gelles & Perlman, 2012). In 2018, the economic lifetime burden associated with child abuse and neglect had grown to \$592 billion (CDC, 2022). Each year, nearly 700,000 children are abused in the U.S. This number may be higher as the actual number of children abused is likely underreported. No city or county is immune to child abuse, and these statistics are reflected locally. Our region alone has experienced a 150% increase in reports over the last decade. Child abuse was first recognized as a national concern in the 1960s. As the causes of abuse were researched, prevention measures were developed that paved the way for the future of prevention, which is seen as an important means of keeping children safe from abuse (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2017).</p> <p>We know that our prevention programming is making a difference in mitigating abuse, but it is not the entire solution for ridding our community of abuse. Public engagement and education campaigns have been proven to use communication strategies (e.g., framing and messaging or social marketing), a range of communication channels and community-based efforts to reframe the way people think and talk about child abuse and neglect and who is responsible for preventing it (CDC, 2016). Such efforts can lead to a shift in perceived responsibility for children—from personal to shared responsibility; increase in public support for policies supportive of children and families; reduction in beliefs that corporal punishment of children is appropriate; reduction in reported use of corporal punishment; increase in beliefs that nurturing children at every age is appropriate; reduction in beliefs that getting help for parenting is bad; increase in seeking help for parenting, increase in public awareness of factors that can inhibit or promote healthy child development (CDC, 2016).</p> <p>Our request will provide prevention education, community training, and engage our community with the important work of abuse prevention. We are focused on building safety into communities, supporting individuals, and strengthening community resiliency to trauma. We bring forth the voices of the families we serve, translating their lived experience to other system professionals, creating individual, systemic and social change. First Witness considers safety from abuse, support when abuse occurs, and prevention of abuse to be basic needs that every member of our community deserves to have access to."</p> | Duluth MN |
| St. Luke's Hospital of Duluth | <p>"St. Luke's takes great pride in our history of becoming Duluth's first hospital in 1881. Since then we have grown immensely, yet have always remained deeply rooted in our mission: The Patient Above All Else. We serve our friends and neighbors, not just in Duluth, but from throughout Northeastern Minnesota. We pride ourselves on being a trusted regional partner of rural hospitals, enhancing the care they provide, and serving as a tertiary referral center for patients who need a higher level of care. We also pride ourselves on always being able to say "yes" when a rural hospital asks us to accept a patient.</p> <p>However, during the pandemic, there were many times when our Hospital was full and we had to be on divert. When our regional partners called to transfer a patient, our answer was a heartbreaking "no" a number of times, because we did not have adequate critical care space.</p> <p>The requested \$5 million would change this situation in the future. We would have expanded critical care capacity in our Hospital, increased capacity for patients who need to be in isolation, and the ability to provide immediate critical care support to physicians and patients in rural hospitals throughout the region. This funding would allow us to serve more patients at their time of greatest need and, ultimately, save lives."</p> | Duluth MN |
| Armory Arts and Music Center | <p>"The Armory played an important role as the cultural and entertainment hub of the Duluth region. Some of the most famous Americans appeared at the Armory – Harry Truman, Louis Armstrong, Johnny Cash, Amelia Earhart, Bob Hope, and Liberace, to name a few.</p> <p>The mission of the Music Resource Center Program is to educate and inspire young people, and through music, equip them with life skills for the future. We accomplish this mission through music education and performance opportunities, as well as life skills mentoring. Located in the historic Duluth Armory, the Music Resource Center will ensure access to music instruction, instruments, live sound and recording technology, video technology production, dance, and digital technology programs to a diverse group of 6-12th grade youth in the Twin Ports area.</p> <p>The Music Resource Center is an affordable youth education program that is professionally staffed in what will be a state-of-the-art facility. The Music Resource Center Duluth will be a sustainable staple in the Duluth Community and our vision is that it will serve up to 500 students annually. The program nurtures the next generation of artists via music education, life skills development, and mentoring, and inspires all of those associated with the project.</p> <p>The rehearsal rooms, recording studio, classrooms and the restored stage will provide an extraordinary teaching and performance space that will be well used by the MRC students and many others in the community.</p> <p>Operational funding will ensure the ability to hire high quality program staff and teachers.</p> <p>Over the last hundred years, the Armory has reverberated with the music of legends. And now, it's only a few short years from being brought back to vibrant life."</p> | Duluth MN |
| Accessible Space Inc | <p>"The availability of fully wheelchair accessible and affordable housing units specifically for seniors is low, and few options exist in Duluth for low-income seniors who are unable to continue to age in place in their current housing, whether single family or rental housing. Morgan Park Senior Apartments will allow seniors to transition to an accessible and affordable housing community that is designed for their specific needs and which will support their ability to remain living in a community based setting vs. being placed into an institutional facility.</p> <p>Affordable</p> <p>100% of the apartments will meet affordable housing standards for low income seniors. The Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) rents will be restricted to households making less than 60% of Annual Median Income (AMI). The City of Duluth Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) provided Project Based Vouchers (PBVs) and HUD Section 202 Project Rental Assistance Contract (PRAC) assisted apartments will target extremely-low and very-low income households with incomes limited to between 30% and 50% of AMI for St. Louis County. Rental assisted units also provide allowance/deductions for elderly status as well as utility allowances to offset resident paid utilities not included in rent, and rent is calculated at 30% of a senior household's adjusted, gross monthly income.</p> <p>On-site Services</p> <p>The HUD Section 202 Capital Advance Program also allows for an on-site, Resident Services Coordinator which offers free information and referral services to all residents. Services include assisting residents with securing home delivered meals, accessing local transit/paratransit and medical transportation services, completing Medicare/Medicaid program applications and/or renewals, completing HUD required annual rent re-certifications, accessing local, state and federal benefits such as food assistance, supplemental assistance, arranging for housekeeping or home care services, etc.</p> <p>Wheelchair Accessible, Independence and Safety</p> <p>Fully wheelchair accessible and adaptable apartments will support independence, safety and allow residents to age in place. Accessible features will meet or exceed Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) and include widened doorways throughout the entire property, roll under counters in kitchens and baths, roll-in or step-in showers, lowered light switches and raised outlets, etc. All residents will also have to free access to a 24-hour emergency call system</p> | Duluth MN |

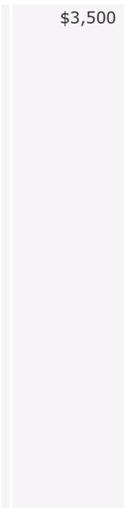


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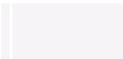
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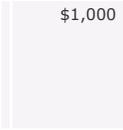


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| | utilizing waterproof and adaptive pendants that can be activated anywhere within the apartment community in the event of a fall or other emergency." | |
| 23rd Veteran | <p>"In 2012, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimated 22 veterans died by suicide each day. 23rd Veteran aims to help those who feel isolated, alone and struggling with the transition to civilian life and close to becoming one of those 22. Many veterans across the country and here in Minnesota are currently in great need as they battle mental health and thoughts of suicide. The U.S Department of Veterans Affairs found in 2019 that the veteran suicide rates in Minnesota were significantly higher than the national general population suicide rate. At that time, the suicide rate for Minnesota veterans was 26.4 compared to 18 for the general population (https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2019/2019-State-Data-Sheet-Minnesota-508.pdf).</p> <p>Although there are other programs that exist for veterans, 23V Recon is designed to help those who are looking for, or needing, a different approach. Unlike other programs, it is long-term, utilizes a book-led structure (The 23V Recon Playbook) and was designed to include civilians. This program leaves a positive lasting impact on not only the veteran participant, but also their family, friends and community. 88% of program graduates found it easier to make friends, 84% found it easier to trust others, 97% are happier and 98% are experiencing a higher quality of life after graduating from 23V Recon. A graduate stated they were better off through participation in the program: "I no longer isolate myself the way I used to. It is much easier for me to get along with others and be friendly towards them. Most people who know me from friends to family to co-workers have noticed a difference in my mood and quality of life. Thank you all very much for your generosity and support as 23rd Veteran has made a huge difference in my physical and mental state of mind and allowed me to connect with a group of great people who I otherwise wouldn't have met.""</p> | Duluth MN |
| Reading Is Fundamental | In MN-2, the need for increased literacy investment and RIF support is evident. Measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 62% of 4th grade students in the state do not read at a proficient level. Throughout RIF's 56-year history, we have worked with a range of organizations to serve the district's families. Through previous federal funding, RIF served nearly 700 kids providing 3,000 free books across 10 sites annually ranging from Head Start-CAP Agency and Red Wing Noontime Kiwanis, to name a few. RIF has been a trusted partner in the community and can quickly activate our network and partners to drive local literacy impact in the district. | Eagan MN |
| Minnesota Autism Center | <p>"MAC is the largest provider of services for children with autism-spectrum disorder (ASD) in Minnesota. We serve an average of 400 children (ages 18 months to 21 years) with ASD annually at 18 centers across Minnesota (Eagan, Eden Prairie, Duluth, Cambridge, Fridley, Hutchinson, Maple Grove, Medford, Minnetonka, Woodbury, Duluth, Mankato, Red Wing, Rochester, and Virginia).</p> <p>In Minnesota, one in 42 children, or 2.3% of all 8-year-olds, have been diagnosed with ASD. Minnesota has the third highest prevalence of ASD in the country. An autism diagnosis can make it difficult for children and families to thrive, and they need therapy and support to ensure life and school readiness. Improved sensory equipment will provide enhanced learning through play, improving life skills and occupational therapy outcomes for children across Minnesota."</p> | Eagan, Eden Prairie, Duluth, Cambridge, Fridley, Hutchinson, Maple Grove, Medford, Minnetonka, Woodbury, Duluth, Mankato, Red Wing, Rochester, and Virginia MN |
| Star Legacy Foundation | "The current proposal will improve the Minnesota Center for Stillbirth and Infant Death's ability to serve bereaved families in low-income and marginalized communities through Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, education for health professionals, outreach to community organizations, utilization of technology, and additional support groups. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives will include training for Star Legacy Foundation staff and volunteers and expansion of current efforts to better reflect DEI principles to address the disparities in fetal and infant death. Education for health professionals will include a robust menu of continuing education offerings in-person and online for physicians, nurses, midwives, social workers, mental health therapists, child life specialists, spiritual care, and doulas. Outreach efforts will build on the network of organizations who work with Minnesota families with emphasis on those that serve racial and ethnic-specific populations, low-income communities, LGBTQ+ families, rural areas and individuals with impaired accessibility. Technology innovations will utilize devices to improve communication with families, increase accessibility of the program, minimize stigma and barriers to participation, and connect families with peer support. Additional support groups have been requested for LGBTQ+ individuals, genetic/anatomic abnormalities resulting in elective termination, and culture-specific communities." | Eden Prairie MN |
| Apple Tree Dental | <p>"Access to regular dental care through IV sedation services provides a pathway for people who otherwise have barriers to receiving care. Dental care is often overlooked as essential to health, health equity, and successful lives. Without access to care, many people suffer from chronic pain and infection, often only finding relief by going to the emergency room. Unfortunately, this last resort option typically means going to an emergency room, being given antibiotics and narcotics, and then still being told to make a dental appointment beyond the emergency room visit.</p> <p>To solve HRSA designated dental health professional shortages in Southern Minnesota, Apple Tree's goal is to attract and retain dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants. This project will produce new career opportunities for teams trained to serve growing geriatric and special needs populations.</p> <p>Studies show that rural communities, like Martin and Watonwan Counties, will continue to have growing populations of older adults, including many adults who are now living longer with complex medical, behavioral, and dental conditions. A large number of these residents are not able to find transportation or are not able to travel to a clinic for care, which makes providing care using sedation services more important than ever.</p> <p>This project will bring sedation dental services to thousands of vulnerable Southern Minnesota residents in the Fairmont and Madelia areas. Having sedation trained dental team members and access to a general anesthesia team will reduce travel and improve the timeliness and quality of care for patients with special needs who are often not able to access dental care without sedation. It will also facilitate geriatric and special care dentistry services, inter-professional collaboration including specialty consultation, and ultimately improved health outcomes.</p> <p>Using processes such as integrating medical and dental clinics, Apple Tree serves as a model for future innovations. We are an incubator for the development of new programs and services, new educational opportunities, and new funding models for serving people with dental access needs across Southern Minnesota.</p> <p>This critically needed funding will help create sufficient capacity for Apple Tree to be able to hire additional new Southern Minnesota dental team members, to operate out of our new Fairmont Center and our current Madelia Center. Our proven process is designed to provide a supportive and innovative work environment that helps attract and retain staff.</p> <p>Nursing facilities, group homes, and other sites will benefit from these additional sedation services. Their residents and clients will experience improved oral health, overall health, and wellbeing. This is both a workforce development project and a quality of life issue."</p> | Fairmont MN |
| Apple Tree Dental | <p>"Access to regular dental care through teledentistry provides a pathway for people who have barriers to receiving care. Dental care is often overlooked as essential to health, health equity, and successful lives. Without access to care, many people suffer from chronic pain and infection, often only finding relief by going to the emergency room. Unfortunately, this last resort option typically means going to an emergency room, being given antibiotics and narcotics, and then still being told to make a dental appointment beyond the emergency room visit.</p> <p>Studies show that rural communities, like Martin and Watonwan Counties, will continue to have growing populations of older adults, including many adults who are now living longer with complex medical, behavioral, and dental conditions. A large number of these residents are not able to find transportation or are not able to travel to a clinic for care, which makes providing care via teledentistry more important than ever.</p> <p>This project will bring dental services to tens of thousands of vulnerable Southern Minnesota residents in the Fairmont and</p> | Fairmont MN |

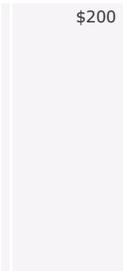


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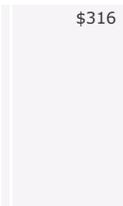
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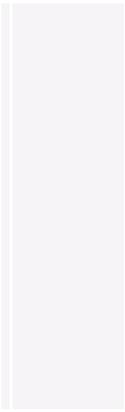
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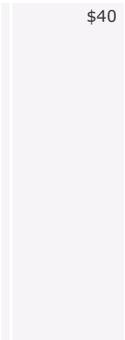


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| | <p>Madelia areas, which are HRSA designated underserved areas for dental care.</p> <p>Telehealth and IT enhancements will reduce travel and improve the timeliness and quality of care, facilitate geriatric and special care dentistry services, inter-professional collaboration including specialty consultation, and ultimately improved health outcomes.</p> <p>Using processes such as integrating medical and dental clinics, Apple Tree serves as a model for future innovations. We are an incubator for the development of new programs and services, new educational opportunities, and new funding models for serving people with dental access needs across Southern Minnesota. We have collaborative agreements with 150 other community organizations ranging from Head Start Centers to group homes, to behavioral health facilities, to long-term care facilities.</p> <p>This critically needed funding will help create sufficient capacity for Apple Tree to be able to hire additional new Southern Minnesota dental team members, to operate out of our new Fairmont Center and our current Madelia Center. Our proven process is designed to provide a supportive and innovative work environment that helps attract and retain staff.</p> <p>Funding of \$316,000 will support the purchase of two complete Apple Tree Mobile Dental Offices (\$220,000), 12 digital x-ray sensors (\$79,800), and six high resolution intra-oral cameras (\$16,200) to provide teledentistry services to thousands of underserved children, adults, elders, and people with special needs throughout the region.</p> <p>Nursing facilities, group homes, and other sites will benefit from teledentistry services. Their residents and clients will experience improved oral health, overall health, and wellbeing. This is both a workforce development project and a quality of life issue."</p> | |
| West Side Community Health Services | <p>"The project will create deeper roots in the community and positively impact patients served.</p> <p>Accessibility & Equity: MCC's purchase of the clinic will contribute to the creation of a local, one-stop shop of holistic care for residents. By expanding and enhancing services offered onsite, we hope to promote better integration of medical and other services necessary for patient wellbeing.</p> <p>Community Driven: Long-term plans/partnerships for the building will be informed by community listening sessions as part of MCC's triennial Community Health Needs & Assets Assessment (currently being conducted for 2022). In the spring/summer, we will hold a focus group of Farmington community members to capture feedback on health care needs, challenges, opportunities, and more.</p> <p>Job Retention & Creation: The Farmington Clinic currently employs 11 staff and is growing.</p> <p>Community Investment & Collaboration: The site expansion will provide Farmington and surrounding communities—a near-rural area with underserved populations— additional local resources and a much-needed addition to the MCC health care system.</p> <p>As mentioned in the need statement, access to care in near rural/rural communities is limited for households with lower incomes. Most patients served by MCC in Farmington thus far have been individuals of color, and 67% of them uninsured. According to 2020 Census data, the Farmington community race/ethnicity demographics are 80% White, 5% Hispanic/Latino, 5% Multiracial, 4% Black, 4% Asian, and 2% Other. The census also reports about 12% of the city's population is below 200% of the federal poverty level."</p> | Farmington MN |
| Apple Tree Dental | <p>"Rural communities, like Otter Tail County, will continue to have growing populations of older adults, including many adults who are now living longer with complex medical, behavioral, and dental conditions. A large number of these residents are not able to find transportation or are not able to travel to a clinic for care, which making telehealth more important than ever.</p> <p>This critically needed funding will help create sufficient capacity for the Fergus Falls Center's dental team to provide essential, and comprehensive, on-site oral health care for children, families, elders, and people with special needs. Our proven process is designed to provide a supportive and innovative work environment that helps attract and retain staff.</p> <p>In Fergus Falls, we collaborated with Minnesota's Department of Human Services to design a "clinic within a clinic" for their Special Care Dentistry Clinic, sharing costly infrastructure, dental equipment, and other resources in the combined clinic, which will support the residency program.</p> <p>Apple Tree views the unique collaboration of this program with the Minnesota Department of Human Services as a model for future public/nonprofit partnership. We are an incubator for the development of new programs and services, new educational opportunities, and new funding models for serving people with dental access needs in West Central Minnesota.</p> <p>This project with extend the reach of this regional center for geriatric and special care dentistry, which is a HRSA designed underserved area for dental care. "</p> | Fergus Falls MN |
| Apple Tree Dental | <p>"Rural communities, like Otter Tail County, will continue to have growing populations of older adults, including many adults who are now living longer with complex medical, behavioral, and dental conditions. A large number of these residents are not able to find transportation or are not able to travel to a clinic for care, which making additional dental staff more important than ever.</p> <p>This federal funding will provide the final support needed to launch Minnesota's first rural dental residency program. Having two residents begin their advanced training in West Central Minnesota beginning in 2023 will extend the reach of the regional Fergus Falls Center, which is a HRSA designed underserved area for dental care, for thousands of geriatric and special care patients.</p> <p>Despite longstanding challenges to lure health care professionals to rural Minnesota, we've been very successful recruiting dental professionals to staff our rural Centers for Dental Health. We've also completed detailed plans and budgets for each of the projects for which we are seeking funding - they are "shovel ready."</p> <p>With the federal appropriations that have been requested, we are well poised to expand services to tens of thousands of people on our waiting lists. With less than half of the more than a million Minnesotan's enrolled in public programs able to access the dental care prior to the pandemic, the need to expand Critical Access Dental Provider capacity is clear.</p> <p>This is both a workforce development project and a quality of life issue. To recruit new staff, or even be able to retain our current staff, creating a rural residency program will increase the professional dental staff in rural Minnesota.</p> <p>Dental care is often overlooked as essential to health, health equity, and successful lives. Without access to care, many people suffer from chronic pain and infection, often only finding relief by going to the emergency room. Unfortunately, this last resort option typically means going to an emergency room, being given antibiotics and narcotics, and then still being told to make a dental appointment beyond the emergency room visit.</p> <p>This critically needed funding will help create sufficient capacity for the Fergus Falls Center's dental team to provide essential, and comprehensive, oral health care for children, families, elders, and people with special needs. Our proven process is designed to provide a supportive and innovative work environment that helps attract and retain staff.</p> <p>In Fergus Falls, we collaborated with Minnesota's Department of Human Services to design a "clinic within a clinic" for their Special Care Dentistry Clinic, sharing costly infrastructure, dental equipment, and other resources in the combined clinic, which will support the residency program.</p> <p>Apple Tree views the unique collaboration of this program with the Minnesota Department of Human Services as a model for future public/nonprofit partnership. We are an incubator for the development of new programs and services, new educational opportunities, and new funding models for serving people with dental access needs in West Central Minnesota."</p> | Fergus Falls MN |



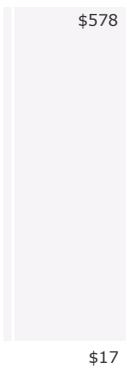
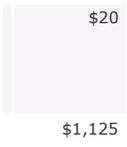
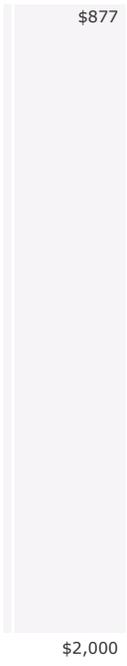
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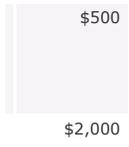
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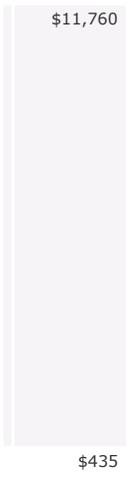
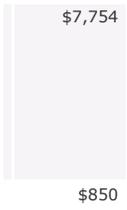
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| Apple Tree Dental | <p>"Rural communities, like Otter Tail County, will continue to have growing populations of older adults, including many adults who are now living longer with complex medical, behavioral, and dental conditions. A large number of these residents are not able to find transportation or are not able to travel to a clinic for care, which makes mobile, on-site care more important than ever.</p> <p>Access to regular dental care through mobile dentistry provides a pathway for people who have barriers to receiving care. Dental care is often overlooked as essential to health, health equity, and successful lives. Without access to care, many people suffer from chronic pain and infection, often only finding relief by going to the emergency room. Unfortunately, this last resort option typically means going to an emergency room, being given antibiotics and narcotics, and then still being told to make a dental appointment beyond the emergency room visit.</p> <p>This project will launch essential mobile dental services in West Central Minnesota with Apple Tree's new state of the art Fergus Falls Center as the hub and care coordination center.</p> <p>This critically needed funding will help create sufficient capacity for the Fergus Falls Center's mobile dental team to provide essential, and comprehensive, on-site oral health care for children, families, elders, and people with special needs. Our proven mobile dental process is designed to provide a supportive and innovative work environment that helps attract and retain staff.</p> <p>In addition, we have collaborative agreements with 150 other community organizations ranging from Head Start Centers to group homes, to behavioral health facilities, to long-term care facilities. In Fergus Falls, we collaborated with Minnesota's Department of Human Services to design a "clinic within a clinic" for their Special Care Dentistry Clinic, sharing costly infrastructure, dental equipment, and other resources in the combined clinic.</p> <p>Apple Tree views the unique collaboration of this program with the Minnesota Department of Human Services as a model for future public/nonprofit partnership. We are an incubator for the development of new programs and services, new educational opportunities, and new funding models for serving people with dental access needs in West Central Minnesota.</p> <p>Funding of \$876,755 will support the purchase of a mobile dental truck, three complete mobile dental offices, and anesthesia equipment to provide mobile dentistry services to thousands of underserved children, adults, elders, and people with special needs throughout the region.</p> <p>Nursing facilities, group homes, and other sites will benefit from on-site services. Their residents and clients will experience improved oral health, overall health, and wellbeing. The project will also support the first rural dental residency program in Minnesota. Leveraging the expertise of this unique Center for geriatric and special care dentistry is essential to meeting the region's needs. This is both a workforce development project and a quality of life issue."</p> | Fergus Falls MN |
| Allina Health | <p>"The Allina Health Specialty Center will provide integrated, robust mental health and addiction care across the continuum of services to individuals from the metro area, with a primary service area of the North Metro where Allina Health is the only hospital-based provider. The community depends on Allina to provide medical, mental health and addiction care. The Specialty Center's integration will provide needed coordinated access to mental health and addiction services, improving outcomes by ensuring patients have timely access to services.</p> <p>Many individuals who have a mental illness or addiction have social determinants of health needs and struggle to navigate this complex system, made worse by geography and limited integration. Addressing these is critical in improving their overall health. The Specialty Center will bring mental health and addiction services and complimentary community resources together to ease the challenges of navigating the complex care and community resource systems.</p> <p>The Allina Health Mental Health and Addiction Specialty Center delivers on the vision of creating a connected and robust continuum of services for community members living with mental illness and addiction. It will accomplish that vision in three ways:</p> <p>Expand current Allina Health mental health and addiction programs to meet existing pent-up demand;</p> <p>Create new Allina Health mental health and addiction services;</p> <p>Partner with community organizations to provide on-site access to additional specialty and community resources.</p> <p>Located on the Unity Campus of Mercy Hospital, the Specialty Center brings Allina Health outpatient mental health and addiction programs scattered across the campuses of Mercy Hospital and its Unity Campus under one roof and provides much needed access to patients seeking mental health and addiction services. This will improve outcomes for patients by ensuring they have timely access to all the services they need to improve their health."</p> | Fridley MN |
| Extreme Youth Development | <p>Extreme Youth Program is a 14 week program which will repeat three times a year, for youth ages 15-18 consisting of a curriculum built around community leaders who will speak on topics such as leadership, character development, coding and technology, fitness, resume building and a motivational speaker. 15 students twice a week will focus one day on a curriculum with a community leader and another day onsite to perform skilled trade work and learn the importance of health and safety, responsibility and quality of work.</p> | Golden Valley MN |
| Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa | <p>The proposed emergency services garage will increase the readiness and effectiveness of our emergency services team. The importance of the Grand Portage Band having our volunteer emergency services is immeasurable. We are the only ambulance within 35 miles of the reservation and the Canadian Border (at the Pigeon River Border Crossing). We often times work with other entities including the United States Border Patrol, Hovland Fire Department and Colville fire. Minnesotans and the community all benefit from emergency services being available whether it is a fire, a health incident or a natural disaster.</p> | Grand Portage MN |
| Itasca Economic Development Corporation | <p>"The public benefit of The Forge is the access it offers to (a) a creative space with state-of-the-art equipment, and (b) thought leaders and experts in innovation where collaboration and coordinated training and education takes place, and (c) equitable and inclusive programming. Our region embraces a growing BIPOC population, including lands of three federally recognized tribal governments, and a large population of people with low incomes and low educational attainment. Historically, BIPOC groups have been excluded from workforce planning efforts, this project has a specific focus on creating support structures for BIPOC communities required for engagement and advancing greater inclusion. Projected outcomes of the increased and new services offered include:</p> <p>Create/retain an average of 307 jobs, 34 new businesses, and overall serve 1,600+ individuals Service numbers increasing by 25% by 2025 Move workers into living wage jobs with wage estimates (2021) based on the industries primarily served, including NAICS 3315 (weekly wage \$1,437), NAICS 332 (weekly \$1,017), and NAICS 321 (weekly \$1,062) representing most retained/created jobs Existing services supported: Lean Start-up and Certification programs, specialized training from NE MN Office of Jobs & Training, access to industry professionals and Innovate 218, consulting for start-ups, and collaboration for entrepreneurs, students, and professionals New Maker Space services: Manufacturing to develop prototypes and welding/manufacturing equipment for training and apprenticeships Populations explicitly served: BIPOC, immigrants, Native American, women in the trades (welding), artisans (glass blowing, pottery, or ceramic), entrepreneurs, innovators, hospitality, artists, startups/ new business, and recent graduates "</p> | Grand Rapids MN |
| Reif Arts Council | <p>"We believe our programs help students in so many facets of their life. From supporting mental health, to filling the void left by recent district cuts to arts in school, we can be the catalyst for engaging arts activities for children of all ages in our region. We also know that financial barriers are often cited as the number one deterrent when students are deciding on what to pursue or not, and we feel that is a barrier we need to eliminate to ensure we are reaching everyone that wants to participate. Sometimes it's as simple as getting students through the door one time. Once they experience all that our programs can provide, they continue to engage and grow and participate—often it's all they need to create new skills and ignite new passions that will follow them through life. That is the power that arts education has, and it's one we have a responsibility to spread.</p> <p>These programs also support our overall organization which allows us to employ 8.5 FTE as well as numerous part-time and contract employees, but that is only a surface scratch... According to the Arts and Economic Prosperity Calculator (provided by Americans for the Arts), our annual expenses coupled with the funds spent here by our annual audiences of 25,000 people translates to an equivalent of 71 full time jobs, local government revenue raised of \$77, 568 per year and annual revenue raised for the state government of \$127,935. That is significant, but we need to get back to that full level</p> | Grand Rapids MN |



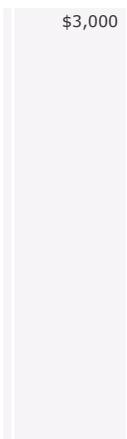
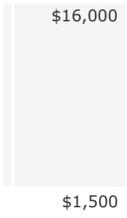
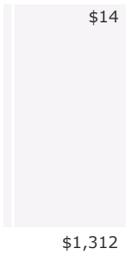
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| | <p>of impact by jumpstarting our education programs now—and that is why this funding is so vital to our efforts and plans in this regard."</p> | |
| Reverence for Life and Concern for People dba Proj | <p>"Project Turnabout is located in rural Minnesota on 12 acres of land and surrounded by beautiful scenery, however this also comes with great challenges. Picture 75,000 square feet of building—on the east and south sides are residential developments, on the west side private hunting and wetlands and on the north side a major actively blasting granite quarry. Traffickers, abusers, drug dealers and drug seekers are able to enter our property from any direction. We are not a prison; we are not a lock-down facility. We strive to provide our patients with a beautiful environment for them to feel respected and cared for, as well as secure and safe. There have been instances of patients who have engaged in trespassing activities, patients who have sustained injury and reports of items and substances being discreetly placed for retrieval by patients.</p> <p>The fact that we accept patients from the entire state coupled with our 24-hour a day admission policy creates a significant amount of non-local traffic through residential areas in-route to our facility. In some cases, patients who are known to be under the influence may elope from the facility either on foot or by vehicle.</p> <p>We are very fortunate to have a great working relationship with the local law enforcement and county Sheriff's department however they are extremely busy with the general population. This system would reduce the number of calls we would have to make to these agencies and assist them when they are required to investigate.</p> <p>Having this security system in place would allow Project Turnabout to be prepared and proactive going forward, reduce the number of calls to local authorities and still provide a very safe and secure atmosphere for our patients."</p> | Granite Falls MN |
| Hennepin Healthcare | <p>"To increase accessibility for patients using primary or specialty clinics and hospital facilities on our multi-block campus and to allow for rapid EMS response time given heightened demands, a permanent expansion of an existing parking ramp structure with a focus on ambulance charging stations, controlled storage, and parking spaces is critically needed. With extensive camera coverage, digital wayfinding communications, and enhanced lobby space, this expansion supports both the growing needs of EMS and improves safety for patients seeking care and hospital visitors.</p> <p>Pre-hospital care provided by EMS and the life-saving equipment available in an ambulance have considerable influence in patient outcomes and the ability for EMS to respond to the next medical emergency.</p> <p>For housing insecure patients, winter in Minnesota provides amplified risk for frostbite and Hennepin Healthcare is the first hospital in the state to implement this advanced technology in an acute setting, which allows for early detection of when to utilize clot-busting medications.</p> <p>Collaboration between departments such as Population Health, Health Equity, and Emergency Medical Services allow teams to identify current gaps in care that can be addressed through enhanced process and equipment. Our health system partners with our patients to create community-oriented solutions to address these gaps. The requested equipment will allow Hennepin Healthcare to leverage technology to increase equitable health outcomes for all patients seeking emergency care throughout the community."</p> | Hennepin County MN |
| Minnesota Mental Health Community Foundation | <p>Fast-Tracker is a virtual community and health care connection resource that connects individuals, families, mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers, assessors, health care providers, and others with a real-time, searchable directory of mental health and substance use disorder resources and their availability within Minnesota. This project would help raise awareness to this resource and support work to engage youth leaders, schools, family and community groups, to inform, connect, and empower individuals to manage their mental health using this online tool.</p> | Hennepin County MN |
| Minnesota North College | <p>"This project will integrate several disciplines within a recently merged college to further engage higher education in a regional approach to programming. This project will also support local EV battery manufacturer, DMR, as they work to expand their current facility. This project will bring regional awareness to new EV technology and will align with the AV pilot program in Grand Rapids. This program, led by May Mobility, delivers on-demand shuttle services to people that are underserved by public transportation, including individuals that often do not have access to transportation in rural spaces. We have been in conversation with The Plum Catalyst, a consulting firm working with May Mobility, regarding community expansion of their shuttle service to the central Iron Range area. This would bring awareness for EV/AV/CV technology more broadly across the region and generate buy-in for additional related businesses to develop here. We would deploy community charging stations and incorporate renewable educational opportunities and community and K-12 workshops related to the benefits of EV and solar.</p> <p>Curriculum development--with ultimate certification of graduates that can then service the newly burgeoning EV/AV/CV market-- will position the region well to serve a new automotive and transportation industry. We have program advisory board members that have been seeking EV/AV/CV developments in anticipation of the imminent need for these skills.</p> <p>Several project partnerships already exist, and this work will serve to capitalize on the EV/AV/CV regional momentum driven by several disparate businesses and projects in our region, including the DMR facility expansion, support and expansion of the May Mobility AV research pilot in the City of Grand Rapids, Minnesota North College programming, and future business development."</p> | Hibbing MN |
| Southwest Initiative Foundation | <p>"The primary purpose is to decrease and stop the population decline, workforce shortage, and outmigration of students seeking technical education necessary to fill critically-needed careers in the region. Southwest Minnesota may be rural, but we are a significant part of Minnesota's economy. According to the Minnesota Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS), statewide, of the Minnesota graduating class of 2020 that enrolled in college, 18% enrolled in colleges out-of-state. In our Southwest Economic Development Area in the same year, 28% of the students enrolled in colleges out-of-state. That is 10 percentage points higher! The recruitment efforts in our neighboring states are working, and we need to implement strategies in order to maintain our future pipeline of workers. We have already seen employers decide to open new locations or move their businesses to South Dakota in part due to this labor shortage. This is absolutely a key barrier and impediment for business retention, investment, expansion, and succession.</p> <p>It is imperative that, as a state, we invest in our future workforce, providing them with opportunities to gain the skills needed to fill the occupations that are in demand. These include many technical degrees in healthcare such as nursing/LPN, medical assistants, and lab technicians, as well as auto and diesel mechanics, machinery maintenance, construction trades, HVAC, and machinists, just to name a few. It also includes the ability to help with shorter term credentials such as Certified Nursing Assistants and tractor-trailer truck drivers. "</p> | Hutchinson MN |
| Restoration for All Inc. | <p>"The purpose of the FUSON Project is to fill an ethnic niche among girls of African Ancestry by combating the various barriers that they face in STEM education and careers, achieve economic inclusion as well as gain economic self-sufficiency by leveraging ethnic entrepreneurship and using culturally appropriate strategies.</p> <p>In an increasingly competitive and global economy, the factors that create real barriers to women/girls' participation in fields that are nontraditional for their gender cannot be ignored. STEM skills play an increasingly important role in the 21st Century economy. However, significant opportunity gaps exist in STEM education and careers for women, especially for women and girls of African Ancestry. Refugees and African Immigrant girls/women remain underrepresented in Nontraditional Occupations for Women in Minnesota. Ensuring that more girls are aware of and supported in STEM education and careers is critical not only for achieving economic equity for girls and their families in Minnesota but also for building a competitive workforce. To adequately open training and career pathways to girls of African Ancestry in STEM, STEM education and career must be more engaging and inclusive by increasing access to STEM learning and role models for them while addressing implicit biases and stereotypes. Similarly, girls of African Ancestry have difficulty in building economic success due to a lack of economic opportunities and not being self-sufficient, REFA found that they need help by looking at their ethnic capitalism referred to as "ethnic entrepreneurship" to fill an ethnic niche. The greatest need for most of them is not capital but training and technical assistance because already they have significant barriers to achieving better educational outcomes, economic inclusion made worse by the disparate economic impacts of COVID-19 due to job loss, reduced work hours, as well as difficulties accessing financial services including social safety nets."</p> | Inver Grove Heights MN |



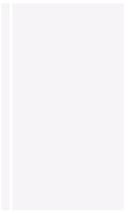
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| City of Lambertson, MN | <p>"This project is important to the State of Minnesota's efforts to care for our aging population while allowing them to remain in a rural setting. Assisted living facilities answer the issues raised by MN DHS and the MN Board on Aging concerns on social isolation. Moving aging residents out of their homes will open starter homes for families and workforce-aged residents.</p> <p>Residents of Lambertson will benefit from resident retention, job creation, and an overall increase in community satisfaction and unity. Keeping aging residents in the community keeps families connected, increase visits and interaction while retaining money in the community. By allowing seniors to move out of homes locally, freeing and opening of starter and workforce housing will draw in residents."</p> | Lamberton MN |
| Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe | <p>"The following statement from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration helps explain the purpose and need for the renovation of the Ahnji-Be-Mah-Diz Recovery Center: SAMHSA "recognizes that tribal communities face behavioral health challenges and disparities.... [W]hile there is general awareness that Native Americans experience higher rates of alcohol and substance use, the scope of these behavioral health problems is not fully understood. Native communities face service delivery issues that are complicated by personnel shortages, limited health care resources, and distances to obtain services." https://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/offices/hrsa-ia/tribal-affairs</p> <p>Ten percent of all chemically dependent treatment placements in Minnesota are for American Indians—despite the fact that American Indians represent only 2 percent of the Minnesota population. For the first Quarter of this year, the ARC assessment office did 139 Rule 25 chemical assessments. Out of those 75 were placed into treatment services. Forty-six (46) of those were off reservation facilities.</p> <p>The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is striving to meet the substance recovery and counseling needs of our citizens on the Leech Lake Reservation at the Ahnji-Be-Mah-Diz Recovery Center (ARC). The requested funding would finalize renovations for ARC and help it become a safe and secure Residential treatment for all residents of the Leech Lake Reservation and our neighbors.</p> <p>Our vision is to provide an inpatient treatment center on the Leech Lake Reservation for our relatives, both men and women, that struggle with substance use disorders. Once renovations are completed, the ARC will provide the opportunity for our loved ones to heal at home, providing them with a chance to save their life and create a better one to live. The days of sending our pregnant mothers, young fathers, abused daughters, traumatized sons, forgotten parents, and shamed grandparents to distant treatment centers are in the past. We want Ahnji-Be-Mah-Diz Recovery Center to resonate with safety, security, love, purpose, compassion, empathy, hope, and traditional ways. A fully renovated center would ensure all these traits for our Ahnji-Be-Mah-Dz Recovery Center. Our recovery center has the opportunity to be a beacon of light for all residents of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation. A place where our relatives can come to get well. The intergenerational trauma of our past is still evident in the generations today, but with a positive environment to heal, our people have a chance to break the cycle. "</p> | Leech Lake Indian Reservation MN |
| Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest Tr | <p>"The total number of students served by the FTI Upper Midwest is 2,800, who work for 87 employers signatory with our partner labor organization, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) District Council 82. With 47 percent of our apprentices being female and/or BIPOC, we believe underserved populations will have increased access to critical mental health services free from financial barriers.</p> <p>Further, providing access to these services will allow more underserved populations of workers to attend training, classes, and become certified to fill the increasing demand for jobs in the trades in Minnesota, boosting our workforce and economy.</p> <p>Mental illness and suicide are invisible crises in the construction industry that are deadlier than all other workplace accidents from the OSHA 'Construction Focus Four' (Fall Hazards, Caught-In or -Between Hazards, Struck-By, and Electrocutation Hazards). There are a few important points to highlight when looking at this crisis:</p> <p>The construction industry has the highest rate of suicide per 100,000 workers of any industry - 3.5 times greater rate of suicide than other professions 53 out of every 100,000 workers complete suicide annually There are 5,500 employee suicides in the U.S annually, 15 dying daily of suicide More construction workers die by suicide each year than all other construction-related fatalities</p> <p>Many contributing factors create this increased risk:</p> <p>Physical and mental demands of the job and type of work Jobsite stressors include worker conflicts, bullying, unrealistic work deadlines, etc. Overtime, shift work, night work lead to fatigue and poor sleep patterns/sleep deprivation Remote/out-of-town work – isolation from family, friends, and the community Seasonal layoffs & economic downturn job loss create financial burdens Injuries resulting in chronic pain Medical diagnosis with uncertain outcomes and significant financial burden Increase in self-medication with illicit drugs and alcohol to cope both physically as well as mentally "</p> | Little Canada MN |
| Apple Tree Dental | <p>"Central Minnesota has one of the worst access to oral health issues in the state. Our Little Falls Center has the highest level of patients on Medical Assistance of all eight of our Centers. Our capacity to expand services will be contingent upon being able to attract and retain dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants to solve long standing dental health professional shortages in the region.</p> <p>Studies indicate that rural communities, like Morrison County, will continue to have growing populations of older adults, including many adults who are now living longer with complex medical, behavioral, and dental conditions.</p> <p>Accessing dental care is an essential need for residents of Morrison County, therefore we work closely with the Morrison County Public Health Department. They are anxious for Apple Tree to expand care so the residents of their county can maintain a higher level of overall health.</p> <p>Apple Tree Dental Centers, including the Little Falls Center for Dental Health, serve as welcoming dental homes for patients of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities throughout the state. No one ages or earns out of the comprehensive, high quality, patient-centered care our teams provide, but our waiting lists are long and continue to grow.</p> <p>The Little Falls Center serves Medicaid and low-income groups, including geriatric and special needs patients, and hosts educational rotations for health professional students from Central Lakes College. This funding will help establish a joint IV sedation and general anesthesia program for geriatric and special needs dental patients with St. Gabriel's Hospital.</p> <p>This workforce development appropriation funding is essential to help us achieve our rural workforce development goal in Central Minnesota, which is to attract and retain dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants to solve long standing dental health professional shortages in the region.</p> <p>The Little Falls Center hosts numerous clinical training for students in the dental professions, specifically dental assistant student rotations in partnership with Central Lakes College. Being a medical/dental integration project, it is also providing new opportunities to improve access to earlier dental care prevention and improve overall healthcare outcomes for St. Gabriel's medical patients.</p> <p>Apple Tree views the unique collaboration of this program with a primary care hospital as a model for future medical/dental integration and health information exchange projects. We are an incubator for the development of new programs and services, new educational opportunities, and new funding models for serving people with dental access needs in Central Minnesota.</p> <p>This project addresses both workforce development for Central Minnesota and quality of life for its residents. This critically needed funding will help create sufficient capacity for the Little Falls Center's dental team to address changing oral health needs for children, families, elders, and people with special needs. And it is designed to provide a supportive and innovative work environment that helps attract and retain staff."</p> | Little Falls MN |



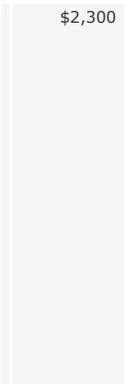
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| Morrison County United Way | <p>"Research shows the first years of life are a period of rapid brain development and skills acquisition for young children. Experiences in these early years establish the foundation for a child's capacity to learn and thrive when they reach school. In turn, a child's readiness for school establishes a pathway to later academic achievement. Distal effects associated with early childhood development have been identified in adulthood, engagement in risky health behavior, and patterns of employment and homeownership.</p> <p>Being prepared to learn once entering school can make a difference not only for the child in need but also the full family, teacher and community. When a child is not prepared to learn by not having the proper tools this can be an additional stressor for the teacher and they have expressed how appreciative they are to have this program in our area.</p> <p>Our education program which consists of the Imagination Library and Tools for School projects have been designed based on community input and were created to meet an unfilled need."</p> | Little Falls MN |
| Apple Tree Dental | <p>"Central Minnesota has one of the worst access to oral health issues in the state. As mentioned, our Little Falls Center has the highest level of patients on Medical Assistance of all eight of our Centers. Our capacity to expand dental services in Central Minnesota will continue to be limited until we are able to build out the new Little Falls Center.</p> <p>Studies indicate that rural communities, like Morrison County, will continue to have growing populations of older adults, including many adults who are now living longer with complex medical, behavioral, and dental conditions.</p> <p>Accessing dental care is an essential need for residents of Morrison County, therefore we work closely with the Morrison County Public Health Department. They are anxious for Apple Tree to expand care so the residents of their county can maintain a higher level of overall health.</p> <p>Apple Tree Dental Centers, including the Little Falls Center for Dental Health, serve as welcoming dental homes for patients of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities throughout the state. No one ages or earns out of the comprehensive, high quality, patient-centered care our teams provide, but our waiting lists are long and continue to grow.</p> <p>Today, our dental team is operating with mobile dental equipment "borrowed" from another of our Dental Centers. For more than five years, the team has provided tens of thousands of patient visits using this mobile equipment within a refurbished, former dialysis clinic, with curtains instead of walls to separate patients, both during treatments and while waiting for care. This has been the situation for that length of time due to lack of funding. The mobile dental equipment, which was not created for ongoing daily use, is wearing out. The facility is not optimal for patient care, for providing a good patient-centered experience, or for a satisfying working environment.</p> <p>The Little Falls Center hosts numerous clinical training for students in the dental professions, specifically dental assistant student rotations in partnership with Central Lakes College. Being a medical/dental integration project, it is also providing new opportunities to improve access to earlier dental care prevention and improve overall healthcare outcomes for St. Gabriel's medical patients.</p> <p>Apple Tree views the unique collaboration of this program with a primary care hospital as a model for future medical/dental integration and health information exchange projects. We are an incubator for the development of new programs and services, new educational opportunities, and new funding models for serving people with dental access needs in Central Minnesota.</p> <p>This project addresses both workforce development for Central Minnesota and quality of life for its residents. To recruit new staff, or even be able to retain our current staff, we must build the new Center. This critically needed funding will help create sufficient capacity for the Little Falls Center's dental team to address changing oral health needs for children, families, elders, and people with special needs. And it is designed to provide a supportive and innovative work environment that helps attract and retain staff."</p> | Little Falls MN |
| City of Mahnomen/Mahnomen Health Center | <p>Rural Minnesota is critical to Minnesota. The White Earth Indian Reservation and Mahnomen County are important because they are a source for safe food, affordable energy, clean drinking water and accessible outdoor recreation for urban citizens as well as rural citizens. In addition to the normal healthcare needs, MHC needs to be here to combat substance abuse. Substance abuse is out of control and is just as common in rural areas as in cities, but rates among certain groups like teenagers and the unemployed, are higher. Mahnomen County is the poorest county in Minnesota and has high poverty. This all leads to a challenging healthcare delivery system. A more state of the art healthcare system would allow for a greater number of community members to obtain their healthcare locally, as many residents cannot afford to go elsewhere for care due to transportation issues, public funding shortfalls and high costs. A new facility would also help recruit professionals to rural area, and issue that impacts health care services on a daily basis.</p> | Mahnomen MN |
| Minnesota State University, Mankato | <p>"The purpose or mission of the Center for Rural Behavioral Health (CRBH) is to improve access to behavioral healthcare for residents in outstate Minnesota to include recognized Reservations through research, workforce development, continuing education and customized training. Within the purpose of increasing access, a focus of the CRBH is on ensuring access to a culturally representative behavioral health workforce is in place. Over 90% of the mental health professionals in Minnesota are white (MN Dept. of Health), which isn't reflective of the Minnesotans needing mental health supports. With over half of the current behavioral health workforce set to retire in the next 10 years, it is imperative that a focused plan for developing the next generation of mental health professionals is in place. Through research and workforce development the CRBH intends to increase the number of students interested in behavioral health careers to ensure the pipeline of professionals can match and exceed those leaving the field. Additionally, the CRBH will focus on providing support through customized training and continuing education for those professionals who currently practice in outstate Minnesota. Bottom line, we need to develop more mental health professionals while sustaining and retaining those who are already trained.</p> <p>The importance of having a robust mental healthcare system in place cannot be understated. Minnesotans are hurting. Minnesotans are dying. The psychological consequences of COVID-19 will far outlast the physical ones. These issues won't resolve themselves. We are finally breaking through the stigma associated with mental health and talking about it. However, if we encourage people that it's ok to get help, we have to be sure help is accessible no matter where they call home. While the Center's physical location is in southern Minnesota, the impact of its work will reach all four corners and every county in the state. Beyond Minnesota, the goal of the CRBH is to develop a program that can be replicated in every state."</p> | Mankato MN |
| Minnesota State University, Mankato | <p>"In late 2020, Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU) partnered with Region 9 Development Commission to conduct a market analysis to identify changes associated with industry clusters, employment, demographics, and socioeconomic changes across Minnesota, and to evaluate opportunities for the establishment of a polytechnic institute. The study revealed several shifts and changes within local markets and across the state, including growing industry clusters in health care, social services, trades, medical device manufacturing, and construction.</p> <p>Based on the study, MSU determined a partnership with Saint Paul College would provide benefits to the local community through the continuation of educational advancement and innovation in the local economy through collaborations and by nimble responding to local industrial and community needs to create deliberate results for growth and development. The partnership would also increase educational accessibility, student success, and affordable, quality STEM education, while engaging and serving the community through learning projects and engagement with industry professionals. The industry connections will provide graduates with a robust network of professionals within their community and within their area of professional focus that encourages students to develop the technical and professional skills necessary to lead successful and rewarding careers in their communities after graduation.</p> <p>Launching MinnPoly with this partnership model (community college, university, industry, and community) benefits the local community by increasing economic development and social-emotional wellbeing by creating long-term local community and professional support networks, providing solutions and opportunities to increase social mobility, narrow the opportunity gap, and increase the responsiveness to workforce development, upskilling, and research and development.</p> <p>MinnPoly will expand upon MSU, Mankato's Iron Range Engineering/Bell program offered in partnership with Minnesota North, described by an MIT/Olin study as a top 5 emerging world leader in engineering education, that partners with community colleges to deliver a 2+2 engineering degree using industry-sponsored projects instead of traditional classroom learning. Recently, we launched a variation on that program in which students complete a one-semester academy followed by two years in the field working on engineering projects (and earning income) while having their competencies</p> | Mankato MN |



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| | <p>vetted against accreditation outcomes.</p> <p>Such models provide new ways to partner with and break down the artificial barrier between, industry and academia while widening the STEM pipeline to serve the workforce needs of the state and support social mobility. MinnPoly seeks to scale these innovative models to a broader range of polytechnic disciplines, including cybersecurity, data science, medical device technology, automation, controls, process engineering, engineering management, and other high need disciplines for the region. MinnPoly will be housed at St. Paul College and will initially launch with a partnership on that campus to offer a 2+2 engineering program that serves non-traditional students as it seeks to close the opportunity gap.</p> <p>MinnPoly will expand to serve the entire state through its partnership network and serve as a national model for workforce development, high-impact student-focused pedagogy, faculty training, and social mobility."</p> | |
| Minnesota Center for Rural Policy & Development | <p>"It is well known that one of the main underlying barriers for rural EMS to take the next step from being a transportation service to a healthcare provider is the broken financial model on which they rely. It's expected that these agencies be prepared and ready to serve 24/7 yet rely on the income earned for services provided. In our rural areas, the call volumes are too low, forcing many to be completely reliant on volunteers to manage and staff the operations. 63% of agencies outside of the seven-county metro feel that it's always difficult to recruit new staff or volunteers. As Minnesota begins serious discussion on how to support these agencies so that they can better serve their communities, CRPD proposes conducting research to help outline some primary topics for policy creation and implementation.</p> <p>There are significant disparities in the response time and services provided between rural and metro EMS. Only 27% of agencies outside of the seven-county metro offer advanced life support. This also mirrors very different situations in which EMS agencies are dealing. Rural EMS typically have larger geographic areas to cover, rely more on volunteers, have less revenue to purchase equipment and pay staff, and more likely to offer basic life support rather than advanced life support services. Only 27% of agencies outside of the seven-county metro offer advanced life support. And this is only concentrated in the service areas that serve more than 10,000 people.</p> <p>As Minnesota begins conversations around creating formal performance metrics, what should the expectations be for EMS services provided in a rural area? How might performance metrics be applied to different geographic areas and situations so as not to penalize but rather inform and identify areas needing support?</p> <p>In our analysis of the MN Department of Health 2016 Rural EMS Sustainability Survey, we found that some of the most severe challenges in staff/volunteer recruitment and retention was not in our smallest agencies, but rather moderate sized. For example, when asked to choose what barriers they felt existed in recruiting new volunteers, the options "lack of available time for volunteers", "inadequate pay", and "too much time commitment" had significantly higher percentage of agencies from populations between 2,500 - 10,000 compare to our smallest agencies (serving less than 2,500).</p> <p>What this points out is that it's not necessarily our smallest and most rural EMS agencies that are having the hardest time. But rather, the intersection of policies, financial structure, and call volume make it so that volunteer recruitment and retention are significantly harder. Essentially, the call volumes are high enough to keep people from wanting to volunteer because it's too much time but the call volumes are not high enough to provide revenues so that the agency can hire full-time staff. Identifying this threshold could help policy-makers build a support model that doesn't necessarily just rely on how small or rural an agency is but rather where the most need is.</p> <p>"</p> | Mankato MN |
| Minnesota State University, Mankato | <p>"MNSU is in the middle of the Ag industry and positioned well to take the major step of establishing a new school of agriculture. Much thought and initial design has gone into establishing a structure for the new school that will be interdisciplinary, economically feasible, and increase the image of the university while enhancing the food and Ag industry in the region.</p> <p>Minnesota is a leader in agriculture with about 1 in every 10 jobs across the state in the industry. Minnesota ranks fifth nationwide in total value of crops and is in the top ten in more than 20 agricultural commodities. Some of the nation and world's largest agricultural and food companies have their headquarters in Minnesota. Blue Earth County had over \$1 billion in value-added contributions from agriculture placing it in the top 5 counties. A USDA report shows strong job demand for new college graduates with degrees in agricultural programs with approximately 59,400 job opportunities annually between 2020 and 2025. This reflects growth from the previous five years. The report shows employer demand will exceed the supply of available graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher in agriculture-related fields. Plus, the USDA report was completed just prior to the pandemic which produced a more dire need for employees.</p> <p>MNSU recently launched two Ag-specific majors and has nine undergraduate-related majors, a master's program, four certificate degrees, more than 50 courses, four labs, and co-curricular programs. By creating a School of Food and Ag, all will come together for more synergy and recognition to attract students into the field and gain support from industry.</p> <p>MNSU is the second largest state university in Minnesota, only behind the designated land-grant institution, the University of Minnesota. The strengths and abilities of MNSU poise the university to be successful in the creation of a School of Food and Ag for the region, state, and country."</p> | Mankato MN |
| Greater Minnesota Children's Museums Coalition | <p>"The need for outside-of-the-classroom experiences has grown while resources and capacity for educators to provide these opportunities have decreased. Children's Museums have always been a highly educational, affordable option for classroom teachers and Minnesota schools benefit from having Children's Museums located accessibly throughout the state. However, bussing costs have increasingly become a barrier, particularly for rural schools, which are among Minnesota's least resourced and often have 50% or above free-and-reduced lunch rates.</p> <p>The pandemic not only put field trips on hold but continues to have overall lasting negative consequences on education outcomes and equity. The US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights has stated that "Emerging evidence shows that the pandemic has negatively affected academic growth, widening pre-existing disparities. In core subjects like math and reading, there are worrisome signs that in some grades students might be falling even further behind pre-pandemic expectations." At the same time, school districts are struggling with uncertain budgets and logistical challenges, while staffing shortages strain capacity to address students' most pressing learning needs.</p> <p>Greater Minnesota's Children's Museums are prepared to supplement classroom learning with Minnesota Academic Standards-based playful learning, STEM education, and opportunities to experience arts and culture, bridging a major gap for Minnesota schools."</p> | Mankato, St. Cloud, Grand Rapids, Fergus Falls, Brainerd, Duluth, and Rochester MN |
| North Memorial Health | <p>"Demand at the MGH Emergency is at unprecedented levels. Wait times are high and as patients tend to arrive primarily in the late afternoon and early evening, crowding is exacerbated and throughput is challenged. The purpose of this project is to alleviate current demand and position the facility to serve the community better into the future."</p> | Maple Grove MN |
| The CADE Foundation/Holland Center | <p>"The CADE Foundation/Holland Center is a Minnesota autism center and a day program for treatment of children with autism. The CADE Foundation/Holland Center offers intensive behavior therapy to children ages 18 month through 18 years old diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.</p> <p>Children with autism receive one-to-one instruction based on the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and B. F. Skinner's analysis of verbal behavior. ABA services include assessment to determine a learner's present level of performance, the determination of appropriate goals and objectives based on those assessments, and instruction utilizing the research-based methods of ABA and verbal behavior found to be effective at improving the symptoms of autism. Goals and objectives address communication, social skills, play skills, cooperation, safety skills, daily living skills, vocational skills, and classroom readiness skills. Instruction utilizes effective data recording methods and programming decisions are guided by learner's performance. All therapy is supervised by a team of Board Certified Behavior Analysts "</p> | Mendota Heights MN |

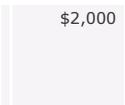


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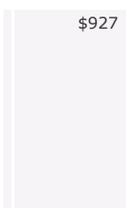
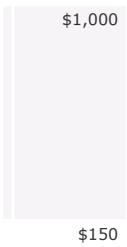
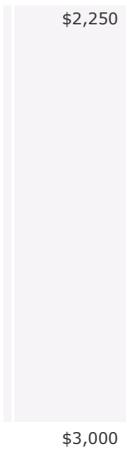
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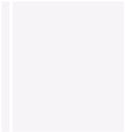
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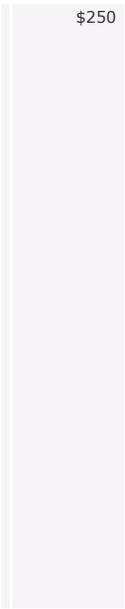
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| Indian Health Board of Minneapolis, Inc. | <p>"The need for enhanced, culturally sensitive, health services for our community members are driven by the data:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The American Indian community in Minnesota has been disproportionately affected by the recent opioid epidemic. Since 2000, Minnesota Department of Human data reflects an increase in treatment admissions of 1,016% for illicit diverted pharmaceutical opioids and 3,729% for heroin in American Indians living in Minnesota. Respectively, this is 1.6 times and 7.4 times greater than rates experience by non-American Indians. 2) Data from the American Community Survey - Minneapolis (American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2012-2016) shows American Indians (17.9%) are 1.4 times more likely to be uninsured compared to the general population of Minneapolis (12.5%). 3) 14.3% of IHB's service area population report having diabetes, which is the 4th leading cause of mortality in the service area. 4) In all Urban Indian Health Organization (UIHO) service areas 15.0% of AI/ANs report rarely or never receive emotional and social support, compared with 9.2% of the general population. 5) Yet, in IHB's service area, American Indians are nearly three times more likely to report having frequent mental distress compared to the general population. 6) While 70% of Native people live in urban centers, UIOs get less than 1% of the IHS Budget. Yet, UIOs do not have access to IHS building/ facilities capital which requires us to seek other sources of funds for our capital projects. 7) The project will support a 38% increase in patient visits over 2020 levels. " | Minneapolis MN |
| Southside Community Health Services, Inc. | <p>"Southside is a 50-year-old Federally Qualified Health Center, authorized by federal law and funding to deliver health care to underserved communities. As a safety-net community clinic in South Minneapolis, Southside provides affordable access to primary medical, dental, vision, and behavioral health care services to approximately 10,000 unique patients (100% low income) per year. Southside's mission is "improving the health of our patients and communities by delivering exceptional care, removing barriers, and promoting healthy lifestyles" to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay.</p> <p>The project is in a Medically Underserved Area and Primary Care, Mental Health, and Dental Health Provider Shortage Area in South Minneapolis. Southside provides comprehensive primary and preventive health medical services, including lab, COVID-19 testing/vaccination, and ultrasound. Southside offers primary care vision services for all ages and features onsite retail offering frames and lenses where patients can obtain glasses without having to make multiple stops. Southside provides integrated behavioral health services and support to individuals, couples, and families. Southside also offer chronic disease management along with other enabling services.</p> <p>Even with Southside's dental services operating five days a week there are still long waiting lists. Southside's mobile dental unit is fully equipped and handicapped accessible and regularly visits local nursing homes, assisted living care facilities, and charters schools to help reduce barriers to care for those who need it most. The only other dental chairs in Minneapolis that take Medicaid or uninsured dental patients are three dental chairs in Richfield. Southside's dental clinic increased access in recent years by adding Advanced Dental Therapists to the provider staff, allowing it to open monthly for Saturday clinics, add procedures to accommodate walk-in patients, and to act as a dental diversion site for Abbott Northwestern's Emergency Department.</p> <p>In 2021, 31% of Southside patients had Medicaid insurance, 60% had no insurance, and 53% had incomes under 100% of the federal poverty level. Southside also provides MNSure patient navigation, Health Care Home Coordination, interpreter services as 52% of patients are best served in a language other than English, and nutrition and cooking classes. In 2021, there were 13,147 Medical patient visits (not including 15,739 COVID-19 vaccine visits), 3,936 Behavioral Health patient visits, 11,633 Dental visits, and 1,439 vision services visits. These 30,175 patient visits were provided 100% to low-income persons. Construction of the new facility will increase capacity by 40% to improve the health of the overall community.</p> <p>Southside is committed to co-locate with related services that affect individual and community health and will be located on the same parcel as Sabathani, a longstanding community center focused on serving the African American population in South Minneapolis. Nearly 84% of patients self-identify as BIPOC Hispanic/Latino (58%) and Black/African American (14%). With the presence of a food coop across the street, and the addition of Southside's clinic will create a resiliency hub in the neighborhood.</p> <p>The project will retain 95 permanent positions (27% held by Low Income Persons) and create another 28 positions that are in a high wage and high demand healthcare industry."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Native American Community Clinic | <p>"This project will significantly expand NACC's capacity, adding ten (10) medical rooms, five dental exam rooms, expanded laboratory and diagnostic services, and an improved clinic flow and efficiency to provide enhanced and critically necessary health services to our local community. By the end of the full capital improvement plan, NACC anticipates conducting an additional 5,000 visits annually, creating an additional 20+ full time livable wage jobs in the community and increasing annual revenue by over \$2 million.</p> <p>NACC envisions a modernized and expanded state-of-the-art health center squarely in the American Indian Cultural Corridor to ensure access to culturally-based mental health, dental and primary care services. With roughly 26,000 NAs living in the seven-county Metro area (20,655 of whom are located in the clinic's area), this expansion shows significant ability to sustain itself financially while providing critically important health services for the Twin Cities NA families and community members."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| The Aliveness Project | <p>"For the 10,000+ Minnesotans living with HIV, COVID has exacerbated existing health disparities. Similar to COVID, HIV continues to disproportionately impact communities of color in Minnesota, with people of color comprising 17% of the state's population and 69% of new HIV diagnoses in 2020 (bit.ly/2020MDHHIV). Due to systemic discrimination and racism, people of color in Minnesota are nearly three times as likely to be living below the poverty line (bit.ly/2018MNC). According to a 2016 CDC report, "Individuals living below the poverty line were twice as likely to be HIV-infected as those who lived in the same community but lived above the poverty line" (bit.ly/2016cdc).</p> <p>COVID and HIV have also had a disproportionate impact on the LGBTQ+ community. Male-to-male sex remains the primary risk factor for new HIV infections in Minnesota (bit.ly/2020MDHHIV). Additionally, according to the Human Rights Campaign, those in the LGBTQ+ community are more likely to work in industries that have high exposure rates (such as the restaurant industry), are less likely to have adequate health coverage, and have higher rates of chronic illnesses such as asthma - health conditions that have higher likelihoods of COVID complications and poorer health outcomes (bit.ly/3JnA00B). Similar to communities of color in Minnesota, the LGBTQ+ have increased rates of poverty, which remains a risk factor of both HIV and COVID (bit.ly/3oBjNrx).</p> <p>Nearly all of the members at the Aliveness Project are low-income, with the majority also identifying as people of color and LGBTQ+, making the challenges faced by our members magnified during the twin pandemics of HIV and COVID. By targeting and engaging folks in hard-to-reach populations, Aliveness is providing a tremendous benefit to our members and the local community. With funding from this proposal, we will be able to expand our services and create room to continue growing our programming. By continuing to expand our programming, we can greatly improve the health outcomes for folks who have been most impacted by the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and HIV."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Saint Mary's University of Minnesota | <p>"Medically underserved communities are disproportionately impacted by workforce shortages. SMUMN's Minneapolis campus is located in the Phillips West neighborhood, where half of residents identify as African immigrant or African American, and the median household income is below \$20,000 per year—far lower than city and state averages. SMUMN nurse anesthetist students complete clinical training at more than 40 clinical sites, including hospitals serving local high-need populations.</p> <p>Both of SMUMN's nursing programs (BSN and CRNA) work closely with nearby hospitals, including Mayo Clinic Health Systems, Olmsted Medical Center, Hennepin County Medical Center, and Fairview Health Services, giving every student practical, hands-on experience providing patient care. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, nursing programs have had access to fewer clinical sites and are instead using technology to train students. It is highly likely that this will continue into the future; Minnesota must be prepared to continually deploy expertly trained nurses in this new environment.</p> | Minneapolis MN |



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| | <p>SMUMN's state-of-the-art nursing simulation labs will also serve as a training ground for Minneapolis and Winona-based physicians, nurses, and community members to practice vital skills and techniques via simulation. For example, anesthesiologists from Minneapolis Children's Hospital will practice difficult techniques on lifelike child manikins. In Winona, Saint Anne's Senior Living of Benedictine Health Systems is a major trainer of Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) in the county and currently they train with substandard equipment. Saint Mary's is negotiating an agreement with Saint Anne's to be used in evenings and summer for their training needs. "</p> | |
| Metro Meals on Wheels | <p>"Background Metro Meals on Wheels is the association of 33 Meals on Wheels programs in the Twin Cities metro area. With our program partners, we lead the effort to make sure people in our community receive the nutritious meals and the human connection they need to help them live independently.</p> <p>Meals on Wheels is a community-based service that provides fresh, nutritious meals delivered directly to the homes of seniors and individuals with disabilities throughout the Twin Cities. In addition to regularly providing healthy foods, caring volunteers provide the social connection that helps meal recipients remain living independently in their own homes.</p> <p>In 2018 MMOW opened its own in-house Kitchen to produce meals for the local MMOW programs. The menu was varied and rotates on a 5-week basis. Currently, the kitchen is producing almost 2000 meals each day that are delivered to our local partners 5 days per week to be delivered by volunteers to seniors in those communities. While there are meals on the menu inspired by different cultures, the meals are created to appeal to and meet the needs of a mostly white/Christian senior community.</p> <p>In 2020 at the start of the pandemic, we had the opportunity to partner with local restaurant Afro Deli and Grill to produce and distribute Halal meals to East African seniors. This was the first partnership for MMOW that provided culturally specific meals produced by people of that community. Through this partnership, which ended in December of 2021, we learned the value of having culturally specific communities lead the process of creating and distributing meals in their communities. We made this process a more permanent one with the addition of several partners in 2021 and 2022 to serve immigrant senior communities meals they are creating with very limited resources. The vast majority of these meals are being funded through Title III/Older Americans Act dollars. But MMOW is very limited in its ability to create enough meals to meet the needs of immigrant senior communities using our current kitchen space. The addition of another commercial kitchen dedicated to these meals will create a more equitable outcome for the seniors in the metro region that are in need of a meal.</p> <p>According to MN Compass data, there are over 31,000 Somali-born Minnesotans in the Twin Cities area, of those nearly 75% live at or below 200% of the poverty level. Also according to MN Compass, there are nearly 50,000 foreign-born seniors (60+) living in the Twin Cities and another 21,000 between the ages of 50-59, almost 40% of those living at or below 200% of the poverty level.</p> <p>Once this program begins it will take about 48 months to become self-sufficient. Our past programs have shown that a combination of individuals paying partially or fully for meals out of pocket, and the small percentage of overhead MMOW collects from reimbursement programs like Title III and insurance waivers, will allow this kitchen and meal production to be paid for without additional funds.</p> <p>"</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| GMCC (Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches) | <p>"We seek to bridge the digital divide affecting the local community and Minnesota by:</p> <p>1- Expanding access to digital technology and broadband internet to youth and families from underinvested and disconnected communities. Lack of access to technology has widened the digital divide, which already disproportionately impacts people of color. Although the nation has, overall, increased the number of computer science course offerings in K-12 education, students of color are still at a disadvantage due to lack of resources outside of the classroom: According to a 2016 report from Gallup and Google, two-thirds of White students report using computers at home, whereas only half of Black students do. Our offerings will allow youth to learn, navigate, and experiment with different technologies. Digital learning support will especially help students who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID to catch up on their learning and development. We will also engage parents, seniors, and people with Limited English Proficiency in digital navigation courses curated based on their interests, needs, and feedback. These courses will help them access digital services, apply for jobs, and support their children with homework at home, among other things. In Summer 2022, we are launching a "Teach the Teacher" project in which paid GMCC Tech Teens graduates will work with our Lead Tech Teens Guide/Instructor to co-develop a basic digital skills training curriculum to teach to their parents and other community members.</p> <p>2- Creating a talent pipeline from underserved and disconnected communities to the tech industry. BIPOC folks are significantly underrepresented in the tech industry: According to the Brookings Institution, Black people make up 11.9% of all workers but only 7.9% of tech workers. Part of the reason is that youth of color lack exposure to entry-level tech skills. We will (i) spark interest and ambition in BIPOC youth to pursue tech careers by exposing them to different areas in the tech field, (ii) teach them in-demand programming languages, including JavaScript, HTML, and CSS, (iii) help youth earn industry-recognized certifications, (iv) and connect them to BIPOC tech entrepreneurs and IT firms in Minnesota. Most of our youth lack access to opportunities for vocational and career exploration and professional relationships that can facilitate upward mobility. Our systems are built on personal connections, which means that power, wealth, and opportunities continue to concentrate within the same groups. BIPOC youth often do not have the opportunity to access or even imagine themselves in high-achieving roles. We will provide youth with job shadowing opportunities.</p> <p>3- Providing trauma-informed mental health support and social-emotional learning activities. Many of our constituents suffer from trauma stemming from civil war in their home countries, displacement, poverty, prolonged stays in refugee camps, transitional living in impoverished and underinvested neighborhoods, and community violence. We will provide mental health support via licensed therapists who are trained to work with BIPOC youth and families. Support will include the opportunity to share and process emotions 1:1 with professional support, and training for staff, Guides, and volunteers."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| GMCC (Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches) | <p>"Minnesota continues to struggle with racial disparities across all categories. BIPOC populations are more affected by the opioid crisis, in part because of the lack of culturally-specific services that work with community leaders and those with lived experiences. Our project intends to both treat and prevent substance abuse in Somali communities using a combination of best practices; trauma-informed, culturally specific approaches; training and hiring individuals in the community who have been successful in long-term recovery; and training community leaders and families to reduce stigma and understand warning signs and contributing factors to SUD.</p> <p>Our project is designed to make an impact greater than among those we engage with directly. Reducing the cultural and religious stigma that come with SUD and recovery, starting with faith leaders (Imams) and mothers ("hooyos") will go a long way to addressing addiction challenges in the community. The proposed co-design process is meant to creatively engage voices that often are not part of decision making or problem solving - but who are most affected - in testing assumptions and hypotheses that reduce addiction and overdoses among Somali youth and young adults.</p> <p>A wraparound model of peer recovery support services and a holistic family approach can help people sustain a life in long-term recovery and prevent people with SUD from relapsing. Peer recovery support is the person-centered, evidence-based process of giving and receiving non-clinical assistance to achieve long-term recovery from SUD. Using a strengths-based approach, the model is proven to help participants change negative behaviors and improve health and wellness. A growing body of research illuminates the delivery of peer recovery coaching/support services as best practice methods to help produce lasting positive physical and behavioral health outcomes. Additionally, peer recovery support services produce significant return on investment, reducing health care and taxpayer-funded program costs and cultivating recipients' full contribution to local communities and economies.</p> <p>We will also facilitate training in the Seeking Safety model, "an extremely safe model as it directly addresses both trauma and addiction, but without requiring clients to delve into their trauma narrative, thus making it relevant to a very broad range of clients and easy to implement." The Seeking Safety model is the only model endorsed by professional societies as having strong research support for PTSD/substance abuse. It was the second most adopted out of six models in a major Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health initiative spanning 59 agencies, and was sustained by 83% of agencies that had adopted it.</p> | Minneapolis MN |



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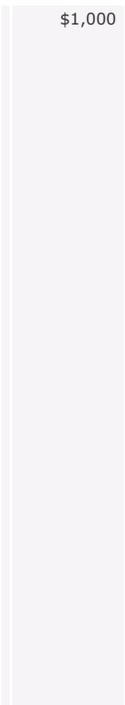
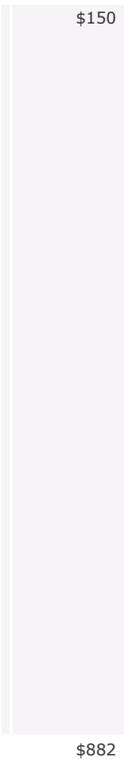
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The first research on CRAFT was done in 1986 and showed that 6 out of 7 family members using the model were able to get their loved ones to enter treatment. More recently, the National Association of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism published a study that engaged people from all ethnicities and used three approaches: Family members using the CRAFT model had the most success - 64% of them were able to get their loved one to enter treatment.

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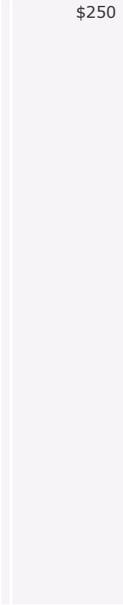
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| Black Men Teach (BMT) | <p>"Minnesota ranks last (50th) in disparities between Black and white student graduation rates. It also ranks among the worst in the gap between Black/BIPOC and white students - in key-markers for long-term success like reading and math (MN Compass). Minnesota is also one of the worst places for Black people to live, with some of the greatest inequities in health, housing, incarceration rates and income experienced by Black and brown compared to white communities. In the Twin Cities, 70% of public school students are children of color, but only 7% of teachers are people of color. While diversifying the teacher workforce has been a broadly-stated goal for school districts and the State of Minnesota for over two decades, zero progress has been made.</p> <p>Having just one Black man as a teacher in elementary school is a game changer.</p> <p>By placing Black male teachers in elementary school classrooms, BMT seeks to improve outcomes in reading and math, increase sense of belonging in school and connection to learning. Research tells us that having a Black man as a teacher in elementary school, benefits Black students, especially Black low-income boys, notably (John Hopkins, 2017):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Black students who have just one Black teacher by third grade are 13% more likely to enroll in college; * Black students with two Black teachers by the 3rd grade are 32% more likely to enroll in college; and * Black low-income boys who have just one Black male teacher in elementary school are 39% less likely to drop out of high school, and 29% more likely to aspire to attend college; and * Elementary school teachers have long-run impacts on student earnings and educational attainment. <p>Research indicates improvements in Black socio-economic and health indicators are driven by economic investment in education, and participation of Black people in decision-making and leadership (Public Health Review, 2016). BMT was designed by the Black community based on research and collective experiences.</p> <p>Black Men Teach will publish results of our work and create a road map for replication of our program, with the idea that our program could be tailored for teachers of other races/genders. Ultimately, we will be both helping to diversify the teacher workforce and meet the significant needs of the teacher workforce shortage. This funding strategy was designed in partnership with district leaders, and other education stakeholders, and with significant input from board members who come from university and school district leadership and policy backgrounds.</p> <p>BMT strategically engages Black men in high school and college, as well as career changers, to help them become elementary classroom teachers. We engage mentors who are Black educators, creating a community and network of experienced Black teachers mentoring less experienced Black male teachers. We are creating powerful opportunities for the Black community generally, and Black men in particular, to lead systemic change for the Black community in Minnesota.</p> <p>You can learn more about our organization's work at our website via: https://blackmenteachtc.org</p> <p>"</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Al Maa'uun | <p>"The BIPOC population (Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color) of North Minneapolis is 77% compared to Minneapolis overall, in which the community only represents 36%. The North@Work program intentionally works with the BIPOC community to improve their economic position. Addressing systemic barriers and individual circumstances is how North@Work impacts and enhances the community's economic conditions. Providing education, training, resources, and job placement, we allow individuals to break the cycle of poverty that has plagued their community. Al Maa'uun prides itself on the relationships it can build and maintain with individuals. North@Work through Al Maa'uun goes beyond being a job placement program but truly creates a partnership with individuals to improve their lives beyond employment.</p> <p>North@Work offers innovative work-readiness, training, credentials, support services, and job placement opportunities in healthcare, commercial driving, construction, and IT. These services are complemented by employer services, including racial equity, inclusion, and belonging training, coaching, and consulting services to support the needs of employers working to transform their workplaces to become racially inclusive, equitable, and places where all people experience belonging. A key signature of this program is the response to community needs. Historical, social, and environmental challenges such as systemic racism and immigration status present barriers to building economic stability. Additional conditions such as limited access to quality education, past incarceration, and housing instability severely limit the opportunities for many served by Al Maa'uun and the North@Work program."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| MIGIZI | <p>"MIGIZI was founded in 1977 as Migizi Communications, Inc. to counter the misrepresentations and inaccuracies about Native people in the media. In these formative years, we pioneered a weekly radio show, The Native American Program, which set the stage for First Person Radio and its nationally distributed programming. This work was spearheaded by American Indian university students and journalists. The journalist and student group chose the name "MIGIZI" – bald eagle in the Ojibwe language – for the organization because the bird signifies communication as well as guardianship and high standards. These elements were what the group aspired to – excellence in communication, guardianship of the public trust, and high standards for reporting and ethics.</p> <p>Since then, we have broadened our purpose, became a youth-serving organization, and expanded services and offerings over time. We are innovators in emerging industries who offer Native youth a space for the exploration of cultural identity, the support to excel academically, and the opportunity to explore and launch a professional career. All our programs weave in American Indian culture and knowledge to foster a greater understanding of academic principles that can be applied through historical and cultural lenses to today's skills and technologies.</p> <p>This funding will support MIGIZI core programming in academic, culture, training and youth employment.</p> <p>INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS</p> <p>Indigenous Pathways brings career development and income to youth ages 14-24 who are currently enrolled in school or want to re-enroll in a diploma or GED program. We offer pathways in media and social media marketing (First Person Productions) and STEM education dedicated to sustainable, green energies (Green Tech Pathway). Youth are paid \$13.75 per hour for up to 60 hours over 10 weeks afterschool four days a week. They may pursue an internship with a partner organization or with MIGIZI once training is complete.</p> <p>CULTURAL, LEADERSHIP AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT</p> <p>Afterschool, youth can partake in our virtual or in-person tutoring, cultural and educational support 4 days a week, the Native youth leadership council, and work with staff to develop quarterly Individual Educational Plans with identified goals for academic, culture connections, community engagement and well-being. We provide in-school time support with St. Paul and Minneapolis Indian Education classrooms and cultural/wellbeing groups and field trips in four suburban districts.</p> <p>The Impact areas include:</p> <p>Learning and Leadership – Promote the learning, leadership and social-emotional development of youth and seek to shift how programs engage youth in education and leadership. Our education, leadership and culture impact areas support academic success in high school and postsecondary educational goals.</p> <p>Economic Opportunity – Create opportunities for economic prosperity by supporting programs and initiatives that build workforce skills, promote youth entrepreneurship, and expose youth to career pathways in Media, STEM and Green Energy</p> | Minneapolis MN |



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| | <p>careers.</p> <p>Health and Safety – Our focus on well-being, cultural healing, safety and creation of a safe space for youth where they can be supported is the cornerstone to the work of MIGIZI. We are guided by constant practice of core values that is a positive climate for youth to thrive."</p> | |
| Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center | <p>This project benefits the local community by providing human centered, trauma informed, culturally specific services that support the mental health of all who engage in services with MIWRC. Community members (staff, program participants, and larger community members) will be able access facilities that support their holistic healing and for community traditional events. Community members are able to access services on a drop-in basis which drastically reduces barriers to access. Community members can access grief and loss community conversations, have access to space to host community events and gatherings such as: funerals, trainings, and cultural ceremonies. MIWRC values Native American traditional knowledge and cultural ceremonies incorporation into all services to support spiritual healing, while also providing clinical services for mental health disorders and substance use disorders.</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Minnesota Public Health Association (MPHA) | <p>"In this moment in history, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Minnesota is grappling with various intersecting oppressions of racism and classism. The cumulative result of these racist systems and structures contributes to an environment that is persistently unhealthy and unsafe for Black communities, American Indian communities, Latinx, and Asian communities. The systems contributing to these health inequities have gnarled roots extending even further into the development of a diverse public health workforce that should be more representative of the most impacted communities. People from communities underrepresented in public health careers experience barriers to accessing the same education, networks, and job opportunities others have. We must reimagine the ability of our state, county, and local employees to become fierce advocates for health in whatever setting they may inhabit.</p> <p>MPHA has established itself as a voice for change historically and during this past year, as the organization has engaged in the analysis of its leadership and processes to deliberately commit itself to rooting out white supremacy. Furthermore, the organization and its members organized a successful conference entitled "Together, for Planet and Community" focused on health equity, environmental justice, and workforce development for students, early professionals, and established public health workers. There is an ongoing need for professional development and support in the work of antiracist practice.</p> <p>The empowerment of a workforce engaged in public health and health advocacy can only result in increased health for local communities. Through a mixture of virtual and in-person trainings, this fellowship will actualize the collective power of individuals through anti-racist training and cross-cultural collaboration. With the recognition that it is our historically disenfranchised communities that suffer the brunt of health inequities, specifically training public health workers who already belong to and work in these critical areas to be further engaged in public health anti-racist advocacy will increase the health of entire communities.</p> <p>Increased representation in the public health workforce contributes to more inclusive policies, interventions, and programs. Though the majority of the current healthcare workforce is white, it's critical that we intentionally create more culturally mindful solutions for those across various racial and ethnic populations in Minnesota.</p> <p>MPHA's fellowship program will recruit candidates of color and American Indians who are dedicated to working with Minnesota's populations of color. Through the MPHA fellowship, these individuals who already have a dedication to and knowledge of their local community will be able to bring their work to a new level that reaches the entire population.</p> <p>"</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| People's Center Clinics & Services | <p>"As the trusted healthcare provider for the Cedar-Riverside area, one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Minnesota, People's Center has earned a high rate of patient satisfaction and has built tight ties with the community. With this success, and an ever-expanding community, comes even greater expectations and greater need for and reliance on People's Center services. To better serve this growing number of patients, many of them with more complex needs related to their health, People's Center needs to remodel its Cedar-Riverside Clinic. This enhanced clinic space will allow People's Center to elevate their care model and lower barriers to access for even more community members in need of primary care that takes into account their language, religion, cultural background, community relationships and more.</p> <p>The need for health care reform is as evident as ever. Many lawmakers and activists are advancing the argument for universal health care, but it begs the question; will it come fast enough? Even during these important conversations, there continue to be populations in Minnesota, and the country at large, that encounter devastating barriers to accessing basic health care. Where one lives, the food they have access to, and the cost and availability of health care services determine more than 80% of health outcomes for communities, and disproportionately impact communities with the fewest resources such as refugee and immigrant communities, black and brown communities, and LGBTQIA communities.</p> <p>Without dedicated health centers that prioritize culturally competent care, who offer support to navigate our shifting health care system, these vulnerable community members would be left without access to the primary medical, dental, and mental health care that they need and deserve.</p> <p>The Cedar-Riverside 55454 zip code in Minnesota is one of these communities, and People's Center is the primary clinic for many of its residents. 55454 is the densest and most diverse zip code between Chicago and the West Coast, home to the Riverside Plaza building, a 1300-unit housing complex with 4,000 residents hailing from 67 countries and speaking 93 languages. A high percentage of the population here is from Somalia, and other East African communities, many of whom are refugees who have suffered repeated violence and trauma contributing to poor mental health. Understandably many of these individuals show apprehension towards large institutions, healthcare included, and without on-going care management many people will not seek help until their medical issues become crises and treatment becomes prohibitively expensive, or worse: unsuccessful.</p> <p>Access to appropriate care is a humane issue. The lived experiences of these communities are often not understood or accounted for in our current systems of health and human services. Research shows that health outcomes improve when health care providers pay attention to their patients lived experiences and understand the impact those experiences have on the patient's overall health, and their access to resources. Investment in healthcare entities who can be champions in these communities, made up by members of the community itself, is a major step in advancing healthcare equity. "</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| MN School Based Health Alliance | <p>"We are seeking your support for expanding the number of students served and the quality of their care through clinical equipment advances across four of Minnesota's school-based health care systems. School-based clinics have been strongholds of accessible, equitable and comprehensive preventative care for students in Minnesota for 50 years. There is no dedicated funding to support school-based health centers in Minnesota and there never has been, which creates maintenance challenges. As the only part of the health care safety net dedicated entirely to children, and a critical time for children's health care, this is a small and essential request.</p> <p>The gold-standard model for school-based clinics had its genesis here in St Paul, Minnesota, and is now codified in federal statute. Today, over 2,200 school-based clinics operate across the United States. Until 2022, our local School Based Health Alliance was a voluntarily coalition of the leaders who operate school-based clinics in Minnesota. There are now 27 in existence and at least 10 in development in our state. The Alliance represents and supports each of the health care providers and districts partnering in school-based health care. This request includes 4 of those partner organizations.</p> <p>The Alliance is a long-term community partner of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). MDH has provided a convener to support this work since 2015 when the Alliance became an official affiliate of the national School Based Health Alliance. In January, MDH extended a CDC COVID Workforce grant to the Alliance, now a nonprofit, to assist schools with pandemic recovery. During distance learning, the mental health therapy, medical care, nutrition services, health education, and parent support delivered in Minnesota's school-based clinics proved SBCs are a durable part of the health care safety net. This request supports continued growth of this critical part of Minnesota's safety net.</p> <p>Evidence shows partnership between a local Alliance and a state program office like MDH, and dedicated state funding for new and existing school-based health initiatives, correlates with expansion of care for kids, decreases Medicaid costs and increases school success. Growth has been slow in Minnesota compared to most other states. This is a critical time to change that, particularly in rural areas where one school-based clinic can offset care shortages for an entire community. The appropriate clinical equipment allows school-based clinics to be there for kids as they recover from the pandemic, a</p> | Minneapolis MN |

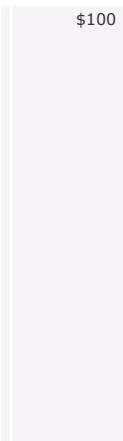


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| | <p>time when their needs are critically underserved and increasingly acute.</p> <p>The ROI on school-based care is irrefutable. The care is not a replacement for the allied health professionals in schools such as school counselors and social workers, or licensed school nurses. Simply said, their co-existence creates ease for families and optimizes learning. Expanding this care to more children is a key lever for reducing disparities in education and health outcomes for children in Minnesota."</p> | |
| Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) | <p>"CLUES new Behavioral Health, Economic Opportunity, and Wellness Hub will contribute to the revitalization of a critical block along the Lake Street corridor damaged during the 2020 civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd. The proposed project is a Latino-community led effort that will ensure long term multi-generational wellbeing and social and economic equity for Latinos in Minneapolis and West-Metro communities.</p> <p>The need for the dedicated Behavioral Health clinic in this community is well established. Demand for behavioral health services for Latinos far exceeds the existing capacity of mental health systems and providers in the targeted geographic area. In 2020, CLUES waitlist for services had an average of 100 individuals seeking bilingual psychotherapy and community-based services, and in 2021 it was nearly 200 individuals (children, adolescents, and adults).</p> <p>Latinos are at high-risk for substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety (National Alliance on Mental Health, 2016). Migrating to the United States and acculturating can be traumatic. Trauma can cause or worsen depression and anxiety, each of which is strongly correlated with substance use. Latino men have a 21.5% incidence of binge alcohol use in the last month, significantly higher rates than either White or African American men (APA, 2018). COVID-19 also profoundly impacted our community, resulting in a disproportionate incidence of disease, lost employment, and increased homelessness with drastic detrimental impacts on mental health and SUD.</p> <p>Lack of medical insurance is a significant barrier to accessing behavioral health services. Latinos have the highest uninsured rates (18% for Latinos vs. 4% for Whites) of any racial or ethnic group in Minnesota (Robert Wood Johnson, 2018). On average, 50% of our mental health clients are uninsured. There are approximately 40 Spanish speaking mental health clinicians in our target area, of these nearly one-quarter do not serve uninsured clients (Washburn Center for Children, 2018). CLUES serves all individuals, regardless of insurance status.</p> <p>Latinos are a young and rapidly growing demographic who are essential to Minnesota's workforce and economy, yet alarming economic disparities persist with nearly three times more Latino families living in poverty than white families. The demand for CLUES services and our space capacity needs has doubled in the last decade, forcing staff to split locations and driving up our operating costs as we've had to lease space where our community live and work.</p> <p>Support for CLUES is essential to provide ownership to the largest Latino-led nonprofit, founded 41 years ago, speed community revitalization on Lake Street, and advance economic equity, prosperity, and wellbeing for underserved communities. This project will create a one-stop hub where Latinos can easily access holistic, multi-generational, and integrated services to thrive and prosper. "</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Vinland National Center | <p>"There is a mental health and substance abuse crisis in America, and Minnesota. Vinland National Center is committed to helping adults with cognitive disabilities, providing chemical dependency treatment and Vocational Services. Currently Vinland National Center does not provide services for women. The proposed project is a positive solution that will enable Vinland to get back to serving females in the community who so desperately need our services, not to mention helping those providers who are reaching out to us for help when they realize there is no other organization in the state (or even 5-state area) who provides the education and knowledge-base to adequately work with clients who suffer from TB's in SUD treatment.</p> <p>"</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Open Arms of Minnesota | <p>"At a time when our health care system continues to be strained and entering public spaces presents an ongoing increased risk to our clients with critical illness and compromised immune systems, OAM's medically tailored, home-delivered meals are an essential service for community members living with a severe illness. Additionally, at least 70% of clients report that having their children and caregivers receive food from OAM also decreases their stress level.</p> <p>While OAM has steadily increased services to clients living east of the river by 21% over the last five years, the need in the East Metro is growing rapidly: 1 in 7 St. Paul families struggle with hunger; the percentage of those residents with chronic conditions such as COPD and kidney disease is higher than the state average; and incidents of life-threatening illnesses such as cancer are on the rise. The East Metro kitchen will serve as a base for even more expansion into underserved geographic areas where we are not currently able to deliver, including parts of Washington, Dakota and Ramsey Counties. Currently, 46% of our clients are living in the East Metro.</p> <p>The additional physical location will also help alleviate capacity challenges that we currently face in our Minneapolis facility. The new facility will relieve the pressure on our Minneapolis building with more freezer and refrigerator space, more dry storage space, more work areas for staff, and a space to headquarter and grow our burgeoning shipping project, shipping meals across the state of Minnesota.</p> <p>Finally, we will build on our successful Minneapolis model, creating a thriving community of volunteers (7,000) from a variety of backgrounds to come together to help their neighbors. Currently, our vibrant volunteer community mostly represents the Western Metro; only 25% of current volunteers hail from East of the river. A new kitchen will also provide new opportunities for volunteering and community service, as well as new job opportunities and internships.</p> <p>Clients across Minnesota consistently self-report that receiving nutrition services from Open Arms makes a difference in maintaining their health, helps them maintain a healthy weight, improves their energy level, and provides comfort in their day. The results of the most recent Annual Client Survey clearly demonstrate the impact—more than 80% of clients consistently report that food from OAM:??</p> <p>Helps manage the side effects of medication or treatment;?</p> <p>Helps clients take medications on schedule;?</p> <p>Helps clients continue to live at home;?</p> <p>Helps clients stay out of the hospital; and??</p> <p>Helps clients maintain their independence</p> <p>"</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| University of Minnesota | <p>This collaboration the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will offer students and individuals seeking new career opportunities the opportunities to earn nursing degrees while meeting the high demand for healthcare workers across the state and nation. The collaboration will create and expand on existing partnerships with state and local academic institutions and health care providers to enhance the practical experience needed to succeed in clinical settings. It will also help to ensure rural and disadvantaged communities have access to high-quality care by expanding the telemedicine-trained healthcare workforce.</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| 826 MSP | <p>"You know that book we made? I read it every night." - 826 MSP 2nd grade author, Hana</p> <p>In all we do, 826 MSP is dedicated to amplifying the voices of young people from historically marginalized communities. By amplifying the voices of BIPOC, immigrant, and English Language Learning students, we are creating space for perspectives which are far-too-often, and to the detriment of us all, left out or ignored from mainstream discourse. A crucial access point for our community is that we provide academic support alongside creative writing and publishing opportunities. This variety is essential, because without tutoring and academic support as an entry point, youth who don't already identify as writers would not sign up. As we've deepened relationships with our community, we see the power of intervening even earlier in students' lives. If we can get students excited about and seeing themselves in literacy at even earlier age, stronger outcomes in academic skills and personal confidence will result.</p> <p>Ample research and our organization's lived experience demonstrate the positive impact of family engagement on literacy outcomes for youth. Thus, we want to merge our expertise as writing and reading educators with our families' expertise in their own cultural knowledge and identities to increase access to and the success of literacy programming beyond the walls of our center. As many of our families primarily speak a language other than English and/or identify as English Language</p> | Minneapolis MN |



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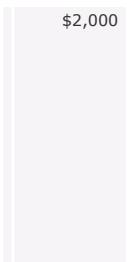
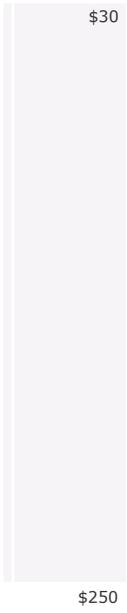
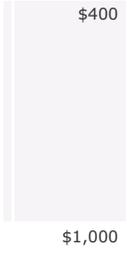
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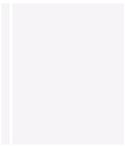
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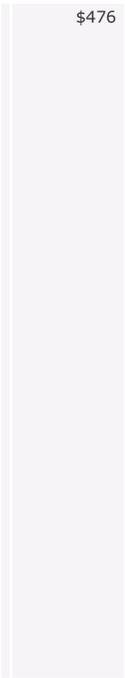
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| | <p>Learners, participating in and facilitating literacy activities for youth will also increase parents' language competency. This demonstrates the experiential learning approach which is the hallmark of 826 MSP's methodology. In a different sense, due to our partnerships with schools/knowledge of educational systems combined with the strong relationships we hold with historically marginalized families, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to support families in participation and advocacy within their children's educational experiences. Lastly, countless research shows the impact of exposure to literacy skills building in pre-kindergarten years. In this way, we are committed to utilizing all aspects of our institutional power and capacity to increase educational equity for the youth and families we serve.</p> <p>In terms of the local community, South Minneapolis benefits from being one of the most diverse areas in Minnesota. After more than twelve years of doing this work, we know that even within specific racial or ethnic communities, there's still ample diversity and nuance. For example, a student who presents as Black may be from Somalia, and his or her native speaking language (Somali) may be different from the language he or she was first taught to read or write in (Arabic). These students often come from cultures with rich histories of storytelling, but may face barriers to academic achievement, specifically in literacy. Thus, prioritizing access for the primarily East African students we serve, including working with pre-kindergarten and K-12 aged youth as well as adult caregivers in their lives, leads to our collective progress and wellbeing."</p> | |
| Division of Indian Work | <p>The American Indian community will benefit by having access to culturally appropriate prevention services that they would not otherwise be able to access at the Division of Indian Work. Traditional teachings will be increased in weekly Women of Traditional Birthing classes, our Ninde Doula Program, and in multiple home visiting programs such as our Family Spirit program. For example, we can teach about medicinal plants and connect clients with ceremony and supports to live a healthy life. We know that incorporating culture with prevention work is what makes a difference in the American Indian community. For example, DIW has been funded for teen pregnancy prevention through an Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative grant from the MN Department of Health for years. We created an American Indian culturally specific curriculum which has been implemented across the state. Since 2007, we have seen a decrease in pregnancy rates in our community. We cannot take sole credit for these decreases, but we know we have had an impact. Additionally, we have years of proven success with our Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drug Prevention work in our Youth Leadership Development Program. Culture as prevention works.</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| African American Registry | <p>"Our purpose is to improve classroom education in Minnesota through the curriculum diversely. The teacher's forum guides future teachers with our proven supplemental content and pedagogy. Our mantra is. Wisdom learned is the offspring of an intimate association between a student's intelligence and morals. Having started in the nine-county metro area and growing. Our purpose is to expand statewide. Those who use the teacher's forum reduce education gaps by preparing their students to do more than pass an SAT or ACT. We also address the isolation of how the current curriculum segregates non-white cultures. Teacher candidates we've guided create a more practical career work plan for themselves. They supplement the limited state standards with cultural proficiency from our lesson library, video tutorials, lesson plans, coaching, and evaluation. The teacher's forum shows candidates how the African, Latinx, Asian, white European, and Native American communities have intersected with African America with facts. Future teachers weave the many locations, people, episodes, articles, and media into all subjects.</p> <p>We realize that most Minnesota teachers will remain white and female for the foreseeable future. The racial imbalance adds to the need for culturally supplementing the current curriculum to reflect the growing diversity that is essential. Also, the white millennial student remains attentive to this content and continues to embrace it. As mentioned earlier in this application, the teacher's forum subscription service is an electronic book. Content is updated weekly (sometimes daily) as the world grows and changes. Teacher candidates learn how to integrate everyone's diversity into any lesson without waiting for Gay Pride Month, Indigenous Peoples Day, Black History Month, Cinco de Mayo, etc. The impact of our service is life-changing for a young teacher. We support their job security and love of their craft over time. We help them tap into the student's multiple intelligences and ways of looking at the world and draw on how their students learn. "</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| The Museum of Russian Art | <p>"The purpose of this project is to assist school districts in the 5th Congressional District achieve the Minnesota Department of Education's Early Reading Proficiency – Reading Well by Third Grade mandates. Reading at grade level by the end of Grade 3 is known to be a key marker for future academic success, yet millions of children nationally, and particularly those in urban school districts, do not achieve this goal. Studies have definitively shown that students who are reading at grade level at the end of Grade 3 have a far greater likelihood of graduating from high school and going on to post-secondary education.</p> <p>Not surprisingly, due to the disruption of primary education during the pandemic, the Grade 3 reading proficiency rate has declined, as reported in a recent national study conducted by Acadience Learning Inc. (Gray, J. S., & Powell-Smith, K. A. [2021]. The Impact of COVID-19 on Student Reading Development [Technical Report No. 29]). The study compared the beginning-of-year scores in 2020-2021 to the previous year, 2019-2020, which allowed the researchers to determine the difference in reading skills that students experienced in the beginning of 2020 compared to the beginning of 2019. The study found that of students who were below benchmark proficiency for reading at the middle of Grade 3 in 2019-2020, 36% met the benchmark at the beginning of Grade 4, while only 26% met the benchmark in 2020-2021.</p> <p>According to the Minnesota Department of Education's Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA), the percentage of Minnesota students meeting 3rd grade reading benchmarks has declined since 2015. Based on the findings of the Acadience Learning study, it not surprising to learn that the percentage of 3rd grade students in Minnesota meeting the reading standard continued to decline from 2019 to 2021 (there was no assessment test in 2020) in all eleven of the school districts in the 5th Congressional District. The Minnesota state average of 3rd grade reading proficiency for 2021 was a low 48.5%, and seven of the eleven school districts, including Minneapolis, were below that average, with proficiency rates ranging from 17.4% to 45.1%. Additionally, when viewed by racial and ethnic groups in this region, the data indicate that only 25.8% of Black students, 27.5% of Hispanic students, 30.5% of American Indian students, 40.8% of Asian students, and 47.4% of Two or more races students, met the reading proficiency benchmark. Only White (non-Hispanic) students, at 60.8% exceeded the statewide average.</p> <p>Recognizing the importance of this learning issue, TMORA has focused its efforts in the schools on providing programming to enhance third grade literacy. In the increasingly complex and competitive work environment, it is vital to do everything possible for the children of Minnesota, including the 5th Congressional District, to ensure that they achieve this crucial educational marker. By doing so, we will significantly enhance the state's workforce development, as these students graduate from high school and progress into the post-secondary education necessary for fulfilling careers."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Children's Theatre Company | <p>The Junior League of Minneapolis states: "Widely recognized causes of the achievement gap include food insecurity and the lack of nutrition, inadequate family support systems, lack of self-esteem among students and their families, and the absence of summer learning programs. In essence, the achievement gap can also be explained as a resource gap." CTC and Bethune have defined the following long-term goals for our full immersion partnership: to develop a lasting creative school culture, to increase overall attendance rates, and to improve student achievement rates in literacy. We can expect to see positive results by providing and sustaining long-term access to programs that include family support options, building students' self-esteem, and providing engagement after school and during the summer.</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| RS EDEN | <p>"As shared above, RS EDEN has been serving the community for 50 years. Through substance use disorder treatment, permanent, supportive, and affordable housing, and reentry services for individuals exiting incarceration, RS EDEN aims to create both individual and systemic change for all members of the community. Though RS EDEN's locations of services are all located in the Twin Cities metro, RS EDEN serves individuals from across the entire state of Minnesota.</p> <p>For a person with a long history of substance use disorder treatment as well as sexual exploitation and domestic violence, receiving care in an environment separate from where you previously struggled, can be a critical component of long-term recovery. RS EDEN often serves individuals from greater Minnesota, offering a fresh start in a new setting. Alternatively, RS EDEN also serves people who must stay in the metro, because that is where the services are, where their families are, where their children's childcare is, and so forth. The location of the Lorraine meets the needs of those local and remote.</p> <p>A safe, therapeutic environment is critical to recovery. These women and children, these families, live at RS EDEN for at least 6 months. They deserve a place to recover that reflects their value as human beings and members of the community. The carceral system is the largest provider of behavioral health treatment in the country. Many of our women have experienced incarceration related to their history of substance use and sexual exploitation. To recover in an</p> | Minneapolis MN |



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| | <p>incarcerated environment is not possible. The experience at the Lorraine seeks to be different, to create a space that will support their overall wellbeing, to reinforce their value and dignity, and give them the skills and tools to move beyond the Lorraine and be a positive contributor in the community.</p> <p>This capital requires will support the building in which the recovery occurs. The services are place-bases, this is a home for families in recovery. The capital investment will create a amore therapeutic environment, increasing the likelihood of success for multiple generations."</p> | |
| Allina Health | <p>"According to data from the Minnesota Cancer Registry, low-income and medically underserved women residing in rural areas of Minnesota suffer from significantly lower survival rates associated with breast cancer. Early detection of breast cancer has a strong influence on five-year survival rates: Cases detected early have a 98.8 percent chance of survival, while cases detected at a late stage have a 26.3 percent chance of survival. In Minnesota, our data shows the opportunities to expand early cancer screenings have been heavily impacted in the delays in care associated with the COVID pandemic. According to the 2020 Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM) 2020 data, the following data exemplifies the need to expand early cancer screening: Breast Cancer</p> <p>The statewide rate of breast cancer screening is 76.5%.</p> <p>Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) breast cancer screening rate is 60%, compared to the screening rate of 78% for Minnesota women insured with other insurance coverage.</p> <p>Lung Cancer</p> <p>Lung Nodule screening for early detection is advised for those 50 year and older whom have used tobacco products.</p> <p>Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) screening rate is 34.5%."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Minneapolis Community & Technical College | <p>"Minneapolis College and Metropolitan State University (MC/MSU partnership) will establish an Urban Entrepreneurship Education Center (the Center) in 2023 in the renovated Management Education Center (MEC) building that we share on Minneapolis College's downtown Minneapolis campus. This project will leverage \$18 million in current and anticipated state funding for the design/renovation of MEC, including state-of-the-art space for the Entrepreneurship Center. With funding from a federal CDS appropriation, the MC/MSU partnership will accelerate and expand our vision of the entrepreneurship education and technical assistance the Center will be able to provide to the Minneapolis/St. Paul community. Our new Center will benefit the region by supporting self-employment and small business growth and creating a pathway to and through postsecondary entrepreneurship education for diverse student populations served by our two institutions and our local high school partners.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the center are:</p> <p>To provide a new pipeline to entrepreneurship education for key student populations, including high school students and ex-offenders who are closed out of many other occupations that provide a livable wage.s at partnering local high schools (starting in Fall 2022, Minneapolis College will be offering courses from its Entrepreneurship Certificate to incarcerated individuals at Lino Lakes state prison). It will provide applied experiential learning to help the diverse student populations of Minneapolis College and Metro State become their communities' small-business leaders of tomorrow. About 70% of Business Management degree students at Minneapolis College are from BIPOC communities. At Metro State College of Management, about 54% students are from BIPOC communities. Students and faculty will partner in applied learning projects to assist family-owned, neighborhood businesses in and around the urban core of Minneapolis/St. Paul in communities such as the North Side and Lake Street areas of Minneapolis and University Avenue in St. Paul.</p> <p>Through these activities, the Center will help the Twin Cities address one of the largest disparities in employment and wealth between white people and BIPOC people of any American major metropolitan area by supporting the economic engine of small, family-owned neighborhood business. As the state looks to the University of Minnesota to support high-growth companies (as some say, the "next" Medtronic or General Mills) throughout the state, the aims of our project will be to serve family-owned, neighborhood businesses in and around the urban core of Minneapolis/St. Paul in communities such as the North Side and Lake Street areas of Minneapolis and University Avenue in St. Paul.</p> <p>To ensure we are responding to the real needs of the community and are bringing local expertise to our endeavor, we will partner with neighborhood non-profit commerce organizations like the Cedar-Riverside Opportunity Center and MPLS Regional Chambers of Commerce (see support letters) to connect business owners to the support services provided by our faculty and students. To ensure we are bringing the best in entrepreneurship education to the Center's work, we will partner with entrepreneurship organizations such as the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (see letter).</p> <p>"</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Summit Academy OIC | <p>"The purpose of the project centers on a comprehensive workforce development approach that moves youth and low income adults into sustainable wage careers through: 1) A fully-remote Virtual Academy; 2) comprehensive youth-facing STEM programming delivered in partnership with community partners and employers; and 3) Summit's leading construction programming helping meet commitment to hire minorities for major new facility in South Minneapolis. These initiatives are key because Minnesota is a state with deep social and economic inequities, where the Black poverty rate is 25.4% compared to the white poverty rate of 5.9%. Additionally, amid record low unemployment statewide (2.7%, the lowest in decades), Black unemployment remains at 6.7%. The state additionally has one of the nation's worst education achievement gaps between blacks and whites, ranking last among all fifty states in racial disparities in high school graduation rates. This means youth of color are not prepared for the workforce and are unlikely to be successful economically, perpetuating negative educational and economic disparities.</p> <p>Individuals in the Metro and statewide need to move out of poverty, and, in tandem, businesses do not have the relationships or networks to reach into a growing and diverse worker pipeline. The ongoing demographic shift in Minnesota has opened the door for people of color to join the workforce in living-wage jobs that provide benefits and opportunities for advancement- assuming they are equipped with the marketable skills, knowledge, and social networks that lead to full-time, sustainable-wage employment.</p> <p>To-date, the Black population in the State of Minnesota, are disproportionately employed in front-line, low-wage jobs. With the onset of the pandemic, many of these jobs have disappeared and will not return. Recent unemployment insurance (UI) claimant data (DEED) shows that Black UI claimants represent 10.5% of the jobless population, yet make up only 5.9% of the labor force. Additionally, the poverty rate in Bemidji hovers at 24.5% and is concentrated among Native American communities. While people in rural areas desire quality employment opportunities, they are isolated and disconnected from the economy.</p> <p>Minnesota cannot afford inaction. We are at an opportune time to make history ---- with an ongoing demographic shift driven by Baby Boomers exiting the workforce, an evolving tech economy, and the sea change in racial dialogue spurred by the murder of George Floyd and civil unrest. There is a crucial need for a human capital development strategy that supports efforts beyond 'soft skills' delivery, providing real skills that will empower the community economically and socially, ending perpetual concentrations of poverty via bridges to the middle class."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Greater Twin Cities United Way | <p>"The nonprofits and government agencies that respond to homelessness in the Greater Twin Cities provide a set of proven services — such as case management, rent assistance, job training and mental health care. These supports are known to help people experiencing homelessness achieve stability and prosperity. Opportunity lies in making these services available to key groups of people we know are at the greatest risk of becoming homeless: youth exiting foster care and adults exiting incarceration. A common experience for these youth and adults is moving from foster care or corrections into precarious housing, without supports to navigate challenges and gain greater independence. Often, they end up on the street and may enter the homelessness response system. Only then, having lost valuable time and experienced the harm of homelessness, do they gain access to proven services. Because those exiting foster care or incarceration are so vastly overrepresented in the homeless population, we know that without concerted, multi-sector, regional-scale change, many of the 9,000 youth and adults who exit these systems each year will become homeless. In addition to human suffering, we</p> | Minneapolis MN |

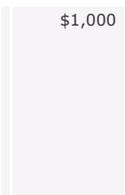


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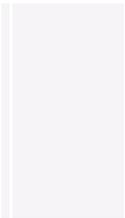
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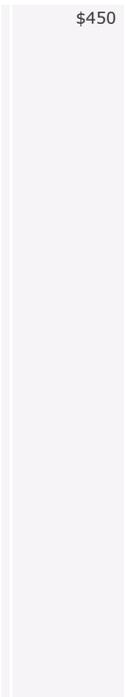


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| | <p>can predict further strain on both our homelessness response system — estimated at \$30,000 to \$50,000 per person per year — and on our region's educational and economic potential, since a safe, stable home is essential to success in learning and earning.</p> <p>To affirm the need for deep, strategic investment and the potential economic impact if Pathways Home succeeds, we partnered with Wilder Research, which estimated:</p> <p>"Providing stable housing to formerly incarcerated adults experiencing homelessness could generate public savings of \$1,040 per person per month. For those who have a long history of alternating homelessness and incarceration, providing stable housing along with supportive services could generate public savings of \$15,440 per person per year. ... If all Twin Cities youth in foster care were stably housed after they age out of the system, society could save at least \$1.2 million per youth".</p> | |
| World Savvy | <p>"Minnesota's foreign-born population is increasing faster than the national average—in Minnesota, it has tripled since 1990, while nationally it only doubled. Since 2000, more than 41,000 refugees have arrived in Minnesota as their first destination in the United States. And Minnesota is the top state for refugees who relocate from another state. Nearly one in six children in Minnesota have at least one immigrant parent. This diversity is mirrored in the schools; In Saint Paul Public Schools, students speak 126 different languages. In Minneapolis Public Schools, students speak over 90 different languages. This demographic shift is a huge opportunity for our state as diversity is linked to economic prosperity, greater scientific progress, and fairer judicial process. In addition, research shows that being around people different from us makes us more creative, more diligent, and harder-working.</p> <p>At World Savvy, we believe education has transformative power. We look at the K-12 school system as a way to help communities not only embrace change, but also graduate students prepared to be changemakers. The environmental and societal challenges our students will inherit grow greater all the time. From human migration, to climate change, the complex challenges we must address -- in our communities, as a nation, and globally -- require collaboration, critical thinking, compromise, and empathy.</p> <p>Current technology is also shifting the role of educators and schools. Youth growing up today have access to the entirety of human knowledge at their fingertips, receive news in an endless 24-hour cycle, and interact via social media with people and content across the globe. Educators' work no longer focuses on delivering information, but on preparing students with the skills to successfully navigate and process information. Furthermore, many of the jobs that our students will hold in the future have not yet been invented. Therefore, it is important for educators to teach their students not only to be critical thinkers, but also to be adaptable, resilient, and creative. Future success will come from being able to filter the onslaught of information technology allows, to think deeply about complex problems and design solutions, and to look at issues from multiple perspectives.</p> <p>World Savvy is addressing each of these issues head on in an innovative, evidence-based way. Our programs make teaching and learning real, experiential and relevant for a changing world; as a result, students acquire the kind of knowledge, skills and dispositions that not only improve academic performance, but also prepare them for life in a global society. Our Global Competence Matrix outlines the relevant indicators we measure (https://bit.ly/3lWxXTQ) including: valuing multiple perspectives, comfort with ambiguity, empathy, and collaborative problem solving. According to both the World Bank's 2019 report on "The Changing Nature of Work" and the World Economic Forum's 2020 "Future of Jobs" report, it is precisely the skills developed in our programs that will position students for success in our ever-changing global economy. These competencies aren't just critical for educational and career success, but also for civic engagement and social cohesion in more diverse local communities."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Twin Cities Rise | <p>"Twin Cities RISE works primarily with underserved populations, most often dealing with multiple barriers to accessing sustainable employment. In FY21 our program was primarily composed of people of color (81%) with African Americans as the largest group served (55%). Our current programs are mainly accessed by women (66%), many of whom are parents. Individuals in our program are low-income individuals, serving those with the most barriers to financial independence.</p> <p>As we successfully continue to serve nearly 1600 individuals in our 7-county metro, our vision is to scale into all regions with quality career-training options to enhance employment throughout the State of Minnesota. Our request is to continue to innovate Workforce Development with a quality digital model through innovation and improvement funds. We envision this investment will provide additional training resources for direct participant impact and successful job outcomes, as well as assure our programs are agile to scale and grow throughout the State.</p> <p>Provide an additional 24 hours of technical training support for career readiness programs Increase inventory and access to technology through equipment such as Chrome Books and hotspots for the inventory library, as well as additional equipment to support hybrid learning classrooms Innovative within the Learning Management System to add journey boards, gamification and avatars for elevated learning experiences Innovate by adding an interactive software function within the Learning Management System allowing instructors, staff, and coaches to engage with participants in a flex-mobile model Enhance curriculum content with more variety of career lessons, dedicated workplace skills, and job readiness Additional interactive lessons and guided tracks within our proprietary mobile app (L.I.V.E 24/7) focused on career retention on the job</p> <p>Twin Cities RISE was a pioneer to be one of the first to fully launch an entire program in a virtual space. With two-years of proven success, we believe scaling throughout the State of Minnesota is very achievable in the near future. This expansion will provide a high Social Return On Investment monetary value for the state, as well as our greater community, through increased tax receipts on earned income; reduced use of government support; and measurably reduced criminal justice costs.</p> <p>The Ecotone Analytics report illustrated the profound social benefits that come from Twin Cites RISE's work with those who are hardest to employ. Twin Cities RISE engages intentionally and systematically with our participants in addressing and mitigating their specific barriers to employment, and more importantly, retention. Some notable outcomes from that report prepared by Ecotone Analytics include:?</p> <p>Those with a criminal history who participate in the program are 4.5 times more likely to receive Full-Time Employment compared to individuals with a criminal history who do not participate in our programming</p> <p>Participants who achieve Full-Time Placement demonstrated a SROI of \$7.48 for every \$1 spent?</p> <p>Participants who completed the program regardless of placement demonstrated a SROI of \$3.76</p> <p>"</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Roots Community Birth Center | <p>The current building housing Roots Community Birth Center is no longer meeting its needs. Roots has outgrown its space and the birth suites are not wheelchair accessible to visiting family of birthing people. We are planning to improve a building next door so that we can serve more members of the community. This will allow Roots to provide increased access to the prenatal care provided in our Perinatal Safe Spot. We are partnering with the City of Minneapolis to make this work possible. The impact of these services, while addressing a profound health disparity, provides support for so many more people as well. People from all backgrounds find individualized care, with excellent outcomes, right in their own community at this special time in their lives. The impact of excellent perinatal care is that it works for ALL birthing people, from all backgrounds.</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| City of Minneapolis | <p>"MSP TechHire – Youth Tech Academy builds out a clear and comprehensive tech training and internship model for youth and young adults ages 16 to 24 in Minneapolis and the region and provides a trained workforce to businesses who need IT talent in Minnesota.</p> <p>This project will focus on youth and young adults ages 16 – 24 from BIPOC communities and those who have been disconnected from education and workforce due to COVID and other more broad systemic issues. Students with barriers face the biggest challenges to competing in the workforce, particularly low-income youth, teen parents, and youth with disabilities, for example."</p> | Minneapolis MN |

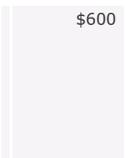


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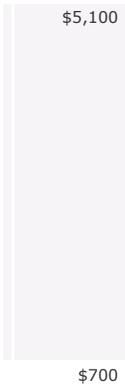
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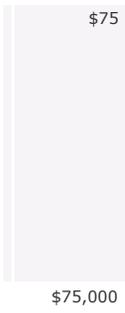
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| City of Minneapolis | <p>"Minneapolis SBC is part of the network of School Based Health Care centers in Minnesota. Minneapolis SBC are a founding member of our MN School Based Health Alliance and collaborates by providing technical expertise and guidance to other existing and emerging centers. SBHCs serve a critical role in increasing access to quality comprehensive and coordinated primary care for adolescents, especially underserved, at-risk, and stressed adolescents. Clinics located in schools making it easy and convenient for students to access. Increased access to care is beneficial to all stakeholders in MN. It is well documented that healthy teens learn better. Schools with a School Based Clinic are shown to increase attendance, improve student behavior, improve graduation rates, and improve school climate and learning environments. (National School Based Health Coalition 2019)</p> <p>Minneapolis understands that adolescents are our future and that addressing health disparities by providing early intervention, eliminating barriers and by providing adolescent specific medical and mental health care will support positive emotional and social development of our youth. This additional Federal funding for the Minneapolis SBCs will enable us to serve an additional 500 to 600 teens with over 3,500 more visits annually."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Children's Health Care d.b.a Children's Minnesota | <p>"Children's Minnesota has long provided robust outpatient mental health services and worked to integrate behavioral health across various inpatient and outpatient service lines. We currently provide mental health services to children within our 9 primary care clinics, our specialty clinics (including Psychology, Psychiatry, Neurodevelopmental Services, Eating Disorders), across our two Emergency Departments, and in our Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) in Lakeville. We are requesting funds to support our ongoing mental health programming in the service areas outlined above, and to expand our programming to include additional acute and outpatient services. The funds requested will help cover the costs of our mental health programs including staff salaries, program materials, training and education to bring additional mental health clinicians into the workforce, and uncompensated or under-reimbursed care.</p> <p>With our continued investment in mental health services, we have emphasized key programs such as:</p> <p>HealthySteps - a national program via Zero to Three that focuses on health equity, early childhood mental health and school readiness to foster healthy child development and life-long skills needed for mental wellbeing (with a concentration on families living in poverty). Partnership with Washburn Center for Children to increase access to in-home crisis resources for those in need of acute mental health intervention. Programming to support the creation of a 22-bed inpatient mental health unit. Expansion of mental health day treatment programs (such as PHP).</p> <p>Integrated Behavior Health - embedding mental health clinicians within primary care clinics to enhance screening and provide early intervention services."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Children's Health Care d.b.a Children's Minnesota | <p>"Children's Minnesota has a strategic imperative to build out our care continuum to meet the increasing needs for mental health services for the children and families in our community. In doing so, we have targeted investments in the following acute care initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build a 22-bed inpatient mental health unit in our St. Paul hospital serving children and adolescents. Children's new inpatient mental health unit will be located on our St. Paul hospital campus and easily accessible from all parts of the wider metropolitan region. Of the 22 new beds, 14 will be used for adolescent patients or will constitute swing beds for any pediatric mental health inpatient age group. The remaining eight beds will be dedicated to care for younger children under age 12 who require inpatient hospitalization. This will be the first such service for this younger age range in the East Metro. 2. Create a Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) in Roseville serving elementary-, middle-, and high-school-aged children. Mental health day programs can serve as a critical alternative to inpatient hospitalization, and align with our vision to partner with patients and their families to deliver the right care in the right place. <p>This expansion will help us address the current and growing crisis of unmet pediatric mental health care needs in our community and state. It will also support our longer-term objective to provide comprehensive services to better support children and their families throughout their care journey."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Children's Health Care d.b.a Children's Minnesota | <p>Children's Minnesota remains committed to meeting the special health needs of diverse populations and their caregivers. The clients and families with whom we work are diverse; 88% of them are members of non-White, non-Hispanic racial and ethnic groups. A large proportion of the children we serve are foreign-born and many are adopted; thus, they require additional psychosocial support and referrals related to this experience. Children's is committed to creating culturally responsive models of care and case management. Building upon our reputation as a safety-net healthcare organization, we are committing additional resources to infrastructural support, administration oversight and informational technologies to assure the future success of the children we serve. Access to research clinical trials is a critical first step in improving health outcomes for all populations, including children. A growing part of our mission is to provide access to state-of-the-art clinical trial enrollment opportunities so our clients can receive novel therapies provided in NIH-, industry-, or investigator-led studies. To meet the demands of our large market share of children, ranging from 60 to 65% of children in the Minneapolis/St Paul metropolitan area, we propose to create a satellite translational research staging area to assist in specimen collection, processing and send-out in accordance with the biological sample needs of research studies. To accomplish this task, we are requesting a one-time stipend of \$75,000 to purchase equipment that will allow us to meet our translational research needs.</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| YMCA of the North | <p>"We propose a project that will support youth in elementary, middle and high school. We want to help with a mind shift, offering wellness programs, education, and motivational speakers adding connections for youth and for families to community resources and education for mental health.</p> <p>We want to begin working with youth by connecting them to community jobs, so they can earn money and learn about having a job, how to keep a job, and learn about education and job opportunities going forward. Having money, and knowing about all the possibilities to have it life-long in careers you like and are skilled for leads to real change, hope, and homeownership. This is what youth talk about, and we would use this fund to start to build our capacity to offer this to youth.</p> <p>Beginning with Career Development, we will work with community organizations, workforce agencies, trades, community colleges, local businesses, banks, government, and local police by inviting them to talk to our youth about the work they do, the opportunity for careers, and how to get there. Youth will learn money management, resume building, working for work experience, educational opportunities and scholarships, and technology."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Minnesota Alliance With Youth | <p>"Promise Fellows engage students in school and learning by using an Early Warning System to identify youth who need support and then provide individual interventions to build academic and social skills. Students are selected for support by using the early warning signs of school disengagement: low school attendance (< 90%), low work completion (< 60%), or low reported engagement (following teacher referral and score on the Student Engagement Instrument, described in detail later). Promise Fellows each work with a caseload of 30 students for a minimum of 90 days, providing support and interventions in three areas; caring adults, high quality out of school time supports, and service and learning opportunities (research-based activities informed by the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University and backed by evidence from the National Dropout Prevention Centers' Effective Strategies for reducing school dropout). The Alliance has been hosting AmeriCorps Promise Fellows for over two decades. Since 1999, over 1,600 individuals have served as Promise Fellows at schools and community sites throughout the state, serving over 170,000 students. The program has a tremendous impact: students in the program see consistent gains in attendance and on-time-to-school rates, academic engagement, and coursework completion. Federal funding would allow the program to expand to serve new schools and more students."</p> | Minneapolis MN |

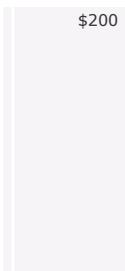
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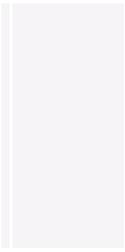


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| createMPLS | <p>"createMPLS is committed to preparing students who are underrepresented in STEM fields by removing barriers to provide accessible technology learning programs. We partner with schools and like-minded tutoring nonprofits to bring quality, hands-on, and engaging STEM learning to urban youth. We invest in our students, especially those historically underrepresented in STEM fields, female and BIPOC students, in order to bridge skills and experience gaps, and help more students succeed in higher education and today's job market.</p> <p>createMPLS works to remove the barriers of knowledge, cost, and transportation in order to offer new and in-depth programs and classes for K-12. This brand new project, Launch and Grow, will include two new offerings: a drone program (Launch) and a hydroponics program (Grow). As we develop long-term, hands-on learning opportunities for our students, we're developing scope and sequence for scaffolded learning that is innovative, relevant, equitable and accessible.</p> <p>Goals and Objectives:</p> <p>Remove barriers to accessible learning opportunities where students are already located, at no cost to students or families (discounted for host sites/schools). This is where we differ from other organizations.</p> <p>Develop long-term, varied, learning opportunities by working with schools, nonprofits, and community members to increase the impact of the organization, with drone and hydroponics programs, for example.</p> <p>Connect and network with business mentors, industry professionals and volunteers and introduce students to certificate programs, internships, and other development/learning/work programs.</p> <p>Increase access to 500+ new students and keep retention of current students at 95%, with primary focus being on those underrepresented in STEM fields."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Southside Harm Reduction Services | <p>"In a 2019 report on overdose deaths, the Minnesota Department of Health wrote: "In Minnesota, factors like systemic racism have prevented communities of color...from having equal access to the resources needed to be healthy...Reducing health disparities and overdose deaths within communities of color requires investments in prevention efforts at the individual, family, community, and policy levels."</p> <p>Our project's purpose is to offer overdose and other prevention services at the individual and community levels in order to reduce health disparities experienced by BIPOC PWUD, primarily rates of fatal overdose, infectious disease, stigma, and barriers to healthcare services. We will achieve these goals through naloxone distribution and training, overdose prevention education, and referrals to health-promoting care (which are protective against fatal overdose). We strive to provide warm, effective, and immediate referrals. Because participants trust us, we can connect individuals with these services even when they might otherwise be wary of engaging due to (justified) historical distrust.</p> <p>SHRS was founded in the East Phillips neighborhood of South Minneapolis in 2017. Though we have grown to operate throughout the metro area, we will continue to focus our service provision in East Phillips, a neighborhood with a decades-long legacy of Indigenous rights organizing, as well as a large population of unhoused, Native folks who use drugs. We will continue to work hard to establish trusting relationships through harm reduction philosophy of stigma-reduction, consistent and reliable services, and participant empowerment. Since 2020, SHRS has been the largest syringe service provider in the state, distributing 1.2 million syringes and 15,000 vials of naloxone. While these numbers are impressive, they don't share the relationship-building that is equally important to community health and healing, and that is the cornerstone of this project.</p> <p>We have a deep commitment to fostering a community that keeps itself safe, and we strive to include the people who use the services in the design and implementation of the program. Not only are we working to mitigate the spread of infectious disease and fatal overdose, we work to be an engine for inclusion, building and maintaining connections and community-building in all aspects of our services. Providing a sterile syringe, a smile, or a warm pair of socks without requiring sobriety begins to build community, a powerful protective factor for health among Indigenous people who use drugs. Many participants become engaged in SHRS' work as peer exchanges or volunteers. We also build community through informal weekly gatherings where volunteers and participants pack syringe exchange kits or conduct community clean-ups to dispose of used syringes and other trash.</p> <p>SHRS also serves greater Minnesota by supporting participants to bring overdose prevention and harm reduction supplies to their personal networks outside of urban areas. This is an evidence-based strategy called "secondary exchange" that extends access to people who might not otherwise use our services. Many of our participants travel between Minneapolis and reservations, and we will continue to supply them with supplies and information to distribute to their communities."</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals | <p>All Native families in Minnesota will speak their native language fluently from pre-K through elders. This long-term goal was identified through community input from Wicoie staff and apprentices, parents, community members and board members (all but one of whom are tribal-enrolled members). Wicoie is a certified Early Childhood Language Nest with 9 children under the age of six enrolled in their program. Two Native languages are taught to the 16-month through 5 year-old students, Dakhóta and Ojibwe. The proposed project is a cornerstone of achieving this long-term community goal. It will increase the quality of the instruction by having the classroom teachers and apprentices all complete the early childhood development certificate program at partnering organization Fond du Lac Tribal College. This program teaches from a cultural perspective that resonates with Wicoie's seasonal curriculum and cultural competency of the teachers and apprentices. Increasing the fluency of the teachers and apprentices will allow Wicoie to grow its program by hiring the apprentices once this grant ends. Wicoie's pedagogy of using cultural traditions and seasons as the basis of its early childhood education curriculum and immersion model is effective in the student's acquisition of the Native language. Parents/guardians are engaged at home in reinforcing the language learned in the classroom. They support an early literacy rich environment with labels in their Native language on at least 300 items in their home. Parents receive weekly packets of at-home activities to support language reinforcement at home, and daily video clips of their child using their Native language at school. As a family all come together with other community members and Wicoie staff and apprentices to work in the community garden, learn about the uses for each plant, and their Native names. It culminates with a harvest of the produce that families take home for their personal use. During their time gardening the families are striving to speak in their Native languages with the teachers/apprentices and with each other. The long-term goal of fluency for the Native community is that they will use their language across all social domains on a daily basis.</p> | Minneapolis MN |
| St. David's Center for Child & Family Development | <p>"For the children and families who critically need access to early assessment and evaluation, children's mental health services, and early intervention, we are committed to providing a range of in-person and telehealth services that can result in a consistent return on investment of up to \$17 for every dollar invested. Without early assessment and intervention, mental health needs that could have been addressed and potentially resolved often snowball into chronic, persistent mental illness, addiction, and maladaptive behavior, translating into additional costs on already overburdened educational, justice, and health care systems.</p> <p>The purpose of this project is evident in our goals:</p> <p>--To serve more children and families by optimizing staff time through improved system efficiency: St. David's Center will reach more children and families in 2023 than we did in 2021, with a 30% reduction in staff time dedicated to documentation and other workflow inefficiency.</p> <p>--To more effectively engage parents and caregivers through IT-based strategies before, during and after treatment: The population we serve, given their past experiences and at time distrust in larger systems, requires creative engagement strategies.</p> <p>--To improve job satisfaction and retention in our mental health and early intervention staff: It is critical to our current goals and anticipated expansion that we not only retain and invest well in current staff but that we are an employer of choice for prospective candidates in the mental health field. Systems efficiency and access to professional development are key.</p> <p>--To increase accuracy, improve data management, and more effectively use data to drive decision-making and strategy: Transitioning from manual data entry, documentation, and reporting procedures to automated, integrated systems is key to having data readily available and ultimately optimal business practices and performance.</p> <p>--To improve physical plant and network security: Safety on our sites and within our network is critical to customer experience, service continuity, staff retention, and organizational performance.</p> | Minnetonka MN |

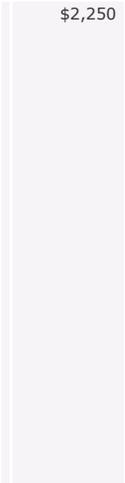
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| | <p>--To improve business performance, sustainability, and continuity: With improved efficiencies, better data, better staff productivity, satisfaction, and retention, and increased children and families served, St. David's Center will continue to be an asset to Minnesota for decades to come.</p> <p>These IT infrastructure solutions are critical to our ability to meet more of the increasing demand for children's mental health services, including early identification of concerns and early intervention. Though there are countless new for-profit telehealth-based mental health companies in the market, nonprofit, community-based mental health agencies like St. David's Center are invaluable in meeting the complex needs of our community's most vulnerable children and families – children with histories of abuse and neglect, children whose parents have their own mental health and addiction histories, children whose families face barriers to successfully engaging in mainstream health and mental health care.</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to equip St. David's Center with the IT infrastructure to reach more children and families and fundamentally change the trajectories of hundreds more children in 2023 than we served in 2021. "</p> | |
| Children with Autism Deserve Education Foundation | This is a pilot program, serving Minnesota young adults with autism, transition from school to college and work, with an innovative one-of-a kind workforce development program, that incorporates life skills, labor skills and behavioral management. | Minnetonka MN |
| Minnesota State University Moorhead and northwest | <p>"Yellow Ribbon Advance promotes private investment and leverages the under-utilized talents of our military-connected citizens to serve their communities with skills critically needed in our communities.</p> <p>Yellow Ribbon Advance represents a new model in private-public partnership committed to seeing veterans, service members, and their family members' contributions in meeting workforce shortages while they work towards a bachelor's degree. Service members receive intensive support as they earn a degree in one of six career pathways: health care, education, public safety, cybersecurity, business and logistics, or human services.</p> <p>As an innovator in higher education and industry, Yellow Ribbon Advance will:</p> <p>Advance concurrent learning/earning models that support degree completion; Expand capacities, teaches skills and competencies in the workplace, enhances professional development, advances careers, and decreases time to degree completion; and Increase work-based learning, fill skills gaps, and provide family-supporting wages to military-connected learners as move towards degree completion. For the regional economy the Yellow Ribbon Advance will: Expand industries' access to skills urgently needed in the region by the health care, education, law enforcement, cybersecurity, logistics and other high-need business sectors; Deliver skill-ready professionals in high-demand career tracks who are prepared to meet the demands of growing and flourishing industries; Showcase a replicable, scalable model urgently needed throughout Greater Minnesota with shared recruitment and accountabilities between higher education, workforce development, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and the Minnesota National Guard; Integrate and enlarges the impact of tools already developed through congressionally designated spending for career transition through the Department of Labor, Department of Defense, and Minnesota State; and Leverage highly intuitive, proven methods for finding, recruiting, and retaining military-connected learners through two-year college programs, American Council on Education (ACE), Minnesota State's Transcript Clearinghouse, and faculty-determined credit equivalencies, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, and Minnesota State's Congressionally funded streamlined enrollment processes for U.S. Armed Forces.</p> <p>"</p> | Moorhead MN |
| Minnesota State Community and Technical College | <p>"We believe this project is important and impacts the local community for the following reasons:</p> <p>Increases diversity of police force within Moorhead and Minnesota</p> <p>Increases pool of police applicants within Minnesota</p> <p>Allows for more consistent, realistic, and repeatable training</p> <p>Provides a convenient and modern facility that is cost efficient</p> <p>Provides a facility that gives renters an opportunity to easily comply with applicable regulations and standards. Provides for the safety of personnel and the general public during training. "</p> | Moorhead MN |
| Concordia College | <p>"The purpose of this project is to serve the educational and healthcare needs of Northwestern Minnesota through innovative education related to workforce development for nursing, education, and behavioral health.</p> <p>Concordia is a predominately undergraduate co-educational, private liberal arts institution with a growing number of graduate and certificate programs. Our 2,000 students are primarily from rural communities (74%). Concordia's 8,000 alumni in the Red River Basin influence the entire region, providing graduates ready to serve as leaders for its hospitals, nursing homes, courtrooms, classrooms, businesses, churches, farms and in many sectors of public service.</p> <p>Healthcare provider/Nursing shortage</p> <p>Recent data from a Minnesota Health Department report illustrate the current and future need for quality healthcare workers across the state, with special concern for rural communities such as ours. The alarming finding that 1/5 of rural healthcare providers intend to leave their careers in the next half decade requires action.</p> <p>Based on this rapidly expanding demand for nurses, Concordia has restructured the Accelerated Nursing program from 18 months down to 12 months, ensuring a quick entry into the healthcare workforce, with the same high-quality instruction. The course of study focuses entirely on the classes and lab work required by the BSN degree. Graduates take the same National Council Licensure Exam required of all prospective registered nurses and Concordia students have an exceptional pass rate of 97%, which is unheard of in other programs.</p> <p>Teacher shortage</p> <p>According to the most recent report (using pre-pandemic data) by the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB), 70% of school districts report challenges related to teacher shortages. Although the decrease is across the state, rural school districts indicate a greater difficulty in hiring. COVID-19 challenges have exacerbated the shortage with school districts operating with open positions and a lack of substitute teachers. The state has designated areas of need including STEM and world languages.</p> <p>Concordia is in the unique position to offer licensure in Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Arabic, Hmong, Somali, and Karen and is the first institution in Minnesota to provide a licensure for Karen, a language spoken by people in the regions of Burma and Thailand and by many new immigrants to Minnesota. The College is one of only two Minnesota institutions providing a program for Hmong and Somali, areas of specific need mentioned in PELSB's report. The master's program will also provide opportunities for students to complete coursework for licensure in Chemistry, Life Science and Math.</p> <p>Mental health needs</p> <p>The already high demand for mental health services increased during the pandemic and has overwhelmed behavioral health services providers. A rural provider of substance abuse services recently spoke on campus and indicated they had a long wait list for their services even though their facility was at half capacity due to a lack of qualified providers. According to the federal Health Professional Shortage Area report, all counties in our region of Minnesota are designated as lacking adequate mental health services for our population. "</p> | Moorhead MN |
| Morris Area Child Care Center | <p>"The Morris Area Child Care Center provides educational childcare services for children from 6 weeks to school age. There is a critical need for quality, educational child care in Morris and the surrounding communities. The purpose of this project is to create 42 additional childcare openings within our community. There are numerous members of the Morris community that are currently without child care as the number of needed child care spots is significantly higher than the number of spots available in the community. Morris Area Child Care Center is working with St. Francis Health Services to expand our childcare space within the next year with a construction project planned to break ground by the end of 2022. With this construction project, The Morris Area Child Care Center will double it's enrollment capacity and be able to enroll an additional 42 children for a total of 84 children enrolled.</p> <p>This project includes a need for classroom furniture, educational toys, social/emotional learning equipment, and equipment for three classrooms: 1 infant classroom, 1 toddler classroom, and 1 preschool/school age classroom. This project also includes an indoor play area and an outdoor play area for children to develop gross and fine motor skills. This total estimated cost for this project including equipment for 3 classrooms, the indoor play space, and the outdoor play space is \$150,000. This project estimate is for the needed equipment and educational toys and does not include any construction costs."</p> | Morris MN |

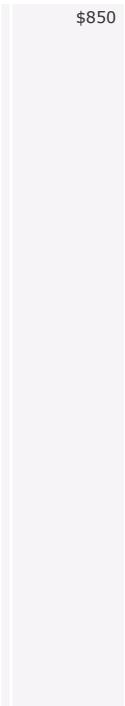


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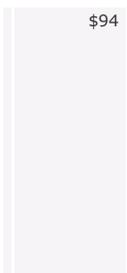
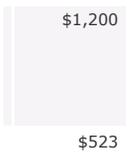
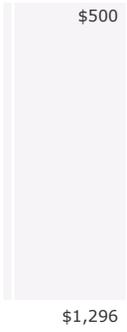
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| South Central College | <p>"Dental careers are in high demand and offer Minnesotans the opportunity to support their family by earning a livable wage. In Region 9, the current median salary for Dental Assistants is \$48,000. In addition, occupational (OID) data from the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development shows 7.2% growth and 6,657 openings for Dental Assistants in the next 10-years. As attested by our letters of support, dental professionals are already feeling this crunch and there are numerous offices across the State and our community hiring for these occupations. SCC's Dental Assisting program currently shares a clinic/lab space off-site. Multiple programs (Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, and Advanced Dental Therapy) use this lab. As demonstrated above, demand for these occupations are at an all-time high. With programs already at full capacity, educational partners are faced with the challenge of how to expand these programs and offer flexible scheduling for students with limited space.</p> <p>Dental care is an important part of an individual's overall health and well-being. Poor oral hygiene can greatly affect one's quality of life, and if left untreated, certain dental diseases, for example a tooth infection, can spread and affect other areas of your body. For this reason, access to dental care and early prevention are key.</p> <p>The local community would have access to SCC's Dental Clinic. They would be able to schedule appointments to have polishes, fluoride, sealants, and X-rays done, with a future goal of expanding to fillings. The College would also be able to hire a DDS on staff and offer restorative services, with SCC students assisting.</p> <p>SCC's Dental Clinic will be able to offer dental exams and create treatment plans for patients who come in for services. The Clinic will be able to take medical assistance and state insurances that most area dental offices do not, as well as offer discount pricing for dental services. At this time, there are only two dental clinics in Mankato that do this and one of them is not currently accepting new patients. A new clinic could open up the doors to those patients that cannot get services.</p> <p>A Dental Clinic on SCC's campus will also allow the College to expand offerings to incumbent workers and Clinics themselves. For example, Allied Dental Clinical Sedation certification courses could be done onsite in a state-of-the-art lab. Access to such courses will positively impact the quality of care providers are able to offer the community."</p> | North Mankato MN |
| Laura Baker Services Association | <p>"Collaborating with our local community is key to our success, and crucial for our clients' success. We provide volunteer opportunities for community members, internships and other learning opportunities for local college students, access to new music and artistic collaborations and host community events. We believe that our success as an organization, and the overall well-being of our clients, relies on strong connections with community partners.</p> <p>Community engagement and interaction is a critical component of ensuring successful integration of people with IDD into the community. Both the new Family Navigation Services and Behavioral Consulting Services will help LBSA expand our impact by supporting families and individuals who cannot, or do not need, to access our residential services. These services will provide support to people who are waiting, on the State's waiting list, for support. These new services will also allow us to provide help to families that live well beyond our current 30-mile radius service area. These services will especially help support people with low incidence challenges to navigate the world. Experts in the field have told us that these services will divert the people served from psychiatric units and hospital emergency rooms, and will create cost savings for the government in the process.</p> <p>These new services will create a need for additional employees, allow us to better compensate our current employees, enabling us to retain them. It also will provide additional advancement opportunities for employees.</p> <p>Laura Baker Services Association (LBSA), located in Northfield, Minnesota, is one of the longest running providers of intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) services in the country. Founded in 1897 by Laura Baker who created an environment where people with developmental disabilities could flourish in the community. 125 years later, Miss Baker's legacy of community, music & art, focus on the individual, and an inclusive culture of dignity and respect, are all reflected in LBSA's day-to-day operations. Our mission is to respect the life choices and dreams of people with developmental disabilities and help them reach their goals.</p> <p>LBSA welcomes clients who are perceived as difficult to serve. Many have had multiple placements prior to receiving services. This includes individuals with Prader-Willi Syndrome, dual diagnoses, and unique behavioral challenges. LBSA is able to accommodate individuals that other organizations may not because we provide individualized housing and service options that can help meet the level of service that is most appropriate for each individual. These services include basic housing and support services. Additionally, LBSA provides a variety of additional programming and services that are not part of our licensure requirements. An important part of LBSA's mission is focused on the uniqueness of each individual and how we best can support their goals. As a result, we provide additional services that are designed to enhance the well-being and overall health of each individual client we serve. These services include: housing support (still in development), music therapy, creative arts, family support services and many volunteer programs and events that provide our clients opportunities to engage with community members."</p> | Northfield MN |
| Community Action Center | <p>"The purpose of this project is to provide relational support for students using illicit substances, and clinical referrals if necessary. Because it concerns the future of dozens of Minnesota high school students, it is of vital importance to the local community, and the state at large.</p> <p>Northfield, like rural areas all over the state, desperately needs more SUD treatment programs. The "Rural Chemical Health Disparities Report" (2021), commissioned by the MN Department of Human Services, found that rural areas have equal or higher rates of alcohol, methamphetamine, and opioid-dependence, when compared to urban areas. However, their treatment programs, infrastructure, and medical personnel are fewer and farther between. In this situation, it should come as no surprise that rural areas like Northfield now have higher rates of overdose deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Northfield has zero in-patient services for SUD, making early prevention and treatment programs (like this proposal) vital to the health of the community.</p> <p>The need for effective recovery support in the ALC is especially pressing given the long-term consequences of substance use disorders that begin early in life. A 2018 overview of current research in Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience found that adolescent drug use impedes neurological development, raises the likelihood of later health problems (like diabetes), and dramatically increases the odds of full-blown substance use disorders in adulthood. Investment in recovery services now will pay dividends to the local community, and therefore to the state of Minnesota as a whole, for years to come.</p> <p>Unfortunately, conventional clinical treatment programs have proven ineffective at the ALC. For several years, the school contracted with an outpatient substance abuse services provider that primarily works with adults. The number of students willing to work with this provider has dwindled to zero. It was only able to do 7 assessments last year and made a total of 5 referrals to other services. All the while, student drug use and the negative behavioral health impacts of drug use increased. ALC leadership has decided to end this contract, recognizing the need for a new model.</p> <p>CAC has an alternative model at the ready, based on its successful program for adults and the housing work it is already doing in the ALC. Rather than immediately pushing for drug abstinence, the SUD support specialist will help participating students build their "recovery capital": the personal and social resources necessary to stay safe and, if the participant wishes, work toward recovery. A focus on recovery capital is in line with best practices for recovery, as defined by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SAMHSA has recognized the importance of holistic care and identified four major dimensions of recovery support: health, home, purpose, and community. Through relational support and referral to both CAC and clinical services, the SUD support specialist will be working on all four dimensions."</p> | Northfield MN |
| St. Olaf College | <p>"The proposed project addresses education-to-workforce pipelines for the next generation of workers and future professionals: educators, scientists, physicians, writers, poets, historians, faith leaders; as well as government, nonprofit, and business leaders. Not enough research currently exists to understand the immediate and downstream effects of prolonged periods of a pandemic disruption across the sectors of classroom learning, co-curricular activities, student clubs and sports, and personal relationships. However, as national news outlets have reported, it is already clear that the pandemic has negatively affected student mental health.</p> <p>Given today's complexities, it is proactive and wise to pursue mental well-being training for St. Olaf students, faculty, and staff, so they can recognize the early warning signs of mental illness; intervene appropriately, and refer people to resources. This training benefits the campus community, but also importantly will be part of the toolkit students, faculty, and staff take to their home communities. Training will equip students to be better citizens of the communities they</p> | Northfield MN |



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| | <p>eventually settle in.</p> <p>The long-term implications of mental illness drain our healthcare systems and crisis resources. Not only are troubled students less likely to thrive while pursuing studies and degrees that will lead to employment, but without interventions, they may not graduate. If they do graduate, they will bring their struggles to the workplace if interventions do not take place. St. Olaf College students, alumni, and employees are actively engaged in various communities around the world, within the United States, and more directly in Minnesota. Many St. Olaf alumni ("Oles") are employed and live in Minnesota communities.</p> <p>While in college, students interface and involve themselves in the Northfield (MN) community through student-work employment; classroom academic and civic engagement internships; and volunteering. For example, students pursuing education majors interact with K-12 classrooms in the Northfield Public Schools. Social work majors are placed in a variety of community settings including the schools, area nursing homes, and assisted living facilities. A wide range of students mentor children and youth through Project Friendship. Not only will the proposed project assist St. Olaf students who need mental health support, but training will also enable a wider range of students, faculty, and staff to learn about mental health well-being and resources that will prepare them to aid the communities they are part of, both now and into the future."</p> | |
| United Way of Steele County | <p>"Extended Childcare Facility - open and operate a childcare facility that accommodates families that have caregivers working 2nd (and possibly 3rd shift), as well as emergency childcare drop ins. We will purchase or build a Childcare Center and outfit it to accommodate sleeping arrangements for the later shifts. We will hire a Childcare Consultant to ensure that we are following all best practices and legal obligations. We will hire and train a Center director, care providers, and staff to operate the facility.</p> <p>Work with current childcare providers to identify areas that they are not area to accommodate. Work with factories to identify how their employees need childcare to work for their families. Work with the school district to identify how we can better support their staff (because these absences significantly affect the quality of education that our students receive). Work with health providers to identify how we can better support their staff (because for our providers to keep providing health care services, they need to be able to come to work). Work with MN Prairie County Alliance who manages the Respite programming to identify how we can better support them (because these breaks are needed to support healthy parenting and reduce child abuse).</p> <p>Create a sliding fee scale and scholarship program to ensure that every child has access to quality childcare regardless of ability to pay."</p> | Owatonna MN |
| Missions Inc. Programs | <p>"Missions Inc. Programs have become a stable, reliable resource for hope, healing and transformation in the Twin Cities. According to the 2020 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Point-In-Time Count, on a single night in January 2020 there were 3,049 people experiencing homelessness. Likewise, approximately 17% of individuals experiencing homelessness in the U.S. report chronic substance use. We provide housing and supportive services to men and women living with addiction and chronic chemical dependency, withdrawal management to men, women and adolescents over the age of 13 who are experiencing intoxication and/or withdrawal; and shelter for individuals and families experiencing intimate partner abuse as well as safety planning, emotional support and legal advocacy to families impacted by domestic violence. Services are available to participants regardless of ability to pay. In 2021, Missions Inc. served over 2500 clients.</p> <p>The renovation of Mission Lodge to replace congregate living with individual resident spaces mitigates stress and anxiety that leads residents to early departures from the program. The congregate living arrangement of Mission Lodge complicates the acclimation period for a new resident who is entering the program from homelessness. Residents report that the noise and limited privacy associated with congregate living are not suitable for the extreme levels of fatigue and heightened stress and anxiety that homelessness caused them. Quick departure from the program disallows for the immersive healing experience that people in recovery require and negatively impacts the broader community. Our 2020-2021 departure reports show that 58% of departing Mission Lodge residents exit back to homelessness, hospitals, or other Hennepin County funded acute service programs.</p> <p>We follow all the key points of the Minnesota Model which have allowed so many individuals to remain free from addiction and reclaim their lives. By providing a safe environment for recovery, supportive community and access to resources, the program also addresses many of the social determinants of health (SDOH) central to Healthy People 2030, in which the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sets data-driven national objectives to improve health and well-being over the next decade. Reducing drug and alcohol addiction is a goal of Healthy People 2030, and "Neighborhood and built environment" is a key domain of SDOH.</p> <p>Our programs remain a critical resource to communities of color because of the disproportionate barriers to health and wellness these populations face. We primarily serve low income participants from Hennepin, and of these, a disproportionate percentage are from communities of color. In Hennepin County, according to the most recent American Community Survey data, 15% of residents identify as Black/African American and 1% American Indian or Alaskan Native. And yet in 2021, 23% of the people we served were Black/African American above identified as Black/African American; and 3% identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native. Just 56% identified as White, compared to 74% in Hennepin County. Structural racism has a deep impact on poverty, adverse childhood experiences, intergenerational trauma, and intergenerational substance use, and is now recognized as a public health as well as a social justice issue."</p> | Plymouth MN |
| North Memorial Health | <p>"Transporting patients via ambulance is always challenging. The comfort and care of the patient is foremost. Preventing and limiting staff injuries is also of great concern. This equipment will improve the comfort, quality and safety of transport for patients and help prevent lower body injuries for first-responders who are tasked with lifting patients, often in difficult situations.</p> <p>Benefit accrues to all directly involved in the process of transport and to families of patients on hand at the emergencies."</p> | Princeton MN |
| Diaper Bank of Minnesota | <p>"The Diaper Bank of Minnesota serves the entire Twin Cities Metro area, including Ramsey, Hennepin, Anoka, Washington, Carver, Scott and Dakota counties. We provide diapers to 20 community non-profit partners that work directly with families. In 2022, we had to turn away 10 prospective community partners due to lack of funding. We know that with additional funding we could be distributing far more diapers each year than we currently distribute.</p> <p>The approaches that helped us grow from distributing 100,000 diapers in 2015 to 650,000 in 2020 will not be sufficient to help us increase yet again to 2 million diapers in 2023 and 5 million diapers by 2026. This funding would enable us to expand our services and help even more families in need. It will also give the Diaper Bank the time needed to build more sustainable practices and procedures.</p> <p>Congressionally directed spending on this community project would improve the lives of up to 37,000 Minnesota families."</p> | Ramsey, Hennepin, Anoka, Washington, Carver, Scott, and Dakota Counties MN |
| Diaper Bank of Minnesota | <p>"1 in 3 Minnesota families with children ages three and under cannot afford sufficient diapers to keep their children clean and healthy. Parents who cannot afford sufficient diapers resort to leaving children in soiled diapers too long, scraping out and re-using soiled diapers, utilizing paper towels or other materials in place of a diaper ... the list goes on and on.</p> <p>There is no federal or state funding available for families to purchase diapers. WIC and food stamps cannot be used for diapers. Daycare assistance funding does not include diapers, and lack of access to 1 weeks' worth of diapers prevents families from being able to enroll in childcare. All of these burdens make it even more difficult for low income parents to purchase the diapers their children need and participate in the workforce.</p> <p>There is good news! Studies have shown that reducing diaper need also reduces parental mental health crises, reduces early childhood illness and infection, and increases parental access to the workforce.</p> <p>By supporting the Diaper Bank's technology infrastructure, this funding will increase our ability to distribute 2 million diapers in 2023. Thus, this funding will also alleviate parental depression and anxiety, make it easier for parents to utilize daycare assistance (thus enabling them to hold a job), and help babies have cleaner and healthier bottoms."</p> | Ramsey, Hennepin, Anoka, Washington, Carver, Scott, and Dakota Counties MN |



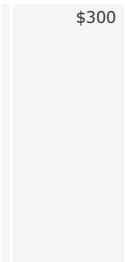
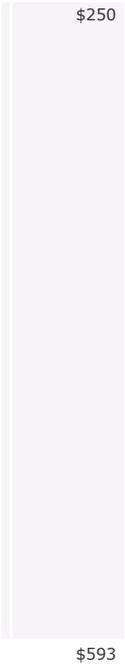
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| Minnesota State College Southeast | <p>"Continued economic growth in Southeast Minnesota relies on a highly-skilled workforce capable of meeting current and future demands from the Advanced Manufacturing sector. Demographic shifts coupled with decreased participation in the workforce means that manufacturers must increasingly rely on automation to ensure that productivity remains high. There is a geographic hole in the availability of mechatronics training programs that extends from Winona to Eden Prairie. The Red Wing campus has started offering programming for entry-level workers, but this particular program will increase the number of highly-trained technicians who will be able to meet the emerging industry needs for more advanced skills. Mechatronics is a high-demand and high-wage career opportunity, with median hourly wages well above \$25 and expected growth over the next ten years to exceed 10% across the state.</p> <p>According to a recent survey of manufacturing business conditions by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development 80% of manufacturers report labor issues as a major impediment to their supply chain. The state currently has an 8% job vacancy rate, and there are only 6 unemployed people for every 10 positions available in the state. Employers who are not retaining employees will find it increasingly difficult to find employees and will need to invest in their current employee pool to fill more highly-skills positions.</p> <p>The benefit to the local community of expanding the Mechatronics Technology program in Red Wing fall into three major categories. First, this will make careers in automation more visible to school-age students and show them that careers in local industries are highly technical, rather than the labor-intensive careers that many imagine. The high paying careers that this project will support will help with population stabilization in rural areas. Second, this proposal will not only finish the pipeline of talented technicians provided to employers, but it will also allow them to train existing employees for more advanced careers without the high expense of sending employees out of the area for training. It is far more cost effective to retain and promote an employee than to try to recruit new employees, and that is particularly true in rural areas where the population is small and adequate skills training may be limited. Third, this will help local communities attract new business and industries by clearly demonstrating that there is a trained talent pool available and that additional workers can be upskilled to meet the local demand. Businesses cannot grow without talented people and ever advancing skillsets, and new businesses will locate in areas where they feel they can attract the employees they need. Having a local program will increase that confidence and make an appealing location that community economic development professionals can promote when trying to attract a new business to the Red Wing area."</p> | Red Wing MN |
| C.A.R.E. Clinic | <p>"CARE Clinic should receive congressionally directed spending because of our importance to the greater Minnesota community. Our medical program increases access to health care for rural Minnesotans and sees approximately 50% new patients each year. We are increasing rural oral health care access, putting taxpayer dollars to good use by accepting public insurances, and reducing the financial burden that can accompany dental related emergency room visits. The dental access issues rural Goodhue County residents face is reflected across rural communities within Minnesota as persistent gaps in oral health care continue to exist. By accepting public insurances, CARE Clinic presents the opportunity for taxpayer dollars to be put to use within rural Minnesota communities, whereas the dollars would go unspent if and when offices do not accept public insurances and individuals have nowhere to go for dental care. Our mental health program is also important because of the need for linguistically and culturally competent mental health care providers for Hispanic patients in rural Minnesota communities.</p> <p>CARE Clinic also aids in opportunities to educate and train diverse health care professionals, contributing to the need for bilingual and bicultural providers who are able to provide linguistically and culturally competent care to Minnesota communities. We are educating, training, and increasing the number of licensed dental professionals eligible to work in Minnesota upon completion of their programs, addressing the need for licensed dental professionals in Minnesota. CARE Clinic's dual training program for students/employees pursuing health care degrees supports both the individual success of the students/employees and future racial health and economic equity as a whole by encouraging individuals from marginalized communities to enter the health care industry.</p> <p>This project benefits the local community by providing free and affordable health care to patients that would otherwise have to travel outside of Red Wing/Goodhue County for similar services. Of a population of roughly 47,000 in Goodhue County, it is estimated that 5% of people under age 65 are uninsured, around 18% of the population are Medicaid enrollees, and 7% of people live in poverty. Red Wing is located an hour away from both the Twin Cities and Rochester, which poses a barrier for many rural low-income patients seeking free/affordable care or bilingual English/Spanish health care. Our Hispanic Family Therapy program also seeks to meet the specific needs of our Hispanic patients. Mental health has been repeatedly identified as a high priority in Goodhue County needs assessments for decades, and many Hispanic patients face additional linguistic and cultural barriers to accessing effective mental health care. CARE Clinic is also the only dental clinic in a 45-mile radius accepting new publicly insured patients. 93% of patients in 2021 reported that "My health improved as a result of my visit to CARE Clinic," demonstrating the effectiveness and accessibility of our services and model. "</p> | Red Wing MN |
| Red Wing Ignite | <p>"Advanced Manufacturing and Agribusiness are both drivers of our regional economy that represent occupation and lifestyle here. Employers face a steep loss of skilled workers with institutional knowledge due to our aging population, while witnessing a deficit of young people who associate this as "blue color"work. Changing student and parent perceptions about the occupations in demand for our companies to remain globally competitive is a very important aspect of the L&E program.</p> <p>The placements heighten students' awareness of the digital transformation taking place in manufacturing and agribusiness, now relying on computer and technical skills due to automation, AI and robotics. After four years of receiving students in L&E worksite experiences, employers identified the ongoing deficit in the essential skills to be prepared for a job. In November of 2021 MN State College Southeast (Red Wing & Winona) led a Manufacturing Workforce Summit with over 60 regional employers. They asked hard questions about talent pipeline needs. Resoundingly, employers emphasized the need for the following basic skills:</p> <p>New Hires – what skills and competencies are you looking for the first 1 to 3 years?</p> <p>Basic communication Digital competency Data management / needed in SMART Factories Basic OSHA training Basic Reading BluePrints Basic CNC operations Basic understanding of use of gauges Basic soldering Basic leadership with groups Manual Machine Training Basic Interview Skills</p> <p>Our proposed expanded L&E program is addressing the gap - meeting needs that school districts cannot meet while designed to respond to the essential skill shortage employers are facing.</p> <p>Our program has been dedicated to bringing together students of diverse backgrounds from all over the county into cohorts, creating shared experiences and building relationships. As the workforce of the future, they are introduced to the world class companies here. Last year proactive outreach led to the most diverse student enrollment across race, ethnicity and gender. However, retaining those students proved to be a bigger issue. RWI met with many instructors and employer partners to review ways to improve attraction and retention.</p> <p>Everyone agrees that an inclusive approach to attraction should be coupled with a strengths-based approach to support retention. Integrating basic hard skills into the Program experience will assure more students have the life and work ready skills they need to succeed. The pandemic limited students' contact with one another, compounding feelings of distance, dislocation and disconnection. Our existing program helped students stay connected and feel valued. Feeling safe among peers is as important for youth development as being physically safe in a work environment.</p> <p>Each year we see more, we reach deeper, connecting to more people and resources, building relationships, continuity and trust among the Goodhue County Collaborative. The full package we propose addresses the needs and concerns of our regional employers not only for work readiness but for the growth and competitiveness of their companies. Today's youth are our community's natural endowment. This expanded L&E program carries the promise of delivering a high impact, one that is transformative for our students, our companies and our communities. "</p> | Red Wing MN |

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| Boys & Girls Club of Rochester | <p>"Every day 219,277 kids in Minnesota leave school with nowhere to go. They risk being unsupervised, unguided, and unsafe. Nationwide, data shows that parents of color, as well as families with low incomes, especially value afterschool programming's role in supporting healthy development, building life skills, and reducing risky behaviors. However, for every child in Boys & Girls Club programs, three more are waiting. While demand for Club programs has soared, parents and caregivers report barriers to participation. Cost, lack of a safe way to and from programs, and lack of available programs were reported as the most important factors in not enrolling their child in a program. Boys & Girls Club of Rochester's Off-site Expansion Program will break down barriers to participation by providing programs when and where kids need us most, at no charge to participants, in locations – their housing development or school.</p> <p>Boys & Girls Club is Minnesota's largest after-school program provider, serving 22,266 youth at 56 Club sites across the state. Club programs address today's most pressing youth issues with programs that are designed to empower youth to excel in school and lead healthy, productive lives.</p> <p>Club is needed in Olmsted County: 24.5% of residents are under 17 years old; 11.3% of children live in poverty; 37% do not have access to enrichment activities outside of school. 55% of our members are aged 12 and under; 45% are teens; 77% are minority races or ethnicities, 90% qualify for free or reduced-price school lunch, and 67% live in single-parent households. We know Club has a positive impact on youth: 100% of our teen-aged members expect to graduate high school and 100% expect to complete some kind of post-secondary education; 70% of Club members ages 9 and older report getting at least an hour of physical activity on five or more days per week.</p> <p>For over 20 years, Rochester's Boys & Girls Club has demonstrated the ability to meet the needs of Rochester youth, particularly those living in hard-to-reach, underserved communities, with a positive, safe environment to become productive and responsible citizens.</p> <p>The effectiveness of Boys & Girls Clubs has been proven repeatedly. An independent survey of Club alumni found that Clubs help kids grow into productive citizens. The survey revealed our alumni's firm conviction that Club had a positive effect on their lives and influenced success in later life. In fact, more than half of the alumni said that their Boys & Girls Clubs saved their lives.</p> <p>Moreover, Club brings benefits to our communities. A new study commissioned by Boys & Girls Clubs of America finds that every dollar invested in Boys & Girls Clubs returns \$9.60 in current and future savings to communities. These cost savings include preventing costly expenditures for health care, public assistance programs, and criminal justice system involvement.</p> <p>The mission and core beliefs of Boys & Girls Club of Rochester fuel our commitment to promoting safe, positive, and inclusive environments for all youth because they are the leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers of tomorrow."</p> | Rochester MN |
| ExercisAbilities Inc | <p>"Request would fund a post-acute rehabilitation program and pro-bono all-access rehabilitation clinic expansion benefitting Minnesota residents who (1) need specialized care in a community clinic, (2) are often no longer eligible for traditional health insurance coverage, and (3) may be unavailable or ineligible for treatment at research institutions and large health care systems.</p> <p>We see 500 patient visits per week, serving 300 patients at any one time, including pediatric patients, adults with injury, developmental and physical disabilities, and seniors with chronic conditions. This program improves participants health and independence, keeping them out of the traditional healthcare system and active participants in their community at home, work, and play. All are residents of Minnesota.</p> <p>The Rochester community and Southern Minnesota will gain access to expanded specialized care in a community setting for pediatric patients, adults with injury, developmental and physical disabilities, and seniors with chronic conditions. This care would be newly available close to their homes. Nearly 40,000 individuals of all ages living in the Southeast Minnesota region have at least one disabling condition. Disability impacts all population groups equally including race, religion, and sexual orientation.</p> <p>With this new equipment and facility renovation, ExercisAbilities could offer more efficient care—more treatments and increased therapist safety—and more effective care—higher training intensity, real-time data collection and analytics, and performance-based therapy sessions—than available through traditional therapy.</p> <p>Our programs are available to all even after insurance ends, through reduced fees and pro bono services, to ensure long-term health benefits in this population. Outcomes include health improvements, greater independence, and less dependence on care providers.</p> <p>ExercisAbilities would further contribute to Rochester's achievements as one of the healthiest cities in the United States.</p> <p>JUSTIFICATION TO TAXPAYERS</p> <p>(1) ADDRESSES INEQUITIES IN HEALTHCARE ACCESS FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS. Project will improve and expand its advanced rehabilitative care program for survivors of spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, and stroke, and childhood disabilities among other special populations in the community, estimated at over 40,000 people, children to adults, in the region; this increase in capacity will address inequities in access to critical healthcare services for the paralysis community, as these services are not currently accessible in a community setting outside of ExercisAbilities. Many of these paralysis survivors would otherwise travel out of the region for similar care in a community setting or go without.</p> <p>(2) ENABLES BETTER CARE AND MORE EFFICIENT HEALTHCARE DELIVERY than available through traditional physical therapy techniques, maximizing health and potential of recovery.</p> <p>(3) PROVIDES HRSA FUNDS THAT WOULD NORMALLY MISS SMALL CLINICS WITH OUTSIZED IMPACT IN THE REGION.</p> <p>Please see the linked videos highlighting community impact and benefits as well as need:</p> <p>(1) Therapy with ceiling track system, April 2022: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwayzGH8L4M</p> <p>(2) ExercisAbilities 10th Anniversary, May 2021: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6G4jqQFb7rs</p> <p>(3) ABC 6 News report on pandemic impact on ExercisAbilities, June, 2020: https://www.kaaltv.com/rochester-minnesota-news/pandemic-businesses-quarantine-covid19-local-community-/5756523/</p> <p>"</p> | Rochester MN |
| Rochester Art Center | <p>"For over 75 years, the Rochester Art Center has been working to strengthen our region as a destination for creativity. Our exhibitions and programs are designed to reflect the dynamic relationship between art and society. As one of the few "things to do" in Rochester we enhance Southeast Minnesota for residents and medical destination visitors.</p> <p>Most school districts have been adversely affected by COVID-19 disruptions and schools have reduced options for field-trips. School districts that will gain renewed access to free tours/arts education at the Rochester Art Center include, but are not limited to, Rochester, Dover-Eyota, Pine Island, Zumbrota- Mazeppa, Plainview-Elgin-Millville, St. Charles, Chatfield, Lanesboro, Kingsland, Fillmore Central, Grand Meadow, Southland, Hayfield, Stewartville, Owatonna, Kenyon-Wanamingo, Triton, Lake City, Kasson- Mantorville, and Byron.</p> <p>Museum education is proven to fill learning gaps for low-income students. Further, congressional direct spending will support job security and growth in Rochester's arts and tourism sectors - sectors that generate millions of dollars in the state each year, but are underrepresented in Olmsted County, where the medical focus overshadows the necessity of arts and culture as an asset for residents and visitors seeking world-class medical care."</p> | Rochester MN |

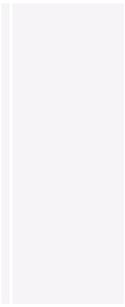


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| Apple Tree Dental | <p>"Access to regular dental care through mobile dentistry, using teledentistry, provides a pathway for people who have barriers to receiving care. Dental care is often overlooked as essential to health, health equity, and successful lives. Essential to providing that care is the need for a sophisticated Care Coordination system, which is the focus of this request.</p> <p>Without access to care, many people suffer from chronic pain and infection, often only finding relief by going to the emergency room. Unfortunately, this last resort option typically means going to an emergency room, being given antibiotics and narcotics, and then still being told to make a dental appointment beyond the emergency room visit.</p> <p>Studies show that rural communities, like Martin and Watonwan Counties, will continue to have growing populations of older adults, including many adults who are now living longer with complex medical, behavioral, and dental conditions. A large number of these residents are not able to find transportation or are not able to travel to a clinic for care, which makes providing care via mobile dentistry is more important than ever.</p> <p>This project will create a Care Coordination "hub" to link community-based care with office-based specialty services to eliminate transportation barriers, leverage local resources, increase cultural competency, and eliminate health disparities. It will bring dental services to tens of thousands of vulnerable Southern Minnesota residents, most of whom live in HRSA designated underserved areas for dental care.</p> <p>Linking?local patients? and? dental providers with specialists in the fields of geriatric and special needs dentistry ?through mobile dentistry using? telehealth technologies? is becoming more important in rural areas. Today, during and after the pandemic, when many people were not able to come into a Center or be seen at their long-term care facility, Apple Tree needs to expand its use of mobile dentistry, which requires a sophisticated care coordination system, to enhance communications and patient scheduling.</p> <p>Apple Tree Dental Centers are welcoming dental homes for patients of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities throughout the state. This project, which spans Southern Minnesota, will extend the geographic reach of Apple Tree's Centers allowing them to fill gaps in dental access. With expanded Care Coordination, we will be able to provide flexible capacity to efficiently deliver care where it is needed most in the years ahead, helping children, families, older adults, and communities currently facing barriers to dental care.</p> <p>Using processes such as integrating medical and dental clinics, Apple Tree serves as a model for future innovations. We are an incubator for the development of new programs and services, new educational opportunities, and new funding models for serving people with dental access needs across Southern Minnesota. We have collaborative agreements with 150 other community organizations ranging from Head Start Centers to group homes, to behavioral health facilities, to long-term care facilities.</p> <p>This is both a workforce development and a quality of life project, as we will be able to hire additional staffing in Southern Minnesota."</p> | Rochester MN |
| Greater Rochester Advocates for Universities | <p>"Simulation learning is one of the most impactful methods for training current and future healthcare employees. Expanding simulation capacity will ensure that our colleges, universities, and healthcare institutions can continue to attract and retain high-quality, diverse students and employees and affirm Rochester's reputation as a destination for health and wellness. Specifically, the project will impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •People who fill one of the 18,000+ direct patient care openings and their families. •Employers such as Mayo Clinic, Olmsted Medical Center, and more, plus the communities they serve. • Education partners including Winona State University, Rochester Community and Technical College, University of Minnesota Rochester, Luther College, Saint Mary's University, Southeast Service Cooperative, Workforce Development Inc., Hawthorne Education Center, and Rochester area K-12 Districts and the students they prepare for the workforce. • This innovative project that responds to an acute need will have immeasurable impact on our incumbent healthcare workforce and the community, at large. Mayo Clinic, OMC, and Workforce Development, Inc. have shared their data on nursing staff hires and openings: <p>Mayo Clinic per yr (3 yr avg.): CNAs 125+, PCAs 800+, LPNs 2386, RNs 1393, NPs 72 (Advanced Practice Nurses, APN) OMC per yr (3 yr avg.): PCAs 10, LPNs 70, RNs 270, NPs 48 WDI (SE MN current openings): CNAs 2755, PCAs, etc. 11560, LPNs 2386, RNs 1393, NPs 72</p> <p>Not only will the GRAUC Simulation Collaborative's efforts lead to the establishment of a cutting-edge sim technology center for the Rochester area to showcase state-wide, but also the Collaborative's process for linking and drawing on the expertise of public and private education providers, employers, and businesses will be a model for other MN initiatives. The commitment of all project partners to ensure access, inclusion, and equity for diverse, un and under-served workers and students is core and a practice to share throughout the state. To quote from the MN Board of Nursing's letter of support, "The Mission of the Board of Nursing is to protect the public safety; therefore, ensuring students and licensees have access to quality clinical experiences, is paramount...I strongly support this grant submission to expand simulation access to educate students and licensees permitting them to experience team interaction, address health care disparities and issues of racism through carefully designed simulation scenarios. Ultimately, this increased capacity to provide high quality simulation to southeast Minnesota will educate both students and licensees for healthcare now and in the future."</p> | Rochester MN |
| Somali Kulan Community/Rochester International You | <p>We primarily serve Rochester area underrepresented students. This includes youth with disabilities and youth from low income families and/or historically marginalized backgrounds. The main purpose of this project is to decrease the health and educational disparities that exist for youth from underrepresented backgrounds through the implementation of direct student and family services. Our aim is to actively listen to the concerns of the youth we serve in our after-school programs, identify the current barriers they face in reaching their full potential, and establish & partner with the exact community programs they need to make their health and educational dreams come true. RIYO/Somali Kulan aims to help youth navigate opportunities for advancement in academia and healthcare fields. Another purpose of this project is to bridge the gap between our youth's aspirations and the reality of the lack of representation, clear guidelines, and individualized support services. Our hope is to expand our current program to 300 students because the need is there (we have a long waiting list), however we do not have the appropriate funding to support this amount of students and hope that this opportunity can help us make our goal a reality. These goals are important to the Minnesota community because by investing in our youth and their educational/health aspirations, we are directly cultivating a healthier future for our community today and in the next generations. Educated and healthy individuals are often empowered individuals who can make well-informed decisions on their own behalf and the behalf of their community so, by directly providing youth the support services they need we are improving the quality of life of our community members. By supporting the families and parents of the youth we serve and advocating for their needs, RIYO/Somali Kulan is also aiding Minnesotan families directly which is an utmost honor. In summary, all of our active intervention programs are aimed at helping improve the physical & mental health, educational aspiration & attainment, social health, self-efficacy, and learning environment of Minnesota youth and families.</p> | Rochester MN |
| Zumbro Valley Health Center | <p>"For more than 55 years, Zumbro Valley Health Center has worked to improve the health of adults, adolescents, and children in SE Minnesota, regardless of their ability to pay. As a community mental health center, the organization enhances the quality of life for individuals through its integrated mental-chemical-medical programs. The programs and services we provide all have the same goal – helping people with a mental illness, substance use disorder and/or medical condition to lead more healthy, productive and self-sufficient lives.</p> <p>Programs are based around the organization's mission of "promoting healthy minds, bodies and communities with a person-centered, integrated approach." We focus these programs on under and un-served populations to meet the growing needs of the communities and individuals we serve, with low-income, Medicaid and Medicare eligible and public assistance populations forming the overwhelming majority of the patient base. Currently, more than 80% of clients utilize government subsidized funding or sliding-fee scale to reimburse Zumbro Valley Health Center for services provided.</p> <p>Zumbro Valley Health Center is certified as a health care home (the first of its kind for a mental health facility in the state of Minnesota), a behavioral health home and is one of the original six organizations across the state to be certified for the state's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) initiative. This model of care of care requires integration of services to address the complex, overlapping needs of the state's under served populations that constitute the majority of the people served by staff.</p> | Rochester MN |

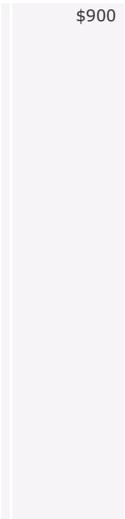
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| | <p>Zumbro Valley Health Center continues to collaborate with others at both the state and local level to improve the care delivery process and enhance current practices that increase access for those diagnosed with complex and/or co-morbid conditions.</p> <p>The CCBHC is an integration model and is key to providing the right services at the right time. The project will serve the Minnesota & local communities by giving the direct access individuals requiring 24/7 monitoring need. Once they have successfully completed the IRTS 90 day program, they will then have a warm handoff to our outpatient programs that supports their goal at being self-sufficient long term. This project gains the ability to provide the access needed and also provides a higher quality of care with the additional group rooms for treatment services. Renovating the two double rooms into four individual rooms will allow us to serve 2 more clients per day vs our current capacity based on the higher acuity of symptoms and co-morbid diagnosis of clients that we serve. Due to referrals coming from across MN, long term client stability and wellness would impact all communities involved, as 6-month client follow ups have shown a 65% decrease in ER visits and hospitalizations. In addition, clients that maintain mental health stability as a result of the IRTS program, have a lower likely hood of re-incarceration, which assists in managing the number of individuals that are currently overcrowding local jails and prisons. "</p> | |
| United Way of Central Minnesota | <p>For families struggling to get ahead financially, child care can create a barrier that is impossible to remove. When families are living in poverty, they qualify for county and federal assistance with child care. There are scholarships and families can apply for assistance. But what happens when families are working their way out of poverty, but are still struggling to get by? What happens when one emergency occurs and they find themselves temporarily unable to pay for child care? In our Central Minnesota service area (Stearns, Benton, parts of Sherburne & Wright Counties) we have a child care deficit of over 5000 child care slots. The scarcity of supply makes obtaining and maintaining child care a consuming priority for many families that will fall into poverty without access and assistance. For the past year, the Central Minnesota Community Child Care Response Fund has worked to provide gap/subsidy funding for families to acquire or maintain quality child care, on a short term basis, allowing them to focus on stability and getting back to and staying employed as opposed to added stress and barriers to stability. This funding also benefits the children as they thrive with stability and are able to regulate and feel safe in an environment and setting that they are secure in. These funds are being stretched thin as we approach a time where they may no longer be available to families in short term need.</p> | Saint Cloud MN |
| Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health P | <p>Over 105,000 public insurance program clients as well as other patients, residents and hospitals and health care systems throughout Minnesota. This investment will greatly improve our ability to provide coordinated, seamless care delivery. Our agencies serves a very vulnerable, high-cost population with many barriers to care. While we provide a full array of services in-house, our clients seek and receive care in many various locations, including hospital emergency care, crisis mental health providers, inpatient treatment, detox and shelters. Currently, all of our electronic health records are separate. It is nearly impossible to set-up consistent, efficient, realistic and uniform workflows for care coordination across all the different providers, clinics and systems. The lack of ability to coordinate services between these providers leads to duplicated efforts, higher cost of care and far less quality for the clients. The ability to have staff log into just one other system in order to do this coordination would save time, money and allow us to respond quickly to our clients when and where they need help. For example, research shows that a massive reduction in readmission to the hospital risk if the client receives an intervention and connection to outpatient care 7 days post-hospitalization. Currently, unless a client calls us, we wouldn't know if they were hospitalized, or even to communicate to the hospital that our staff are the link to outpatient care. Community Mental Health Programs provide very niche services – e.g. community based case management, residential treatment and housing. We frequently refer clients for medical and other outpatient health services. Finding culturally specific providers can be challenging. This investment will increase the ability to partner and provide coordinated services between us and those providers to ensure the client the best care possible. This platform will allow us to better tier and target intensity of service delivery based on utilization patterns and increase access to care. Mental health care access and needs have grown exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the workforce crisis in the mental health field is putting the entire care system at extreme risk of crumbling. Programs are forced to scale down, close sites or close entirely without the staff or investments needed to provide care. Further, data analytics is fast becoming a critical necessity in delivering health care. Hospital and primary physical care systems have been implementing and using data systems to drive care for a decade. Mental health care as a system is lagging behind in infrastructure and investments into data infrastructure in the same way. As we understand mental health as a critical part of overall health, we need investments in our mental health system to reflect this. Data systems will greatly help with the staffing shortage by streamlining the documentation and fast growing administrative requirements, allowing clinicians to spend their time in direct care with clients. We are asking Congress to be the example of prioritizing investments into our mental health system, leading our local investments to follow.</p> | Saint Paul MN |
| Think Small | <p>"Think Small has been dedicated to its mission of advancing quality care and education of children in their crucial early years for the last 50 years!??</p> <p>This work has never been more urgent than now; especially given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on early childhood programs and educators. This also had a profound impact on the children and family with whom they work with. Attendance, though steadily increasing over the last 6 months, saw a precipitous drop during the height of the pandemic. Approximately 52% of all young children in the United States missed considerable time in their early learning program. In Minnesota, 65% of young children missed at least half of their eligible days during the height of the pandemic. Though many programs valiantly provided remote learning opportunities, educators were only able to provide a median of 5 hours of direct interaction with the children per week.</p> <p>Even those children who were able to attend regularly experienced drops in the quality of instruction. More than 30% of teachers reported that children in their class were learning less than usual. Children of color and dual-language-learners were disproportionately affected. Throughout the pandemic, these groups were the most likely to unenroll, be forced into a remote-only option, and have the highest teacher turnover. The effects of these experiences will be felt for years to come.</p> <p>Minnesota's economy and workforce have also felt significant negative effects from the pandemic. Research shows that as of February 2022, 64% of child care centers in Minnesota have at least a 25% year-over-year decline in attendance. National data shows that 46% of child care programs—and 54% of minority-owned programs—are on the verge of closing without assistance. Since 2016, Minnesota has lost 29,000 net licensed family child care slots—approximately 27% of total capacity. Further, more than two-thirds of programs in the state had to lay off staff during the pandemic. Those able to stay employed not only have additional responsibilities related to the pandemic, but they are also unlikely to be making a living wage. The average wage for the more than 23,000 child care workers in Minnesota is about \$13 per hour. It is not surprising that finding and retaining educators has only been more difficult during this pandemic. As of March 1, 2022, there were more than 2,500 open child care jobs in the state posted on Indeed.com.?"</p> | Saint Paul MN |
| Hamline University | <p>"The Pipers to Professionals program will support the development and success of Hamline junior and senior students through collaborating with partner organizations to expand a diverse and well-qualified labor force for local community and Minnesota private businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Partnering entities will interview, assess, create training plans, and help develop student interns over the course of an extended period. This will allow the employers to get to know and potentially hire Hamline graduates who have been vetted through the internship process, which they will help design. Minnesota organizations will have an advantage in identifying highly skilled and desirable candidates for openings. The broad diversity of backgrounds that students bring to their host organizations will support the inclusion commitments and cultural relationships that are highly valued by Minnesota organizations.</p> <p>Internships allow our students to develop pre-professional/career readiness skills needed to be competitive in today's job market while gaining experience within a professional employment setting. During their internship, students explore and work to grow in each of the eight career-ready skill competencies detailed by the National Association of Colleges and Employers: Professionalism, Critical Thinking, Career and Self Development, Technology, Leadership, Teamwork, Communication, Equity and Inclusion.</p> <p>Every student who participates in the Pipers to Professionals program will engage in:</p> <p>Internship preparation/orientation, during which the internship outcomes and expectations are co-created by student, site supervisor, and Hamline faculty member or Center for Career Development staff member Guided career mentoring in an internship seminar with faculty and internship site personnel Review and development of resume and personal elevator pitch Practice interview experience</p> | Saint Paul MN |

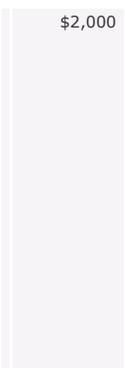


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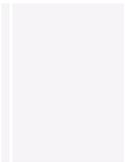
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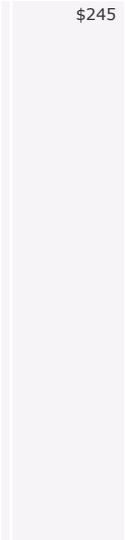


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| | <p>At the same time, Minnesota communities will benefit from having greater numbers of well-prepared professionals who are ready to work and serve as engaged citizens. The improved educational attainment of residents in communities, especially through the level of an undergraduate degree, has been demonstrated to have positive impacts across economic and social measures of quality of life in communities. A large proportion of Hamline's roughly 30,000 alumni remain in the Twin Cities (MN) after completing their degree or return here to further their lives after earning a graduate, medical, or law degree from an out-of-state institution. Supporting Hamline's students with paid internships will provide both short- and long-term benefits to the Twin Cities and the state of Minnesota."</p> | |
| Breaking Free | <p>The purpose of the Permanent Supportive Housing Program is to offer families who have been impacted by sexual exploitation a safe place to live while providing case management and emotional support. Housing is a primary barrier to exiting a life of abuse, violence, and exploitation; and we know that in offering this service of affordable, sustainable housing, we are offering families a chance to heal and become self-sufficient. Our advocates work with the tenants in our Housing Program to elevate them and provide an environment where they can learn the tools necessary to maintain their own employment, housing, finances, and create a stable home that breaks generational cycles of poverty. This project provides families with a safe residence where they are not subjected to homelessness and the subsequent victimization that often happens concurrently. In addition to a physical space, this is a place where tenants can heal from previous traumas and become positive influences in their communities. We offer an Alumni program that focuses on community engagement and building life skills with the intent of empowering our survivors to create positive impact in their personal lives as well as in the community. Our Housing Program is a place where families have an environment to raise their children and break generational cycles of trauma.</p> | Saint Paul MN |
| Change Inc. | <p>"Access to mental health services is increasingly becoming a basic need, particularly for BIPOC and/or immigrant and refugee families who have experienced trauma. Many of these families are culturally hesitant to access mental health services, or do not have access to services in their preferred language. As our staff have reached out to families in culturally appropriate ways, we have found that many BIPOC families are amenable to mental health services once they have formed a relationship with a community leader or therapist. As Minnesota continues to be a welcoming and central state for families seeking resettlement, it is critical that we offer all the support we can to strengthen all communities. One way Change Inc. contributes to that is to work towards providing all youth and families with access to mental health services.</p> <p>Change Inc. has been on the forefront of developing and implementing school-based mental health (SBMH) services in Minnesota. In 2021-22, we provided services to 791 unduplicated students and their families. We have provided SBMH services for more than 27 years at GAP School and more than 15 years in various Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Schools. While this has been primarily focused on the Twin Cities metropolitan region, we are working to expand the geographic area and connect with other organizations across Minnesota to share the lessons we have learned. Leading the development of the school-based mental health model in Minnesota has been an increasing focus for the organization, as we believe this is one of the best ways to address disparities in educational/career attainment and social-emotional health for underserved children and youth. Creating a local outpatient clinic in Saint Paul's West Side neighborhood is a cornerstone of this effort.</p> <p>Overall, through our work within the various communities we serve, we hope to address the social determinants of health that contribute to BIPOC families being overly represented within the health system. The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services outlines five major domains of social determinants of health: economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and build environment, and social and community context. These five areas encompass a wide variety of measurements for community health, and all are areas Change Inc. works to address. On the West Side of Saint Paul, we have developed an adaptable community hub that caters to evolving needs in the neighborhood and surrounding region. Through an inherently relational approach, participants and their families know that staff will meet them where they are in life and provide any necessary supports. We believe the best way to address social determinants of health is to stay nimble, listen directly to families, and build unique programs around their strengths and preferences. Our outpatient mental health clinic will better enable us to do that."</p> | Saint Paul MN |
| City of Saint Paul | <p>"Providing living wage jobs, while also ensuring the next generation of Minnesota's workforce is prepared to fill in-demand jobs in trades and growing green industries is of importance to the State of Minnesota. This proposal would also spur economic development and help advance various climate and sustainability goals by helping replant more than 11,000 public trees.</p> <p>There is an identified need in the local community for young people who are interested in securing a living wage job and being connected with opportunities to better prepare them for a future career. This program would not only add living wage jobs for youth after high school, but it would provide training, ongoing personal support, and connections through multiple partner organizations to future green industry careers.</p> <p>The local community would also benefit from this program by expediting the response to the current EAB environmental crisis, resulting in the restoration of a decimated urban tree canopy through replanting of 11,000 public ash trees throughout the city."</p> | Saint Paul MN |
| PCs for People | <p>Our fundamental goal of bridging the digital divide means ensuring that everyone has equitable access to the technology tools needed to fully participate in society. In partnership with Minneapolis Public Schools and various nonprofits and programs in low-income communities in Minneapolis, PCs for People will distribute 750 laptops to students and job seekers in need. The laptop distribution will be executed through five different events. PCs for People works closely with community partners to advertise the event and get qualified individuals signed up to receive a laptop. Each laptop is newly refurbished and loaded with a genuine Microsoft operating system and Windows 10. Additional software includes LibreOffice, Google Chrome, Windows Defender, MalwareBytes, CCleaner, and VLC Player. PCs for People staff will provide digital literacy materials to all individuals receiving a computer with topics including how to set up the computer at home, where to get mobile internet service, what software is included with the PC, how to avoid viruses, and where to go if you need support or a repair. After distributing the laptops, PCs for People provides all customers with a one-year warranty and access to customer service support members. Our customer service team has representatives that speak Spanish, Hmong, and Somali. If any issues arise within the warranty period, the laptop will be repaired or replaced at no cost. Providing families and students with a refurbished computer will give them the opportunity to increase their school grades, gain motivation, and seek meaningful employment.</p> | Saint Paul MN |
| Advocating Change Together | <p>"There is a gap between rights people with disabilities have, and rights they are purposefully informed of and supported to exercise. Advocating Change Together (ACT) dissolves that gap. Founded in 1979, ACT is Minnesota's only stand-alone, constituent governed, self-advocacy program developer, educator, and coalition builder for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).</p> <p>Until COVID, we provided in-person programs throughout Minnesota. Transitioning to virtual space exponentially expanded access. Yet at the same time, many people with I/DD live in "service system bubbles" and have no computer access, or share one with many others.</p> <p>Our project, "PCs for People" accelerates independent living capacity through equitable access to technology by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Personal computers to 100 Minnesotans with I/DD; * Ten hours of technical training on setting up and using their computers; * Enrollment in our 12-session "I Am A Zoomer" curriculum, supporting personal community-building and independence in accessing resources. <p>CDS support enables independent access to community resources and greater participation in ACT's disability rights education programs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Self Advocacy Academy, a 12-month intensive in which people with I/DD learn about their rights, practice making choices, and build support networks that enable them to thrive; * Disability Equality Training Series, a roster of 12-session courses led by two self-advocates and one ally that teach how to apply federal and state disability equity mandates to life situations in ways that support independent living; | Saint Paul MN |

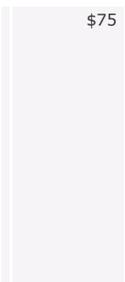


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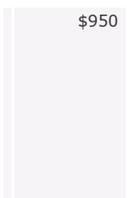
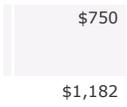
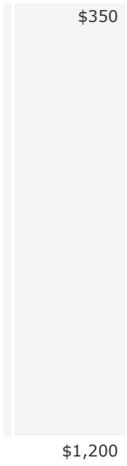
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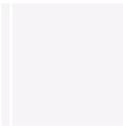
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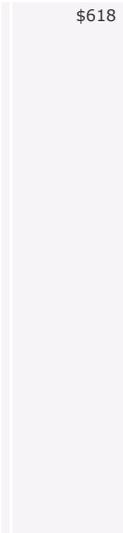
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| | * Olmstead Academy, educating self-advocate teams to understand and implement Olmstead's inclusion mandates, then share practices within their communities." | |
| Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts | <p>"Since 1996, Interact has reshaped perceptions of disabilities through the arts. We provide a robust daily roster of theater and visual arts training for 110 artists with disabilities, with professional performance and exhibition opportunities in integrated community settings. We pay artists according to arts industry standards - providing access to arts education and community integration while ensuring economic equity for artists with disabilities.</p> <p>Our project - We're Still Here! - celebrates surviving COVID in virtual space, and thriving as we re-engage with communities in person. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * We're Still Here! uses the signature project title to premiere our annual mainstage music-theater production, entirely created and performed by our company of artists with disabilities, collaborating with notable guest professionals from the community. Presented at The Luminary Theater in Minneapolis' arts-rich North Loop District. * Original short music-theater performances throughout Minnesota for corporate events, Human Services conferences, education conferences, sports openers, and more - embedding artists with disabilities as leaders in a wide diversity of community settings. * Outdoor summer Puppet Festival at our Saint Paul Hamline/Midway location - performances with original artist-created puppets, hands-on community artmaking booths facilitated by artists with disabilities, food, live music, all free to the public. * Artist-In-Residence events at our Interact Gallery, inviting the community to drop in, see work on the walls, observe the artist's working process, and engage in conversation about artistic vision and life experiences. * Original sculpture installation and public gatherings/conversations at Franconia Sculpture Garden in outlying Chisago County, Minnesota." | Saint Paul MN |
| Gustavus Adolphus College | <p>"The purpose of this project is to create an accessible and equitable academic experience for all students through Universal Design and making data driven decisions. The COVID-19 Pandemic stalled our implementation of Universal Design principles due to budget constraints and staffing challenges, all of which is still felt today. To provide the best possible equitable and accessible educational experience to all students, funding for staff and technology is much needed. All positions hired will make significant contributions towards Universal Design principles. The two Gustavus Technology Services positions will ensure all course materials, necessary documents, and information are easily accessible. In the coming year, the Library will undergo a search for a new faculty position centered in the Digital Liberal Arts, which focuses greatly on Universal Design. The Library position funded here will kick start this work. The leader in Institutional Effectiveness will play a major role ensuring the academic needs of students are continuously taken into consideration by academic departments and the offices that support student success. Universal Design principles go beyond pedagogy and information resources to how classrooms are structured and what devices students may utilize. Currently, Beck Academic Hall has multiple classrooms that are ideal for interactive learning, but much of the technology is obsolete. This funding will help Gustavus Adolphus College lead in a new era where accessible and equitable learning experiences are expected and ensured for all students.</p> <p>This new era will have a wide-reaching impact on the Gustavus community. Gustavus Adolphus College is a four-year coeducational liberal arts college located in Saint Peter, Minnesota. Gustavus is a rural, residential campus with approximately 2,100 students who are supported by faculty and staff who are committed to the high standards of a liberal arts education. Of those 2,100 students, 11.2% of them are both first generation and Pell eligible, and 19.3% are members of groups underrepresented in higher education. Approximately 80% of students are from Minnesota. Many students have a documented disability (12%), many need mental health support, and many try to get by with what they have, not asking for support. Implementing Universal Design principles and updating classroom technology will lead to a more accessible and equitable education for all Gustavus students. Additionally, making data driven decisions focused on student learning outcomes, effectiveness of pedagogy and technology, and student success will lead to change with long lasting positive impacts on students. Departments and programs will make decisions based on current data, faculty will have access to the support and technology needed to develop courses, and students will benefit. These funds will have a continuing positive impact on students, who are primarily from Minnesota, as well as the entire campus community and beyond."</p> | Saint Peter MN |
| Heart of America | In Minnesota, like many parts of the country, there are skill gaps between the jobs employers need to fill and the skills that the pool of applicants have. This project is one part of the solution that helps train the next generation of workers with the appropriate skills they need to enter the workforce. This is particularly important for under-resourced communities. | St Paul MN |
| Central Minnesota Child Advocacy Center | <p>"The Central Minnesota Child Advocacy Center (CAC)'s mission is to provide protection, advocacy, justice, and healing to victims of abuse in Central Minnesota. We carry out our mission by providing forensic interviews, medical examinations, advocacy to victims of abuse and their families, and integrated behavioral and mental health services. The CAC is a safe, comfortable environment that brings together a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) of professionals to investigate and respond to allegations of maltreatment. This model can prevent retraumatizing victims, alleviate stress on the families, and ensure consistency of services to provide positive outcomes for the case. Outside of the primary focus of responding to maltreatment, the CAC provides specialized services to Sexually Exploited Youth and Vulnerable Adults, Foster Care Physicals, prevention education for educators, caregivers, and students, and outreach and training to other professionals in the community.</p> <p>The Adverse Childhood Experiences study found that when individuals experience trauma in their childhood, they are likely to experience negative chronic health outcomes in their adult lives (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019). The CAC's work to provide early intervention and healing to children after a traumatic experience is congruent with CentraCare's goal to support children and prevent negative health outcomes later in their life.</p> <p>Relocating to the Plaza (on-campus) would enable improved operational efficiencies and the opportunity to purchase updated equipment to enhance the CAC's capabilities and effectiveness. Efficiencies would enable the CAC to expand its available capacity (daily, weekly, annual) to support victims and community partners. The number of visits at the CAC increased from 328 (2019) to 399 (2021), which may be the result of COVID-19 as families spent more time at home.</p> <p>The National Children's Alliance found that "Families throughout the country experienced sharp increases in risk factors for child maltreatment during the pandemic, including 'economic instability due to work stoppages, reduced hours, or job closures. Economic instability jeopardized basic health care coverage, housing stability, and home safety.... Many families were unable to access unemployment benefits, and stimulus funding was insufficient to cover lost wages.... Instability also led to mental health distress, loneliness, exposure to interpersonal violence, and other risks such as drug and alcohol use—factors highly associated with child abuse and neglect.'" In all, "[t]he long-running concerns about child and family well-being and the inadequacy of child welfare services available to children and families were clearly revealed, and a history of systemic, policy, and practice shortcomings are now even more pronounced." The CAC has seen these issues reflected in the population it services, as well from other CACs in the state. The CAC team also heard from our County partners that although the number of child maltreatment reports was overall down in 2020 (kids lacked access to safe, trusted adults and mandated reporters), the types of injuries and abuse were different. Children were being seen for more severe injuries and more chronic abuse that we/others had seen before. The CAC requires federal assistance to address these factors without impacting clinical care services."</p> | St. Cloud MN |
| St. Cloud Technical & Community College (SCTCC) | <p>"Minnesota Department of Economic Development "Occupations in Demand" tool ranks 538 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes. Per this data, practical nursing is ranked 10th overall, placing it in the top 2% of in-demand occupations in Minnesota. Practical nursing has the highest projected growth rate of the top ten occupations with 12.8% expected growth over the next ten years. The median salary for practical nursing is exceptionally high relative to its post-secondary education requirement; a student can earn their LPN certification within one year of enrolling in the program and enter their first professional position earning a median salary of over \$50,000 per year.</p> <p>This proposal also responds to the number one occupational demand for Registered Nurses in Minnesota. Once a nurse is licensed in practical nursing, there are several ways to career ladder and achieve registered nurse certification, nurse practitioner status, and more. A practical nurse will immediately earn a family sustaining wage while gaining the option to advance. DEED is projecting 49,000 RN position openings in Minnesota over the next 10 years.</p> | St. Cloud MN |



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| | Economic outcomes stem directly from opportunity limitations experienced by refugees and BIPOC individuals. A limited array of career opportunities concentrate refugees and workers of color in lower wage occupations. Less wealth is accumulated leading to the inability to break family poverty cycles. This also predisposes family members to lower levels of health outcomes associated with lower incomes. Providing opportunities for refugees to pursue educational opportunities in health careers benefits our community by breaking this cycle. " | |
| CentraCare Health System | "CentraCare Health Emergency Medical Services (CEMS), a division of the CentraCare Health System, requires modernization of its fleet to prevent ambulances from potentially breaking down during emergent, acute care transports. Further, new ambulances, which meet today's safety standards are compartmentalized in a way that is safer for both staff and patient transport. CEMS currently has 18 ambulances, spanning across hundreds of miles of primary service area in central, and southwest Minnesota. Well over 90% of CEMS's fleet have over 100,000 plus miles on the odometers. CentraCare's SW (Redwood Falls) and NW (Long Prairie & Benson) regional bases are 2-3 hours away from tertiary care centers, thus any transfers out of those region's hospitals add additional miles each day on those ambulances. These factors impact critical 911 services for CEMS's service area. CEMS strives to apply best practices in Ambulance innovations and safety, but the fleet is inconsistent due to not being able to update them all at once due to budgetary constraints, and with the current safety standards. Without additional funding, trying to catch up with a fleet this size will take many years and several capital request approvals to make it happen. Supply chain issues, inflation and high fuel costs also threaten the level of care in Central Minnesota as these increase costs for fuel efficient vehicles. In addition to reliability issues, the age of the current ambulance fleet has a secondary effect of outdated patient care compartments as well as crew and patient safety features, which newer and more modern specialized ambulances afford. Additionally, older box configurations were not engineered to provide greater layout efficiency. New configurations allow the ambulance crew to provide the highest and most efficient levels of patient care in critical situations. Newer ambulance patient care compartment configurations feature these current industry safety standards, which the majority of the older ambulances do not have, such as work stations that are known to significantly reduce mortality and morbidity of both the paramedic and the patient in the event of an ambulance crash by preventing the paramedic from becoming a projectile in the patient compartment. Compartment design/layout also allows safer staff work transitions between regions due to familiarity and standardization between ambulances. This is very important with current rural recruiting and staff retention shortages reaching critical levels." | St. Cloud MN |
| Higher Works Collaborative | "We recognize the need for our community (BIPOC and Black of slave Decent) to have a welcoming, culturally relevant and culturally responsive, inspirational, agnostic learning center that reflects the legacy and the future of black excellence, black leadership, and black pride. It is imperative to have a place where our clients feel safe and comfortable, culturally understood, and accepted. It is essential to have a place where the families in this community can come together, learn together, grow together and create a culture of unity and belonging. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Learning Center will be instrumental in creating a foundation or cornerstone for the black community to identify with, relate to, and be proud of. Higher Works Collaborative has been in existence since 2017. During this time, our team has worked hard to become professionals in all we do so that we can sustain the work we do for our community. For example: We are certified Life Coaches. We are certified Black Parenting Instructors We degreed Computer Scientists We are accredited, Entrepreneur Educators We are experienced caregivers We are certified Advanced Care Planners instructors and guides We are degreed social workers We are professionals that provide culturally affirming education and training from the unique perspective of black-ness that allows for a telling of the next story by the living of our story We will sustain our work through program fees garnered through this education and through a growing base of support that we have already established in this community." | St. Cloud MN |
| Perspectives Inc. | "Seed the Change Campaign was not only a result of our Board's spirit of social entrepreneurship, it also is the result of 45 years of the involvement of thousands of community volunteers, hundreds of community partners, a solid funding base, and visionary leadership. Throughout Perspectives' history, we have both advocated and provided comprehensive programming to our population of focus, acknowledging early on that they have suffered from institutional obstacles to life-changing opportunities. Over the decades, we have developed and strengthened our programming to remove barriers to recovery services, including nutrition, education, mental and chemical health services, parenting skills, housing, legal services, and transportation. Our new Family Center will ensure that these comprehensive services will continue for decades to come – services that build a pathway for a more promising tomorrow. Our project goals: Return our mothers and their children emerging from homelessness and addiction back to the economic and social mainstream. • Increase access to trauma-informed substance and mental health services for our mothers and children through the implementation of on-site services. • Provide Early Childhood Development Programming for our children emerging from shelter and trauma. • Provide programming to ensure our pregnant- women have all the resources needed to ensure a healthy baby. • Remove barriers to underserved children and youth by providing academic, nutritional, and mental health programming using a trauma-informed social and emotional-based curriculum. • Provide the needed services for the reunification of mother and child. There are over 200 low-income families moving into new affordable housing within St. Louis Park over the next three years and Perspectives Family Center is the center of these new projects. Our program will grow from serving 200 underserved children a year to over 600," | St. Louis Park MN |
| M Health Fairview | "Minnesota has a shortage of mental health and behavioral health care professionals that is leading to care gaps across the state. In 2017, nearly 25 percent of people with serious psychological distress had an unmet need of mental health treatment and Minnesota had a higher rate of hospitalizations due to mental illnesses than the national average. One study found that for every 100 Minnesota patients with a serious mental illness, 54 were hospitalized. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health access issues. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), individuals reporting mental illnesses and serious suicidal thoughts have nearly doubled during COVID-19. The Minnesota Department of Health recently announced that 723 Minnesotans died by suicide in 2020. The Transition Clinic was established in recognition of the growing demand for mental and behavioral health services. The Transition Clinic fills a care gap in Minnesota by ensuring patients can receive the care they need immediately after an inpatient or emergency department discharge until they are safely in a treatment program. The Transition Clinic will help improve access to mental health and substance use disorder services across the state and support vulnerable populations, including low-income and homeless individuals. In Minnesota, some individuals must wait days or weeks before they can access a treatment program after they are discharged from an emergency department or hospital stay due to mental illness or substance abuse. This hand off to a stepped down level of care often is not immediate. For example, patients who arrive at the emergency department with depression and thoughts of suicide may need to wait three or four days for follow-up care after their first visit. Patients may be discharged from the hospital with a new medication, but the appointment with their psychiatrist could be weeks away. Patients may not follow-up with this next level of care. During this waiting period, patients are at increased risk of being hospitalized, missing follow-up appointments, or stopping their medication altogether. This often results in readmissions to the hospital or emergency department, which could have been avoided. | St. Paul MN |

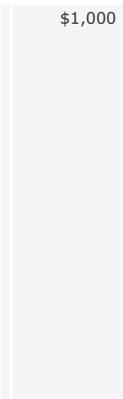


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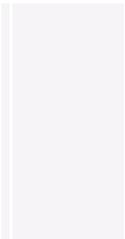
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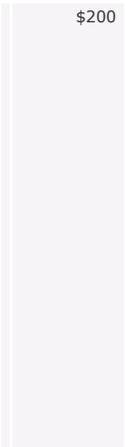


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| | <p>At the Transition Clinic, Fairview provides same-day access to mental health and addiction care for patients waiting to commence a stepped down level of care after a hospitalization or emergency department visit. Patients can receive in-person or virtual care from highly trained mental health care providers, including psychiatrists and APRNs. The Transition Clinic can also connect a patient with a peer-support specialist.</p> <p>The Transition Clinic also assists with addressing social determinants of health. Social factors can have a serious effect on an individual's overall health. We collaborate with our community partners to help patients access critical services to address social determinant of health including housing, food, and vocational support. At the Transition Clinic, case managers from these community organizations are available to provide assistance to patients.</p> <p>We believe the \$1,000,000 request is a prudent investment of taxpayer funds as it will help support the Transition Clinic's efforts to improve access to care for all Minnesotans. "</p> | |
| Minnesota State | <p>"Year-after-year, the prevalence of mental health conditions experienced by college and university students has risen and the severity of mental health conditions has increased. Colleges and universities must be prepared to provide adequate clinical mental health care as well as to educate and empower non-clinical professionals across campus from general maintenance workers, to teaching faculty and campus leaders who all have an impact on students' lives daily with practical skills for mental health and resilience support.</p> <p>Minnesota State Colleges and Universities are located in 54 different communities across the entire state of Minnesota. By funding this program, you will directly support the certification of 80 new Youth Mental Health First Aid instructors from across the state and 500 MHFA workshops that will empower up to 15,000 Minnesotans with the skills of Mental Health First Aid. Mental Health First Aid teaches people to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health challenges and empowers them with the skills of the ALGEE action plan, so they know what to do to not only help save a life by preventing suicide, but to encourage resilience, wellness and self-care practice in themselves and the people in their lives. Because this program will be supported by the Minnesota State system office, there will be potentially 54 local communities that will benefit by having MHFA instructors who can provide MHFA skills trainings in an ongoing fashion locally."</p> | St. Paul MN |
| Battered Women's Legal Advocacy | <p>As the number of calls has exponentially increased on our Action Line, we filled the need by hiring additional staff. However, the funds we utilized to hire an advocate and attorney have since ended and we are left with an increasing need for our services and a lack of funds to support the necessary staff. Based on the absolute need for our services and its benefit to those experiencing child abuse, we believe Standpoint should receive congressionally directed spending to allow us to retain an advocate and an attorney to answer Action Line calls. These funds will help to staff our high demand Action Line and increase Standpoint's ability to train and provide outreach to underserved populations. Ensuring our services are equitable and accessible to all communities and enabling our legal experts to educate on domestic and sexual violence will greatly benefit communities throughout Minnesota. Unlike other legal service organizations, Standpoint is a statewide and provides all services for free. Standpoint is committed to providing legal services to all victims of domestic and sexual violence, regardless of immigration and/or refugee status, nationality, religion, citizenship, race, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, or any other protected class. Yet, access to legal assistance and representation is limited and often unduly costly. Standpoint is the only statewide agency in Minnesota that provides free technical assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and child abuse, as well as to the advocates, attorneys, and other professionals who work with those affected by abuse. We do not have an intake process, as that may create additional barriers for the individuals accessing our services. We fill a gap in services that would leave many victims and their children without access to legal advice and advocacy. Standpoint works to advance equity in local communities by working both individually and collectively with other organizations in the community to conduct outreach with populations who have historically been underserved in the domestic and sexual violence movements. In addition to providing services directly to victims, we also provide technical assistance and training to advocates, attorneys, and other professionals working with victims. Our goal is to spread our expertise on legal issues related to domestic and sexual violence, including child abuse, to the victim-serving community to ensure that victims are receiving holistic and competent support. We believe strongly that providing and developing competent legal support will result in better outcomes for victims and their families.</p> | St. Paul MN |
| University of Minnesota, Minnesota State Colleges | <p>"This collaboration the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will offer students and individuals seeking new career opportunities the opportunities to earn nursing degrees while meeting the high demand for healthcare workers across the state and nation.</p> <p>Description of Benefit to Local Community: The collaboration will create and expand on existing partnerships with state and local academic institutions and health care providers to enhance the practical experience needed to succeed in clinical settings. It will also help to ensure rural and disadvantaged communities access to care by expanding the telemedicine-trained healthcare workforce."</p> | St. Paul MN |
| MSS | <p>"Beneficiaries include our current staff as well as everyone in our communities who potentially wants to work at MSS. The Target Population for the initiative is to share what we have learned about the viability/success of this new model of career ladders and enhanced training to providers of Day and Employment Services in Minnesota. MSS is keenly interested in diversifying our applicants and ultimately diversifying our organization, particularly in leadership roles. We will actively seek out members of the BIPOC community for these roles. We will continue to utilize consultation with AMAZEworks, and our Advisory Board to ensure our marketing materials, job postings, and overall approach to recruitment and retention are inclusive and welcoming to members of all communities.</p> <p>The career ladder, professional development, and training/mentorship activities would initially impact people from the Twin Cities and surrounding suburbs, including to low- and moderate-income individuals and families.</p> <p>Additionally, we will share with other providers what we learned and how any successful efforts could be replicated would have a statewide impact, including to low- and moderate-income individuals and families.</p> <p>There are multiple ways this proposal will positively impact people. It will give people, including members of the BIPOC community, more jobs. Our efforts will give these new hires (and existing staff) new opportunities for training, mentorship, and advancement, diversifying our internal leadership. Lastly, better staff recruitment and retention will allow us to bring more people from our extensive waiting lists into our services. "</p> | St. Paul MN |
| Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans | <p>"In 2021 we placed 155 Veterans into employment at an average hourly wage of \$17.72, representing annual gross wages of approximately \$4,690,000. 87% of Veterans who got jobs through our program last year were still employed in follow-up. Our employment placement and retention rates show the success of our programming to date; however, the first goal of our work is to determine what is most likely to result in long-term housing stability. While employment is one of the factors most often tied to Veterans' long-term stability, we also recognize that many Veterans are either not ready or not able to succeed in living wage-paying employment.</p> <p>MACV has traditionally assessed readiness for work within Employment Services. However, if staff determined that if a Veteran was not best served by engaging in sufficient work to entirely cover their income needs, we then provided linkage with internal or external partners to identify and apply for appropriate income sources. We have observed that performing this kind of income stabilization and navigation work goes hand-in-hand with any employment plan created with the Veterans we serve. Navigating the increasingly common scenario of engagement in employment in addition to other income sources like disability benefits has pushed us to reimagine MACV's current model of Employment Services. The need for this kind of innovation has only grown as we draw near the functional end of Veteran homelessness in Minnesota, making this request a timely investment in a larger goal to empower underserved Veterans in our state.</p> <p>MACV attracts Veterans through its commitment to creating a welcoming, supportive environment. Many MACV staff also identify as Veterans. We leverage relationships with local VSOs, DEED, BYR employer networks, and other non-profit partners. Thankfully, staff has consistently noted that there is strong interest among employers to hire Veterans. Employers are encouraged to send job leads and employment needs to our staff; these needs are then presented to HVRP participants.</p> <p>Our commitment to providing a larger benefit to the local community is an accepted fact in Minnesota's nonprofit community. Networking and involvement with Workforce Advisory Boards has resulted in MACV's relationships with local Veteran friendly employers looking for skilled employees, including York Solutions, Black Eye Beverage, USIC, Home</p> | St. Paul MN |

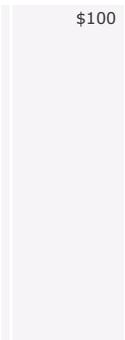


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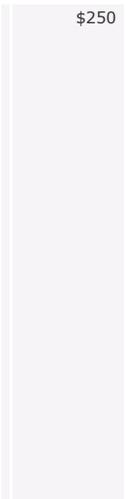
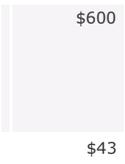
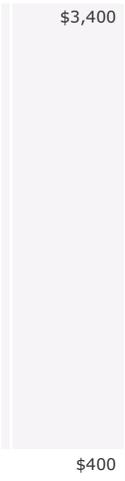
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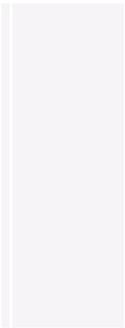
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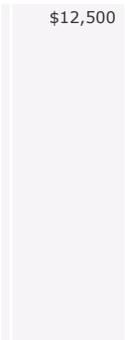
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| | <p>Depot, Block by Block, United Protective Agency, and USPS. MACV connects with these partners to learn about labor needs and skills, or training Veterans would need to fill vacancies. This networking is driven by in-demand fields as identified by DEED and includes government work such as positions within the VAHCS and training on USAJobs. MACV partners with Helmets to Hardhats on trade jobs, and has connections with local labor unions for placement, training, and apprenticeships.</p> <p>"</p> | |
| Regions Hospital | <p>"To serve the intensifying needs of our patients and community, we are expanding our Emergency Center with the help of outside contributions. Serving about 95,000 visitors annually, the Regions Hospital Emergency Department serves the residents of the east metro and residents statewide with high quality and accessible emergency care. Among key demographics for visitors the Center welcomed in 2021: • 75 percent were uninsured or covered by government-sponsored insurance • 47 percent were people of color • 9 percent spoke limited English • The Regions SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) program serves the greatest amount of sexual assault victims in the east metro. Health Equity Nationwide data shows that, due to the persistent lack of health access and disparities in health equity, the first (and often only) access many low-income people and people of color have to medical care is through an emergency room. In addition, due to disparities in preventive care and access to primary care providers, these members of our community often present with high-severity health conditions. While we ultimately want all patients to have access to the highest-quality preventive and primary care - and we work toward that vision - the simple reality today is that many vulnerable people show up in our emergency care facilities first. This reality makes our expansion work at Regions Hospital all the more urgent. Given the hospital's location near downtown St. Paul and adjacency to several cultural corridors - including the historic Rondo neighborhood, University Avenue, and Latino districts on the East and West Side of St. Paul - it is especially important that we update our moderate- to high acuity units to create a safer, higher-performing, culturally appropriate and welcoming environment that will contribute to individual and community healing.</p> <p>Charity Care Regions Hospital is the charity care leader of the East Metro and the second largest provider of charity care in the Twin Cities, behind Hennepin Healthcare. The Emergency Center absorbs a large percentage of the hospital's charity care expenses by serving very vulnerable patient populations. In 2021, Regions provided \$18.5 million in charity care costs to care for 48,538 patients who did not have insurance or could not afford care. These costs are one reason why Regions partially relies on outside contributions to fund special projects and values these funding partnerships with deep gratitude."</p> | St. Paul MN |
| St. Catherine University | <p>"STEM occupations in both the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota are projected to grow at a faster rate (7.2%) over the 2018-2028 period than non-STEM jobs (4.7%), yet employers are already having a hard time finding the STEM talent they need to fill positions, risking their competitive edge; the current STEM job vacancy rate is 6.2% statewide, and 6.5% in the metro. Women of color are in especially short supply in a field that is 89% white and 72% male nationwide. Because women and BIPOC individuals receive a disproportionately small share of STEM degrees awarded in the state, filling STEM jobs in Minnesota requires that we attract a wider pool of students to the field and that we do so beginning in middle and high school, when girls and minority students retreat in large numbers from math and science. As a Minority Serving Institution and women's university, St. Kate's is uniquely positioned to build the diverse STEM pipeline Minnesota's labor market needs.</p> <p>According to the National Science Foundation, diversity - of thought, perspective, and experience - is essential to achieving excellence in 21st century science and engineering research and education. People with different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives approach problems differently, ask different questions, and develop more innovative solutions, advancing scientific understanding while accelerating economic growth and competitiveness. The Expanding HERizons initiative builds a targeted infrastructure to attract, engage, and propel BIPOC girls and women along a STEM education-to-career pipeline that fosters their collective talents while diversifying the workforce.</p> <p>For nearly 100 years, St. Kate's has been a critical locus in the Twin Cities region for educating diverse women in the sciences and launching them into careers in a wide variety of medical, technological, scientific, and academic fields. Expanding HERizons benefits Twin Cities area girls, starting in middle school, who will be provided hands-on educational experiences and access to state-of-the-art equipment and technology at St. Kate's to build their interest in STEM and their confidence in themselves as future scientists. The project benefits young women studying math and sciences at local community colleges by providing a seamless transfer pathway to bachelor degree programs in all-women classrooms taught by faculty that is 85% female - environmental factors correlated to higher achievement and graduation rates for college women in STEM.</p> <p>Expanding HERizons rewards the women who graduate with the skills necessary to secure well-paying careers in high-demand STEM fields, bringing family-sustaining wages and spending power to the region. In Minnesota, median hourly earnings for STEM jobs are nearly \$20 more an hour than median earnings for all other jobs, providing STEM professionals with incomes that help minimize wage disparities based on race and gender. Local businesses and industries that hire these female graduates will be rewarded with the growth and innovation a highly-skilled diverse STEM workforce brings. That innovation, in turn, results in scientific, medical, and technological breakthroughs and advances that solve some of the most pressing challenges our communities face, benefiting us all."</p> | St. Paul MN |
| Open Cities Health Center Inc | OCHC's Patient Advisory Council has received community input that supports an improved and efficient digital IT solution that focuses on patient health instead of the everyday hassles of managing health care services. OCHC patient community wants rapid information sharing, reduced paperwork, better follow-up and appointment reminders (email or text message reminders about making or keeping appointments, staying current with treatment and medications and other ways to improve one's health. Finally, OCHC patients want secure access to information, especially in the event of a natural disaster or other tragedy. | St. Paul MN |
| Open Cities Health Center Inc | As an Federally Qualified Health Center, OCHC focuses on populations that experience some of the state's largest health disparities. OCHC patients face some of the most significant social drivers of health as 78 percent of our patients are from BIPOC communities and roughly 90 percent have annual incomes less than 200 percent of poverty. | St. Paul MN |
| United Family Practice Health Center | <p>"United Family Medicine (UFM) is a Federally Qualified Health Center located in the historic West 7th Street/Fort Road Federation neighborhood of Saint Paul, Minnesota. UFM serves as a "holistic health care center" for underserved populations within our culturally and economically diverse community. We deliver high quality health care to all persons regardless of their insurance status and offer a sliding scale fee model for underinsured or uninsured patients to guarantee low-barrier access to integrated health care services. UFM is committed to partnering with community-focused organizations to expand the reach and impact of our health services. "Satellite Campus Clinic" actualizes this commitment, creating a formalized partnership with Saint Paul College (SPC) to establish an on-campus satellite UFM clinic designed to holistically meet students, faculty, and staff's physical and mental health needs.</p> <p>SPC is a public community and technical college located within our clinic's service area. Currently, SPC does not have an on-campus clinic of any kind, leaving students to search for medical and mental health resources elsewhere or (for some) not at all. UFM and SPC see the mutual benefit of offering on-campus medical services to SPC students, faculty, and staff, especially given the demographic make-up for SPC's student body. As a Minority-Serving Institution, 66% of SPC students identify as BIPOC. Additionally, SPC is an open-enrollment institution, resulting in a diverse mix of students across age and lived experiences:</p> <p>40% of enrolled students are 25 years old or older</p> <p>3% of enrolled students are refugees and asylum seekers</p> <p>12% of enrolled students are foreign born</p> <p>7% of enrolled students are Veterans</p> <p>42% of enrolled students are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant</p> <p>With over 30-years of experience serving culturally and economically diverse community members, UFM knows the conditions that create health disparities disproportionately impact the students SPC strives to serve—BIPOC individuals, refugees, Veterans, and people from low-income households. Likewise, SPC is aware of the barriers many students face to receiving medical and mental health treatment. For example, according to a 2019 Institution Report conducted by the</p> | St. Paul MN |



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| | <p>Hope Center surveying 324 SPC students, 7% of students reported having a physical disability, 11% a chronic illness, and 31% a psychological disorder. Additionally, 30% reported using Medicaid or other public health insurance. SPC has taken steps over the past two years to provide more supportive health services to students in need. However, an on-campus satellite clinic would be the most significant step taken towards the college's supportive health services effort, fostering connections to low-barrier, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed care for thousands of students on-campus who might not otherwise have consistent access. While details of service offerings are still being finalized, United Family Medicine is equipped with the staffing resources to provide the following care on-site:</p> <p>Primary and preventative care</p> <p>Sexual and reproductive health care</p> <p>Behavioral and mental health services and therapy</p> <p>Social work support</p> <p>COVID-19 testing and vaccinations</p> <p>Addiction services"</p> | |
| Metropolitan State University | <p>"Development of a professional workforce is a critical need to ensure continued growth of the Minnesota economy. Active and applied learning experiences, play a critical role in professional workforce development, especially for university students who belong to groups that are historically underrepresented in our professional workforce and low-income students. The Minnesota State Demographic Center report, "The Economic Status of Minnesotans" from 2018 highlights that the workforce of the state is increasingly diverse and those from underrepresented backgrounds are less likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher. In the Twin Cities metro area, 42% of all job vacancies required a post-secondary degree and residents with a bachelor's degree or higher had a labor force participation rate of 90.2% (DEED, Twin Cities Metro Area Economic Development Region 11, Sept. 2021). For businesses and non-profit organizations in the Twin Cities to grow and be successful, they need a professional workforce that includes residents from all backgrounds who are well-prepared for their careers.</p> <p>Nationally, employers report a desire for universities to do more to prepare our students for the workforce through career readiness support and increasing active and applied learning activities (AACU, How College Contributes to Workforce Success, 2021). Research has consistently shown that active and applied learning (also known as high-impact practices) like internships, undergraduate research, and integrating learning result in increased deep learning and personal gains for students. The gains are particularly large for first-generation university students or students who belong to groups historically underrepresented in higher education and the professional workforce (AACU, High-Impact Educational Practices, 2008). At the same time, the National Association of Colleges and Employers reports that women, Black and Hispanic/Latinx students, and first-generation college students are less likely to complete paid internships (NACE Brief: Inequity in Internships, 2021). Students, particularly those in STEM fields, who participate in undergraduate research are much more likely to complete their degree and to persist in STEM careers, particularly for students who belong to groups that are historically underrepresented in STEM fields (The National Academies Press: Undergraduate Research Experiences for STEM Students: Successes, Challenges, and Opportunities, 2017). Finally, working students typically do not get support for integrating their learning through work experience with their academic learning in a way that advances their professional career goals.</p> <p>This project is focused on professional workforce development for Metro students who will: 1) Gain access to and set learning goals for active and applied learning experiences; 2) Complete active and applied learning experiences with mentoring support; and 3) Communicate effectively about active and applied learning experiences to current and future employers to support career advancement. Local companies, non-profit organizations, and state agencies will benefit from access to interns, support of employees who are Metro students, and a local workforce that is professionally developed through these active and applied learning experiences."</p> | St. Paul MN |
| West Side Community Health Services | <p>"Community Impact: Increased Access & Health Equity: The project will increase West Side Dental's dental operatories from 5 to 15, allowing for greater accessibility of culturally-relevant care for an additional 2,000 patients. Additionally, given MCC's range of other services including medical care, the project will also promote integration of medical and dental care systems to enable MCC to continue providing patients with more holistic care.</p> <p>Community Driven: Plans for the redevelopment have been informed by community listening sessions and MCC's triennial Community Health Needs & Assets Assessment.</p> <p>Job Retention & Creation: West Side Dental currently employs 27 staff. The expansion will allow the clinic to hire 16 additional full-time employees. All jobs created are high-quality jobs with health insurance, dental insurance, a retirement plan match, professional development opportunities, and more. Additionally, MCC's dental program partners closely with the University of Minnesota as a teaching site, and this expansion opportunity will allow for additional U of M dental students to receive important hands-on training.</p> <p>Neighborhood Revitalization: The redevelopment of the site will provide the west side community— an area that historically has suffered from lack of resources, commercial development, and corporate investment— another neighborhood resource and a much-needed addition to the MCC health care system."</p> | St. Paul MN |
| Minnesota Department of Health | <p>"On March 6, 2020, Minnesota reported its first COVID-19 case. Then, George Floyd was killed in police custody on May 25, 2020. Following these events, there has been significant community turmoil involving over 1,300 properties, COVID-19 deaths, disruptions in schools, work, health care, and social support systems that have resulted in worsening mental health, increased substance use, dramatic rise in drug overdose deaths, and increased violence. From research, we know that mental health, substance use, and violence share common risk and protective factors. Building on these common protective factors, including social emotional skills such as self-management and problem solving, can prevent substance use and mental health problems and promote overall health and well-being. Mental health promotion among our youth is more important now than ever as it encourages protective factors and healthy behaviors that can help prevent the onset of a diagnosable mental disorder and reduce risk factors that can lead to the development of a mental disorder. Youth who are taught the skills to cope, reach out for help, and have at least one caring adult can often show resiliency to negative experiences. Providing funding to classrooms to support a curriculum such as LST can provide lifelong benefits for adolescents such as improved self-esteem, trust in others, encouraging help-seeking behaviors, improved conflict and time management.</p> <p>The local communities would benefit through funding to purchase, provide training, and implement a research-based curriculum in their local schools. The LST curriculum has strong evidence of preventing substance use, promoting more positive mental health, and improving school achievement. In the long term, communities would benefit from improved physical, social, and mental health outcomes among youth, including reduced substance use, reduced anxiety and depression, and improved school achievement. Building these social and emotional skills would set youth up for lifelong wellbeing and success."</p> | St. Paul MN |
| Minnesota Department of Health | <p>"Almost 430,000 Minnesotans may be experiencing long COVID symptoms. This is likely much higher because it does not include those self-testing for COVID or who had COVID but were never tested. COVID, a precursor to long COVID, has disproportionately impacted rural communities and, therefore, we anticipate a wave of rural Minnesotans who will require clinical and social support services to manage the effects of long COVID. Current estimates suggest that up to 15% of adults out of the work force is due to long COVID effects. Long COVID is also likely to become to most significant health issue leading to disability in the modern era. It is critical that Minnesota begins building the clinical, social service, and public health infrastructure to support those suffering from long COVID, especially as it will intersect with pre-existing chronic conditions and will impact their quality of life as individuals, at home, at work, at school, and in their communities. This project will benefit local rural communities throughout Minnesota by providing inexpensive yet needed and trusted social support services for thousands of Minnesotans experiencing mental health, disability, and other health issues related to long COVID. The proposed peer support network approach is potentially cost-effective and, thus, sustainable. This is important as we expect long COVID to be an ongoing chronic condition as long as Sars-Cov-2 infections continue."</p> | St. Paul MN |

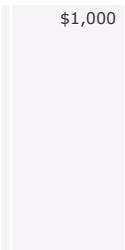


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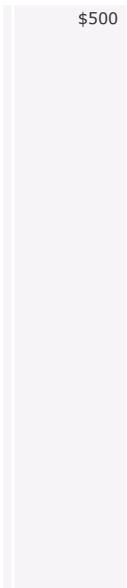
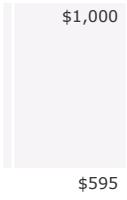
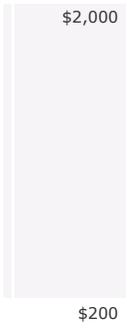
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| Minnesota Department of Health | <p>"Maintaining access to obstetrical services in rural areas is necessary to provide quality health care with positive birth outcomes for mother and baby. Rural communities in Minnesota are increasingly at risk for closing their obstetrics services. One reason many rural hospitals stop offering obstetrics is because physicians, nurses and other clinical staff do not perform procedures frequently enough to feel confident that they are maintaining a relevant skill set. Rural communities will likely not see the population growth necessary to increase the number of deliveries in rural hospitals in a way that would give providers sufficient opportunity to maintain their skills. Advanced simulation equipment can be the next best thing by allowing them to practice, hone, and maintain critical skills across the full spectrum of scenarios possible when delivering a baby. Since babies are born whether or not a hospital offers obstetric services, it is also important for emergency department physicians, nurses and emergency medical services personnel to train for obstetrics events.</p> <p>The current suite of equipment is located in Cloquet, Minnesota and is open to all interested rural hospitals, however, some are upwards of five hours away from Cloquet, making the trip a logistical challenge for some. While hospitals with obstetrics services are more likely to send providers and travel to access the training, time and distance may be a barrier for hospitals without obstetrics to justify sending their teams to the trainings, even though they recognize the value to their staff and communities."</p> | St. Paul MN |
| Ujamaa Place | <p>"Quoting Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development: "Comparing the economic status of people of color with Minnesota's white residents reveals many disparities including those in educational attainment, labor force participation, unemployment, and income and poverty levels. These racial disparities exist and persist for a wide variety of reasons, but the economic challenges and opportunities Minnesota will face over the next 15 years are great and will need to be tackled with an equitable and multi-pronged approach to attracting, retaining, and training workers of all demographic characteristics. Working on solutions to address these disparities between the white population and populations of color is not only the right thing to do, it's the necessary thing to do if Minnesota is going to provide employers with the workforce needed for success. Closing these gaps is crucial to keep the state's economy moving forward." Ujamaa Place Workforce Training Program prepares workers from an underserved demographic, young African American men, many involved in the criminal justice system. With interventions and support put in place by this program, this largely untapped pool will help to provide employers with the workforce they need to be successful in their businesses, leading to the overall success of the economy in Minnesota.</p> <p>A recent Ujamaa Place and Ramsey County Supervised Released Prisoner partnership directs specific services and support to African American males ages 18-24, released from the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Services include, but are not limited to, mentoring, employment training and counseling, GED preparation, mental and chemical health, cognitive skills, and emotional intelligence programming.</p> <p>The Ujamaa Place program generates \$4.92 for every dollar invested. This return comes from approximately \$1 million in increased wages that 275 participants in 2019 and 210 in 2020 would earn in the three years after finishing the program. Returns also come from mental health referrals and assistance achieving GEDs. The cost of generating these additional earnings, health and education benefits is \$2.2 million. Based on existing evidence, we assume that employment training programs impact future earnings as far as three years after participation. All earnings are estimated accounting for employment and wage rates of sub-populations served by the program (e.g. previously incarcerated, disability, and race). Estimates also account for expected or observed duration of employment and hours worked. Benefits are also derived from mental health care services and employment and educational programming leading to increased earnings and improved health.</p> <p>The latest Wilder Research Evaluation of Participant Outcomes states: "Ujamaa Place participants are more likely to find and retain jobs and increase their personal income. Participants also earned educational degrees with the help of the Ujamaa program, improving their future lifetime earnings. Participants are also less likely to engage in criminal activities, which reduces the costs to society associated with law enforcement, incarceration, and victims' costs." A Wilder Research return on investment (ROI) analysis of Ujamaa Place suggests a return of \$5.49 for every \$1 invested in Ujamaa Place, as well as a yearly estimated net gain for society of \$3,389,594."</p> | St. Paul MN |
| Minnesota Commission for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and | <p>Hearing loss can further isolate and limit accessibility to services and information in Minnesota's Veteran community. Improving communication and increasing verbal and auditory access to information provided by County Veteran Service Officers is important to ensure critical information is fully heard and understood. Supporting and building healthy Veteran communities starts at a County Veteran Service Office; meetings that occur include information about a wide range of topics including mental health services, healthcare, job placement, pensions, and survivor and dependent benefits. Often, the VA system can be overwhelming for Veterans and their families and a CVSO can help guide Veterans and their families through a difficult experience and provide resources to improve their quality of life.</p> | St. Paul MN |
| Minnesota Humanities Center | <p>"In a society aspiring to self-government, there is no more important purpose than to ensure that citizens have the knowledge, skills, disposition, and opportunities to direct and improve the public life they share. Minnesota has historically been considered an exemplar of such "civic muscle" due to its high voter turnout, respected education system, and vibrant voluntary and independent sectors.</p> <p>Minnesota, like the rest of the nation, is becoming increasingly polarized. This polarization makes it difficult to teach our children to become responsible, tolerant, creative, and collaborative citizens. Our schools are ignoring challenging questions or taking partisan sides. In each case, schools are denying students a chance to grow into empowered citizens who acknowledge the messiness and interdependence of public life in a diverse society.</p> <p>MHC's Third Way Civics initiative will address this problem at the state and local levels in three major ways:</p> <p>First, MHC already works with colleges and universities statewide, helping undergraduates become informed creative citizens, capable of supporting the civic growth and agency of others. Through a primary source-based syllabus conveying the eternally contested character of American democracy, and a "civic musclebuilding" curriculum, students teach one another about the texts they read, then share and compare opinions. We focus on pre-service teachers, who develop the skills to negotiate controversial historical and contemporary issues in a depolarizing manner, while developing pedagogical approaches and resources to help them build such skills in their K12 students. With federal support, we can work with up to ten additional teacher-preparation programs statewide over the next three years (2023-2025). Second, MHC is launching its first civic-learning institute for in-service teachers this summer, in partnership with Minnesota State University-Mankato. We will provide in-service teachers the same rich civic learning experience as our pre-service students, helping them develop units or entire curricula that can provide the same experience for their K12 students. With federal support, we can offer two institutes each summer over the next three years (summer 2023, 2024, and 2025) with stipends and travel reimbursements that will draw between 150 and 200 teachers statewide, impacting the civic learning of thousands of students in just three years. Third, MHC is committed to building statewide capacity to improve the teaching of US history and government to develop students' capacities and identities as empowered and creative yet interdependent and mutually accountable citizens. Our purpose is to assist each of our higher education partners and as many district partners as possible to develop their own civic-learning institutes for K12 educators. With federal support we can train education professionals to deliver high-quality civic learning to their own K12 students and other professionals, with a goal of co-developing at least two regional institutes yearly.</p> <p>In sum, by equipping young people to acknowledge and navigate diversity in personally empowering and socially productive ways—and empowering statewide and local partners to do the same—MHC and the State of Minnesota can ensure the understanding and practice of self-government in America, as a means of building common goods from disparate parts."</p> | St. Paul MN |
| City of Saint Paul | <p>"Libraries play a critical role in providing digital access and equity across the State. There are large discrepancies in digital access and equity, which became even more evident during the pandemic and economic crises. There are 13 libraries located throughout the City of Saint Paul. Every community will benefit from base level technology in community/meeting rooms to facilitate work, study and collaboration. This proposal will ensure that libraries provide public access to the technology-rich community meeting and work spaces that residents want and need in our digital age."</p> | St. Paul MN |

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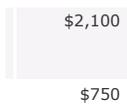


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| City of Saint Paul | "Play is learning. Libraries play a critical role in providing spaces for residents to play and learn. This is essential for social and cognitive development and overall well-being of families and communities across the State. Libraries are free and accessible spaces to gather, play and learn. There are 13 libraries located throughout the City of Saint Paul. Every community will benefit from base level play-and-learn investments for children and families, teens and intergenerational play. All Saint Paul residents can easily access their local library." | St. Paul MN |
| M Health Fairview | "The MSUD Improvement Program is a one-of-a-kind care delivery service that can be provided free of charge for individuals in the East Metro area. This program lowers hospitalization and emergency department visits, which can be a significant cost for the federal and state governments. Further, this program can serve as a template for other communities in Minnesota as well as across the country that want to provide similar services. Our community partners include Minnesota Recovery Connection, Mental Health Crisis Alliance, Burkwood Treatment Center, Ramsey County Chemical Health Services, and East Metro Partners. Funding this program will help support these community organizations. " | St. Paul MN |
| The Zero Abuse Project | The Zero Abuse Project and the CAST program have their roots in Minnesota. The Zero Abuse Project was founded by Jeff Anderson – whose firm is headquartered in St. Paul – a pioneer litigator in child sex abuse cases, including a case against the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. CAST began in 2004 as a collaboration between the National Child Protection Training Center (NCPTC) and Winona State University (WSU) faculty. To improve preparedness for child-serving occupations in postsecondary education, WSU and NCPTC developed the introductory three-course CAST curriculum designed around evidence-based practices in child protection and multi-disciplinary teamwork modeling. CAST programs are also in place at the Mitchell-Hamline School of Law and St. Catherine University in St. Paul. The Zero Abuse Project also operates the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center in St. Paul, which was founded by the parents of Jacob Wetterling, a Minnesota child kidnapped from his hometown of St. Joseph and murdered at the age of 11 in 1989. The Zero Abuse Project also developed, and provides ongoing training in, the ChildFirst Forensic Interview Protocol, which has been adopted by 21 states, including Minnesota, to help secure justice for victims of child abuse. This funding will help us support and grow the three existing CAST programs in Minnesota and to disseminate the model to other colleges, universities and graduate programs in the state and across the country. For instance, the current director of the Minnesota Children's Alliance is a former CAST professor who is interested in connecting Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) with various universities to assist in developing and teaching CAST students and providing internship opportunities. | St. Paul MN |
| Minnesota Recovery Connection (MRC) | "MRC is a leading provider of peer recovery support services, which are an evidence-based model of giving and receiving non-clinical care and assistance for recovery from substance use, mental and behavioral health disorders. Services are delivered by Peer Recovery Specialists, professionally trained individuals with lived experience of SUD and recovery. Peer Recovery Specialists help others initiate recovery, maintain recovery, navigate complex healthcare and human service systems and enhance quality of life. Minnesota Recovery Connection seeks CDS funds to enhance and expand 3 promising new program initiatives: Ongoing development and implementation of racially, ethnically and culturally specific peer recovery, behavioral and mental health support training and service delivery for Minnesota's Native American, Black, Latinx, and East African populations; Ongoing development and implementation of peer recovery, behavioral and mental health service delivery for justice system-involved individuals, and integrating peer recovery support services and training into the justice system; and, Ongoing development and implementation of peer recovery, behavioral and mental health service delivery for the housing system, and integration of recovery-oriented housing navigation training and services into the housing system. Situating within the organization's proven model of peer recovery support, the amplification of these programs will function across public and private sectors to alleviate SUD, mental and behavioral health disorders at the intersection of poverty and structural racial disparities. CDS funds for these initiatives will ultimately help transform the lives of more than 50,000 people living with SUDs, grow Minnesota's skilled workforce, and strengthen statewide economic growth and prosperity." | St. Paul MN |
| Ototronix | Hearing loss in rural populations is disproportionately higher to that of suburban and urban environments. It is estimated that 10% of U.S. farm workers (including meat processing workers) are exposed to an average daily noise level above 85 decibels which is generally considered to harm human hearing. This program will test the efficacy of middle ear implants to address profound hearing loss in patients who receive little or no benefit from hearing aids. Middle ear implants are also less than half the cost of a cochlear implant thereby saving the healthcare system money. Identifying potential candidates for a middle ear implant is very easy using common audiological testing practices. The primary endpoint of the program is to measure the improvement in speech recognition scores (speech understanding) of patients receiving this treatment using clinically accepted standards of evaluation. | St. Paul MN |
| Proceed Inc. | Proceed Inc. seeks congressional support funding to enhance post-secondary educational pathways and training pathways to ensure African American students and other BIPOC access resources to pursue college, technical, or careers including specialized employment. Proceed Inc. will utilize evidence-based student-centered college exploration tools and provide service-learning experiences for up students in grades 6-12. As well as provide early education services to students in grades K-5. Proceed Inc. will engage youth in summer enrichment camp exposing them to all aspects of S.T.E.A.M. Participating in the Stepping program to build self-confidence. During the school year, providing individual tutoring and parent workshops promoting life skills. | St. Paul MN |
| Career Solutions | "CareerONE is committed to removing barriers to success for at-risk youth ages 14 - 17. It is entirely free to participants. Nutritious breakfast snacks and lunch are provided to youth who are often from food-insecure families. As each leaves the program, they have new skills and a changed view of the value of education. They have confidence, new friends, a portfolio to present to potential employers, and funds to invest in their future and help their families. For these low-income students, participation in CareerONE can be transformational. For employers, CareerONE can mean higher employee retention rates, seamless transition to the workplace, and increased diversity in the workplace. Youth participation in CareerONE increases their social and emotional skills. They are more confident as they take on tasks at school and move into the labor force. The transition to post-secondary school, apprenticeships, or directly into the workforce happens with assurance with well-defined work goals. Feedback from participants' parents demonstrates the change in their children as they approach the future.–"Eye-opening experience; provided direction and ambition."– Team-building with diverse teams gives participants a new sense of understanding and leadership in the workplace and the community. Teens become culturally competent with the ability to work and respond in a manner that acknowledges and respects individual culturally-based beliefs, attitudes, behaviors, and customs. They will bring these skills to the workplace and community. "Failure to create pathways for young adults to build lives for themselves, their families, and their communities will prolong the economic and social struggles in the U.S. Prioritizing education, civic engagement, and employment will draw new stakeholders into the economy. It will invest in the leaders of the future. Failure to engage youth will not only slow recovery but also undermine stability and prosperity." (Brookings Institute, "Youth or Consequences, Put Youth at the Center of COVID Recovery," 2020.) We have long used the term at-risk for youth facing challenges academically and personally. CareerONE approaches the participants as "at promise," Though they have additional barriers such as poverty, a disability, language barriers and/or are from communities of color, with the guidance of program staff, youth can create a pathway to the future that prepares them for along term success. The most recent data from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development show that St. Cloud has a younger labor force than the state average, with almost 22% under 25 years. (state-14.6%) and a very high labor force participation rate in the entry-level and prime working years. It is also relatively nondiverse, with 88.8% white. CareerONE is an opportunity to change those numbers. Teens in the program moving toward the workforce are exposed to skilled trades that can provide sustainable wages and support families. The racial makeup of the attendees in 2021 was 62% East African/African American, 28% white, 4% Hispanic, 2% Asian, 4% two or more races and 2% Native American. " | Stearns and Benton County MN |



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| Northland Community and Technical College | <p>"The local manufacturing employers are deeply rooted in Northwest Minnesota, starting as small ideas which turned into companies that provide goods and services across the world. For example, Central Boiler, started making outdoor wood furnaces. Ericco Manufacturing started in a barn by George Erickson, building specialized machines and parts and now supplies parts for Polaris, Textron (Arctic Cat in Thief River Falls), and Marvin Windows, headquartered in Warroad and many other facilities. The purpose of the project is to collaborate and enhance Northland's existing programming, designed to meet the needs of our communities by providing specific skill sets for employers. Many employers have been expanding their manufacturing facilities to meet the demands, including Ericco Manufacturing and Altoz, which makes lawnmowers. There are recent challenges with supply chains, transportation challenges, and getting parts to the facilities that assemble products such as Textron, Polaris, and Marvin Windows. These challenges have created the opportunity for our manufacturers in the region to rely more on locally produced items to alleviate the supply chain and transportation challenges. For example, Ericco Manufacturing is producing parts for Textron and recently added on space and equipment to increase production for parts for Marvin Windows.</p> <p>Northwest Minnesota high schools have varying degrees of career and technical education. This project seeks to build stronger pipelines for students by engaging with those who have more advanced CTE programming, as well as those who need a partner to provide CTE programming. The project will create robust experiences from job shadowing, mentoring up through work-based learning, such as apprenticeships along a carefully constructed and sequenced curriculum, which can be offered to high school students and in post-secondary that align with the competencies, certifications, and credentials that the employers seek. The project will also engage in training and retraining of those in the existing workforce to get the competencies for a career in precision manufacturing.</p> <p>The importance to the area is to provide the opportunities locally. One manufacturer has been trying to recruit individuals and pay for them to get this training elsewhere without success. Either students leave for another location, or they do not want to leave and look for other local training opportunities, bypassing this exciting field. The manufacturing company has not had anyone take advantage of this opportunity yet. By using the programming and working with our local high schools, many who have strong technical education programs, we can build a pipeline of local workforce talent. Northland will also be able to utilize this new program to help companies upskill their existing workforce and train newly hired employees in a work and earn or apprenticeship model.</p> <p>The importance is beyond the border of Minnesota. As a college that borders North Dakota, Northland works with employers and students from North Dakota. The closest colleges offering technical training in the Grand Forks Region are approximately 2 hours away, the closest does not offer this type of programming."</p> | Thief River Fall MN |
| Wilderness Health, Inc. | <p>"On April 12, 2022, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) released their first report on the effects of the pandemic on most of the licensed health care workforce in Minnesota. Based on the MDH health care workforce survey, Minnesota's Health Care Workforce: Pandemic-Provoked Workforce Exits, Burnout, and Shortages (PDF). The survey data indicates alarming projected workforce losses in Minnesota's small towns and rural areas. "Workforce development...will be especially important in Greater Minnesota, which has an older population than the Twin Cities... Greater Minnesota also has a lower percentage of people in their prime working years, as well as less racial diversity than the Twin Cities. While every region in the state saw an increase in the number of jobs held by people of color over the past 20 years, only about 8 percent of jobs in Greater Minnesota are held by people of color, compared to over 18 percent in the Twin Cities." Developing, recruiting, and retaining a strong workforce is critical to current and future success for our hospitals and health systems and vital for access to timely patient care. Engaging local health systems with institutions of higher education will provide avenues to "grow our own" workforce pipeline. The demand for staff outpaces the current supply. Labor demands have caused WH members to use costly resources to ensure that patient care services are available in our communities. All healthcare organizations struggle to fill vacancies, exposing existing staff to burnout. It is critical that our members have a skilled workforce with support to define educational and training opportunities with a strong recruitment and retention strategy across the continuum of healthcare, including clinical, support and administrative staff.</p> <p>Staffing shortages lead to numerous factors that increase costs of care including: increases in hospital divert hours and Emergency Department wait times, hospital length of stays, distances for ambulance and transportation providers, and labor costs due to overtime and traveler/locums costs. We are developing programs that involve collaboration with educational institutions on additional joint training and educational opportunities, including clinical and leadership development, and explore whether shared staffing pools are an option with some positions."</p> | Two Harbors, MN MN |
| Essentia Health | <p>"Essentia emergency medicine, primary care, and behavioral health teams are currently building and connecting programs aiming at caring for patients throughout the Iron Range and Arrowhead region with serious acute and chronic mental health and substance use conditions. Northern St. Louis County has the highest population prevalence of mental health and substance use conditions of any county in the State of Minnesota.</p> <p>In summary, this expansion and renovation will provide the following benefits to the Iron Range and the Arrowhead Region:</p> <p>Community Need: Help meet increased demand in the community for behavioral health services Patient and Family Centered Care: Increase ability to care for patients with behavioral health needs safely, efficiently, and effectively Staff Safety: Increase ability to maintain staff safety while caring for patients in a behavioral health crisis "</p> | Virginia MN |
| Gundersen St. Elizabeth's Hospital | <p>"This funding will help offset initial planning costs for Gundersen St. Elizabeth's in their efforts to consolidate and expand their assisted living and long-term care offerings and services. This project will allow for the modernizing of facilities and technologies, reduce operating costs by an estimated 20%, and improve access to coordinated care, all of which ensure the continuation of Gundersen St. Elizabeth's most critical services.</p> <p>Gundersen St. Elizabeth's long-term care services/sites are the only such facilities in their community and one of the few in their area. The consolidation of these services will improve patients' continuum of care and increase efficiencies for the provider to ensure the sustainability of long-term care in the Wabasha area for years to come. This will also maintain dozens of jobs in the community at Gundersen St. Elizabeth's, as well as create economic impact from the construction work and tangential investment in the Wabasha area."</p> | Wabasha MN |
| Minnesota State Community and Technical College | <p>"The following are the benefits of this project and why it is a priority.</p> <p>Approximately 55 more highly specialized energy sector workers would be added to the workforce every year Reduced strain on the energy sector from workforce shortages and higher costs Increased CDL drivers within the region and state Add two new satellite locations to meet workforce needs of our partners, Ecel Energy and CenterPoint Energy Create a safe, indoor environment for students to learn important energy skills Give us the ability to continue education and training mission more effectively in winter months Increase lifespan of our current equipment Teach students about the emerging field of solar technology Further build dialogue with community partners Better meet workforce demand "</p> | Wadena MN |
| Tri County Health Care | <p>For many people in rural Central Minnesota with cancer, care can be fragmented – with provider visits in one facility and treatments in another, or the need to travel hours for care. This creates confusion for patients, family inconvenience, treatment delays, and increases the overall cost of care.</p> | Wadena MN |
| Family & Children's Center | <p>"Family & Children's Center is a 501©3 agency serving more than 3,700 individuals and families every year, helping them enjoy happier, healthier relationships. We have over 150 highly qualified, compassionate staff including teachers, consulting psychiatrists, psychologists, highly sought-after therapists and registered nurses.</p> <p>US Surgeon General Recommendations for 2022 and Youth/Behavioral Health:</p> <p>The Surgeon General's Advisory on Protecting Youth Mental Health outlines a series of recommendations to improve youth mental health across eleven sectors, including young people and their families, educators and schools, and media and technology companies.</p> <p>Topline recommendations include:</p> <p>Recognize that mental health is an essential part of overall health.</p> <p>Empower youth and their families to recognize, manage, and learn from difficult emotions.</p> | Winona MN |

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Ensure that every child has access to high-quality, affordable, and culturally competent mental health care.

Support the mental health of children and youth in educational, community, and childcare settings. And expand and support the early childhood and education workforce.

Address the economic and social barriers that contribute to poor mental health for young people, families, and caregivers.

Increase timely data collection and research to identify and respond to youth mental health needs more rapidly. This includes more research on the relationship between technology and youth mental health, and technology companies should be more transparent with data and algorithmic processes to enable this research."

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| Minnesota State HealthForce via Winona State Unive | <p>"Winona State University (WSU) seeks funding for Minnesota Healthcare Education and Resiliency Training (MN HEART). MN HEART will use industry best-practices learned through years of experience delivering evidence-based trainings to healthcare workforce through Continuing Educ. and Customized training departments, and statewide partnerships with employers/associations via the Minnesota State HealthForce Center of Excellence, at WSU.</p> <p>MN HEART is a collaboration between HealthForce and four healthcare associations: the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA), Care Providers of MN, LeadingAge MN, and MN Home Care. MN HEART will offer trainings to Minnesota's healthcare workers and students to support mental health and resiliency. This work will build on efforts at each organization and ensure geographic coverage across Minnesota.</p> <p>To address these mental health and resiliency needs, the Minnesota State HealthForce Center of Excellence (housed at Winona State University), the four associations identified above, and other key partners, will form Minnesota Health Education And Resiliency Training (MN HEART) to strengthen, expand, and build on existing efforts in the state to offer a menu of mental health and resiliency trainings to healthcare workers and students.</p> <p>The training menu includes the nationally recognized Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training, resiliency training, and stress management, mindfulness, and motivational interviewing trainings. These trainings are already available in Minnesota through Minnesota State's Customized Training and Continuing Education departments. This funding will support expansion of offerings and eliminate an access barrier by offering trainings at no-cost to trainees. MN HEART will also identify training gaps that will be filled by adding to the menu of offerings either by creating new content or by accessing existing trainings in place in other parts of the country. MN HEART will also provide content to healthcare and public safety faculty and students so that the future workforce pipeline can be equipped with resiliency resources before entering the workforce."</p> | Winona MN |
| Family & Children's Center | <p>"Family & Children's Center is a 501©3 agency serving more than 3,700 of individuals and families every year, helping them enjoy happier, healthier relationships. We have over 150 highly qualified, compassionate staff including teachers, consulting psychiatrists, psychologists, highly sought-after therapists and registered nurses.</p> <p>According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, one in five children and adolescents experience a mental health problem during their school years. Examples include stress, anxiety, bullying, family problems, depression, learning disability, and alcohol and substance abuse. Serious mental health problems, such as self-injurious behaviors and suicide, are on the rise, particularly among youth.</p> <p>Unfortunately, many children and youth do not receive the help they need, and disparities in access to care exist among low-income communities and minoritized youth. Among the 3.8 million adolescents ages 12-17 who reported a major depressive episode in the past year, nearly 60% did not receive any treatment, according to a 2019 report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Of the adolescents who do get help, nearly two thirds do so only in school.</p> <p>This funding investment will help Family & Children's Center (Minnesota) expand our child and adult outpatient behavioral health programming to increase our capacity to serve children and families from underserved communities.</p> <p>In rural Minnesota, the complexities of behavioral health and lack of services, are increased and paralleled by alcoholism, substance abuse, child abuse and domestic violence, all complicated by COVID-19.</p> <p>This request will serve approximately 100 additional individuals.</p> <p>This investment will help expand access to Family & Children's Center successful youth and family-based community programming and behavioral health ensuring healthier and happier futures.</p> <p>"</p> | Winona MN |
| Minnesota State College Southeast | <p>"The creation of a simulation lab/center at Minnesota State College Southeast's Winona campus could serve a number of important constituents including the people of Minnesota's 1st district and have a strong impact in a time when well-trained health care professionals has risen to critical importance in our state. First and foremost, a simulation center would provide us the opportunity to train students from our medical professions programs using the most advanced technology, equipment, and methods. Additionally, we would work to collaborate with local medical facilities to provide access to the resources for their training and professional development needs. We would also work with local law enforcement, EMS, firefighters, schools, home health agencies, and community facilities to also collaborate on open access for their training/professional development needs. Long term, this would ultimately have an impact on members of the community as they receive care from people who have been trained in a state-of-the art facility on campus.</p> <p>The learning space will serve a rural portion of the 1st District and provide access for the following groups in the Winona and Southeast MN region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursing assistant course, both credit and non-credit based Credit based LPN, RN, radiography, and biomedical electrical engineering programs on campus Customized training Continuing education Collaboration with local EMT/EMS, firefighters, hospitals, clinics for training space Home health agencies School nurses" | Winona MN |
| Winona State University | <p>This project will be preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals including nurses, athletic trainers, social workers, and first responders. It will ensure quality local healthcare by allowing current healthcare professionals to practice procedures and an opportunity for continuing education. Additionally, it will aid in training our regional first responders, many of whom serve rural communities without access to quality simulation labs. Lastly, it will enhance the ability of Winona State University to expand its nursing program to add highly trained healthcare professionals into the workforce, benefiting the local community and all of Minnesota.</p> | Winona MN |
| Minnesota West Community & Technical College | <p>"The purpose of this project is to enhance and expand health-related programming on the Granite Falls campus of Minnesota West Community & Technical College. The project enhances the already onsite Nursing program by adding a classatory simulation space. The classatory instructional space is a proven concept piloted on the Pipestone campus in the fall of 2021. Leveraging a cohort based onsite approach to Nursing education across 3 locations (Pipestone, Granite Falls, and Worthington), the Granite Falls Nursing students would be our next priority in replicating a proven classatory model. In addition, the college has recently decided to expand Allied Health programming from our Luverne Learning Center to Granite Falls. Leveraging a cohort-based model, the college sought and received approval to expand Medical Lab Technology and Surgical Technology programs to our northern service area. The college is also seeking approval to expand Radiologic Technology from Luverne to Granite Falls.</p> <p>The funds would be used to purchase instructional equipment & classroom/lab furnishings, expand technologies, offset initial instructional costs, and do minor remodeling of current spaces."</p> | Worthington MN |

