



AT A GLANCE

Funding Amount:
\$3.5 million per year

Cost Per Participant:
\$1,013 per youth

Number Employed in SFY2010: 3,454

Gender:
55% male
45% female

Youth From Communities of Color:
35%

Over 90% successfully completed the program in PY2010 and attained work readiness goals

100% of MYP participants receive work safety training

Return on Investment:
Each state dollar invested in MYP yields a return on investment of **\$4.25**

In 2010, Minnesota's youth unemployment rate was 21.1% for all youth, and double that for youth from communities of color .

source: DEED LMI Office

Minnesota Youth Program Overview

Minnesota Workforce Council Association Platform:

MWCA advocates for the restoration of general funds for the Minnesota Youth Program. MWCA is requesting an appropriation of \$10 million annually to address unemployment, provide work experience and academic enrichment activities to economically disadvantaged and at-risk youth state wide.

Who is Eligible for Services Under MYP?

- Youth from all 87 Counties; ages 14 through 21 who are economically disadvantaged or at risk. (For example: teen parents, foster youth, juvenile offenders, youth with disabilities, homeless or runaway youth.)
- An at-risk youth may be classified as a family of one and deemed economically disadvantaged.

Examples of Jobs That Youth Were Placed In:

Highway department assistant, park maintenance assistant, auto mechanic assistant, water treatment plant helper, landscape assistant, veterinary clinic assistant, computer repair assistant, recycling center worker, library aide, bakery assistant, health care assistant, custodian assistant, child care assistant, teaching assistant, recreational therapy aide, city maintenance helper, graphic design intern, customer service representative, office aide, patient care helper, merchandise stocker, lawn care worker, humane society worker, forestry technician.

How does MYP make a difference to the participants who complete the program?

This question cannot be answered unless we understand the challenges faced by this population. MYP participants have severe barriers to success in school and on the job.

Youth receive immediate direct benefit from their earnings in work experience. MYP provides structured, well-supervised work experience, educational opportunities and life skills training that establishes good work habits and provides specific job skills. Other positive results:

- Youth attained work readiness skills
- Youth earn academic credit or service learning credit
- At risk youth remained in school
- Dropouts returned to school
- Savings realized due to reduced crime and judicial system costs
- Savings due to participants being free of government support in the form of public assistance and food stamps
- Juvenile offenders used a portion of their earnings to pay restitution to crime victims
- Unquantifiable benefits of increased self-esteem and the development of citizenship skills and parenting skills.



Minnesota Youth Program Overview

Statutory Citation:
MN Statutes 116L.561

How does MYP prepare youth for the workforce?

Research has shown that the number one predictor of future success in the workforce is early exposure to work experience. Work readiness training is focused on employer-driven behaviors such as attendance, punctuality, teamwork, communication skills and problem solving, and is delivered in an interactive manner. MYP provides youth with hands-on opportunities to apply skills they learn in the classroom:

- **Inquiry:** fostering a curiosity and desire in youth to develop new skills.
- **Technology:** exploring and becoming familiar with current technologies.
- **Science, Engineering and Math Skills:** practicing vital skills to enhance mastery.
- **Decision-Making and Daily Living:** Learning time management skills and practicing decision making.
- **Interaction With Others:** working with diverse groups of people and teaching them how to work together to reach goals.
- **Positive Attitudes and Behaviors:** teaching young people about the importance of attitude in the workforce, about being one time, and having the confidence to solve problems.

From interviews with MYP participants, we've found that:

- MYP engages an extremely disadvantaged group of young men and women. MYP participants have multiple challenges such as substance abuse, criminal records and mental health issues, in addition to being poor.
- MYP participants (current and former) are highly positive about their program experiences and often attribute their current positive status to the program.
- MYP sets high expectations and high standards. The high expectations combined with support by youth staff, create an environment where real and sustained personal growth can take place.
- MYP participants remarked on the high quality of staff who stuck with them until they understood a concept or problem and worksite supervisors who were mentors.
- Work experience with tangible results is valued by MYP participants and is a reminder to the community of the value of young people's contributions.

How MYP Interacts with Other Programs:

- Having the Minnesota Youth Program structure in place allows the system to respond quickly to additional opportunities to offer youth summer employment when other funding sources are made available.
- In a partnership with the Department of Human Services, MYP funds were used to leverage an additional \$3 million for summer youth employment in 2010. This funding provided 2,273 participants the opportunity to work; nearly half of those positions were in the private sector.
- MYP is the only funding source under which local service providers may choose to enroll participants in standalone summer program or year-round, depending on the needs of the participant.

For More Information:

Anne Olson, Minnesota
Workforce Council
Association
125 Charles Avenue
Saint Paul, 55103
Office: 651.789.4323
Cell: 651.303.4858
aolson@mncounties.org

