

Notes from Kay Tracy/Youth Team Update for Job Seeker Services Meeting on 3/19/25:

- **DOL Regional Office/Chicago Team Updates:**
- **Danielle Waddell will serve as Minnesota's Federal Project Officer (replacing Lisa Dieterle who retired from federal service at the end of February; Lisa was the FPO for MN and WI)**
- **Susan Minikowski is new DOL Region V Performance/Reporting Lead (replacing Teresa Theis who retired at the end of February). Susan advised states: no changes in reporting requirements; states to continue to report as usual.**

WIOA Youth Program -

1. **Planning Instructions Issued by Youth Team on 12/9/24, for Local Youth Plan/Narrative Updates: for activities funded under PY25 WIOA Youth and SFY26 Minnesota Youth Program (MYP). Local Youth Plan NARRATIVE UPDATES ONLY due on April 11, 2025. To date, two WDAs have submitted Narrative Updates: Northeast WDA and Southwest WDA. Early submittals are welcome. WDAs NOT required to submit Budgets until DOL issues final PY2025 WIOA Allocations and State Legislature acts on final SFY26 MYP allocations.**
- **Youth-Specific Waivers Available for SFY25 WIOA Youth Program: Minnesota WDAs can opt to include two DOL-approved waivers for PY25 WIOA Youth Program with their Local Youth Plan Updates: 1) Waiver to drop the OSY Expenditure Rate to 60% (7 WDAs opted for this waiver in PY2024; and/or 2) Waiver to develop Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) for In-School Youth, in addition to ITAs for OSY. Five WDAs opted for this waiver under WIOA Youth in PY2024.**
2. **Preliminary PY2024 WIOA Youth Performance Summary issued by the Youth Team on 3/18, data in FutureWorks as of 3/11/25. Please don't hesitate to follow up with Ahmed.Mohidin@state.mn.us to request technical assistance/his help reviewing local PY24 WIOA Youth performance data in WorkForce 1. Reminder: Measureable Skills Gains (MSG) is a real-time measure; it is not an EXIT-based measure.**
3. **PY2023 WIOA Youth Funds: 97.4% expended or obligated as of 1/31/25. Four WDAs 100% fully expended. Out of School Youth Expenditure Rate = 76.6%; Work Experience Expenditure Rate = 30.3%. The following WDAs secured a one-quarter extension to continue to expend SFY23 WIOA Youth funds through 6/30/25: Hennepin-Carver, Southwest, Dakota-Scott, Anoka, Winona, city of Minneapolis.**
4. **PY2024 WIOA Youth Funds: 51.7% expended or obligated as of 1/31/25.**

5. Waiver Available if WDA plans to carry over PY24 WIOA Youth funds in excess of the 20% permitted under WIOA Youth. If the WDA will not expend or obligate 80% of PY24 WIOA Youth funds by 6/30/25, a waiver request may be submitted via e-mail to Kay.Tracy@state.mn.us; include brief justification. Approved waivers will be included with the WDA's Local Youth Plan and approved PY25 WIOA Youth Budget.

TANF Youth Program

6. 2025 TANF Youth Program – all existing providers have approved 2025 workplans and budgets; contracts are ready to go/should be issued SOON; delay due to AFS/Fiscal issues in SWIFT. WDAs will have the authority to incur costs retroactive to 1/1/25. Questions? Please follow up with Lynn.Douma@state.mn.us.

MINNESOTA Youth Program (MYP):

7. SFY2024 MYP Funds: 99.7% expended or obligated as of 1/31/25. Seventeen of 18 MYP service providers have submitted final fiscal reports.
8. SFY2025 MYP Funds: 61.2% expended or obligated as of 1/31/25.
9. SFY2024 MYP Annual Report, see: https://mn.gov/deed/assets/2024-myp-annual-report-acc_tcm1045-661358.pdf. 4,575 youth served in Individual Case Management and an additional 40,374 youth served through the Outreach to Schools (OTS) component of SFY24 MYP. Over 55% are youth of color, 50% are young women, 58% from families on public assistance, and 46% are youth with disabilities. Over 82% of EXITERS from SFY24 MYP attained Work Readiness and Education Goals and 63% earned Academic Credit or Service Learning Credit. For planning purposes: the Governor's Budget includes \$4.05 million per year for SFY26/27 MYP (e.g. return to base level funding from SFY22/23). Final SFY26/27 MYP allocations for programs that begin operation on July 1, 2025, will be available pending action by the State Legislature.

Youthbuild:

10. SFY24 Youthbuild Grants: 96.2% expended or obligated as of 1/31/25.
11. SFY25 Youthbuild Grants: 41.5% expended or obligated as of 1/31/25.
12. SFY24 Youthbuild Program Annual Report, see: <https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/assets/youth/youthbuild-annual-2024-acc.pdf>.

13. For planning purposes: the Governor's Budget includes \$1 million per year for SFY26/SFY27 Youthbuild Programs. This is a return to the base level funding available for SFY22/SFY23.
14. Final SFY26/27 Youthbuild allocations will be available pending action by the State Legislature.

Youth at Work Competitive Grants:

Reminder: SFY24/25 Youth at Work Proposals due on Friday, March 21, 2025.

15. SFY24 Youth At Work Grants: 98.2% expended or obligated as of 1/31/25.
16. SFY25 Youth at Work Grants: 54.5% expended or obligated as of 1/31/25.
17. SFY26/27 Youth at Work Request for Proposals (RFP) is posted on DEED's Competitive Grants Website, see: <https://mn.gov/deed/about/contracts/open-rfp.jsp>. Webinar for Interested Parties is also posted/available on-demand. Proposals are due on Friday, March 21, 2025.
18. Questions on the SFY26/27 Youth at Work RFP must be submitted via e-mail to Cory.Schmid@state.mn.us.
19. SFY24 Youth at Work Required Legislative Report is posted on DEED's website, see: https://mn.gov/deed/assets/2024-youth-at-work_tcm1045-663415.pdf.
20. For planning purposes, the Governor's Budget includes \$4.098 million per year for SFY26 and SFY27 Youth at Work Competitive Grants. This is a return to base level funding from SFY22-SFY23 biennium. Final SFY26/27 Youth at Work allocation will be determined pending action by the Minnesota Legislature.

Youth Support Services Competitive Grants:

Reminder: SFY24/25 Youth Support Services Proposals are due on May 2, 2025.

21. SFY24 Youth Support Services Grants: 95.4% expended or obligated as of 1/31/25
22. SFY25 Youth Support Services Grants: 50.6% expended or obligated as of 1/31/25
23. SFY24 Youth Support Services Annual Report is posted on DEED's website, see: https://mn.gov/deed/assets/2024-youth-support-services_tcm1045-651024.docx.
24. SFY26/27 Youth Support Services Request for Proposals (RFP): posted on DEED's Competitive Grants Website, see: <https://mn.gov/deed/about/contracts/open-rfp.jsp>.

25. For planning purposes, the Governor's Budget includes \$500,000 per year for SFY26/27 Youth Support Services competitive grants, reflecting the base level funding from previous bienniums. Final SFY26/27 Youth Support Services funding level will be determined by the Minnesota Legislature.

26. Questions on the SFY26/27 YSS RFP must be submitted via e-mail to Kathy.Youth@state.mn.us.

Employment Transitions Model (ETM) Federal Discretionary Grant (Partners for Youth) from DOL/Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the Office of Grants Management (OGM): Year 1 contract extensions are a priority; Year 2 Statement of Work submitted to DOL/ODEP on 2/28/25. Cory Schmid will be in touch with ETM grantees later this week.

27. The ETM grants (Partners for Youth) have been rebranded by DOL/ODEP as the "Employment" Transitions Model Demonstration Grants. The ETM Grants reflect ODEP's priority which includes ensuring that youth and young adults with disabilities transition successfully to employment. We will keep you posted with additional updates as five participating MN WDAs and PACER Center move forward with the discretionary grants.

Thank you for your cooperation.

If questions on Youth Programs referenced above, please follow up with Kay.Tracy@state.mn.us or Lynn.Douma@state.mn.us or Cory.Schmid@state.mn.us or Nancy.Waisanen@state.mn.us or Kathy.Young@state.mn.us or Ahmed.Mohidin@state.mn.us.

Kay + Youth Team