



***MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION
OF WORKFORCE BOARDS***

2025 Promising Practice Award Winner

**Building Inclusive
Workforce Partnerships:
WDI & SASSA**

Building Inclusive Workforce Partnerships

- **Overview:**
 - WDI partnered with Somali American Social Service Association (SASSA), a Somali-led nonprofit organization, to build SASSA's internal capacity and align culturally-specific services they have developed with the broader workforce system.
- **Purpose & Goals:**
 - To bridge the systemic workforce access gaps for East African immigrants
 - Empower community-led service delivery
 - Create a replicable model of trust-based capacity-building



Building Inclusive Workforce Partnerships

- **Key Features:**

- Shared staffing and grant writing resources
- Comprehensive technical assistance support from WDI
- Co-enrollment and braided funding stream opportunities
- DEED grant reporting requirements
- Fiscal mentorship



SOMALI AMERICAN
SOCIAL SERVICE
ASSOCIATION

Join Us for an Exciting
DEED Grant Update!

Friday, June 27th, 2025

6pm to 8pm

*12 Elton Hills Dr NW,
Rochester, MN 55901*



Phase I Project Highlights

We're excited to announce the completion of Phase I of our project, which has empowered individuals across various fields. Participants have achieved nursing degrees, CDL Class A & B licenses, and other notable accolades.

By offering workshops, mentorship, and financial aid, we've helped overcome barriers to education and employment. We look forward to continuing our support and expanding opportunities for the community in future phases. Stay tuned for more updates!

The State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) funded (or funded in part) this training through a grant. The grant recipient created this training. DEED does not endorse this publicity or training or make guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability or ownership of the information herein or elsewhere.

Building Inclusive Workforce Partnerships

Impact, Results, & Replication

- **Quantitative Results**
 - 50+ jobseekers served since December 2024
 - 27 enrolled in high-demand training (Nursing, CDL, Cybersecurity, etc.)
- **Qualitative Results**
 - Services delivered in Somali language
 - Greater engagement from underserved populations
 - Increased trust, satisfaction, and completion rates
 - Greater Somali understanding of WDI and services



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Building Inclusive Workforce Partnerships

Replication & Future Directions

- **Roadmap to Replication (*aka how to steal this idea!*)**
 - ✓ Identify a specific CBO in your area you want to partner with
 - ✓ Build trust through shared goals
 - ✓ Assess organizational strengths & gaps
 - ✓ Provide hands-on, tailored technical support
 - ✓ Share grant opportunities and staff resources
 - ✓ Pilot small initiatives together
 - ✓ Evaluate, celebrate, and iterate



Thank you!



Jinny Rietmann, Executive Director



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