

Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

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Return on Investment Summary Report WDA 2

Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Programs

Return on Investment to Taxpayers for each \$1 Spent

PROGRAM:

**Overall Return on Investment
(includes all programs listed
below).....\$2.28**

**Minnesota Family
Investment Program
(MFIP)\$1.64**

**Diversionary Work
Program (DWP).....\$3.93**

**Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program
(SNAP).....\$5.34**

**Federal Dislocated Worker
Program
.....\$5.32**

**State Dislocated Worker
Program.....\$2.70**



From the desk of Tina Jaster, Executive Director



Our Role as a Local Workforce Board

RMCEP is proud to serve as one of Minnesota's 16 local workforce boards serving Workforce Development Area 2, providing strategic, locally rooted hubs dedicated to driving workforce development in our 19-county region. Workforce boards bring together private sector leaders, educators, labor representatives, and community organizations to align workforce strategies with local economic needs. By analyzing regional labor markets and connecting jobseekers with employers, we ensure that the skills of local workers match the demands of local industries. From resume workshops and training programs to advocating for supportive legislation, workforce boards act as conveners, connectors, and problem-solvers. We coordinate services, foster partnerships, and tailor solutions to meet the unique challenges of our communities. Through this collaborative approach, we help individuals achieve economic security while supporting employers in finding qualified talent.

Supporting Drive For Five

This year, RMCEP played a critical role in advancing Minnesota's workforce priorities through the Drive for Five Grant, a strategic initiative led by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Together, we launched targeted programs to fill critical roles in five high-demand sectors: education, health care, manufacturing, technology, and the trades. These efforts provided industry-specific training, career readiness support, and direct pathways to employment; helping individuals gain the skills and credentials needed to thrive in today's economy. We also hosted a series of impactful job fairs, connecting job seekers with inclusive employers and facilitating real job placements and internships. Our expanding network of employer partnerships continues to open doors to meaningful careers and foster long-term workforce development across the state.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch Growing Careers, a new initiative focused on increasing the number of skilled individuals entering agricultural occupations. This program will offer hands-on training, mentorship, and career exploration opportunities.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our staff, partners, and supporters. Your contributions have been instrumental in our success, and I am inspired by your continued belief in our mission.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to growth, collaboration, and creating lasting change. I am excited for what lies ahead and confident that, together, we will continue to achieve great things.

Working for and with you,

Tina Jaster and the RMCEP Team

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Year Ending June 30, 2025

In fiscal year 2024, we supported over 4,000 enrolled participants, succeeding in several key performance outcomes and continuing our tradition of impactful, people-centered workforce development.

From our earliest days to today, RMCEP has remained committed to creating opportunities, building skills, and helping individuals achieve meaningful employment. Our success is a reflection of the dedication of our staff, the strength of our partnerships, and the determination of those we serve.

	WIOA Adult	WIOA Dislocated Worker	WIOA Youth
Employment Q2			
Goal	84.00%	82.00%	74.50%
Actual	80.17%	85.42%	81.67%
Employment Q4			
Goal	82.00%	84.00%	74.90%
Actual	82.07%	84.67%	84.17%
Credential			
Goal	85.00%	83.10%	62.00%
Actual	77.32%	87.80%	75.00%
Median Earnings			
Goal	\$9,658	\$11,401	\$5,800
Actual	\$11,514	\$12,680	\$6,810

Employment Q2 = the percentage of participants employed during the 2nd quarter after exit.

Employment Q4 = the percentage of participants employed during the 4th quarter after exit.
Note: For Youth Employment outcomes, participating in education or training activities during performance measurement quarters also count besides employment.

Credential = The number of participants who attain a credential within one year of exit.

Median Earnings = The median earnings of participants in unsubsidized employment during the 2nd quarter after exit.

MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM PERFORMANCE of Counties Served by RMCEP

Self-Support Index

- Indicates those that are working
30 hours or more or off MFIP
three years after enrollment.

85% of the counties we serve are
meeting or exceeding Self Support
Index.



RMCEP Drive for Five Initiative

Program Overview

RMCEP proudly partnered with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce to deliver the Drive for Five Initiative, an innovative response to workforce shortages in five high-demand industries: Education, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Trades/Transportation, and Technology.

Impact Highlights

35 participants have enrolled and are advancing in their careers. Successful participants have entered employment earning between \$18.50 and \$38.00 per hour. The CDL program leads with 18 enrollments, followed by training in CNA, LPN, RN, Dental Assistant, Heavy Equipment Operator, Welding, and Plumbing.

Participant Support

RMCEP provides personalized career counseling, job placement support, hands-on skills training, tuition assistance, and supportive services to remove barriers and promote long-term success.

Participant Testimonial

"A heartfelt thank you to all the staff at RMCEP...I could never have done this without the help and encouragement of the staff at RMCEP, especially the financial aspect of it, which I could not have afforded on my own. Now that I have my CDL license, I am confident I will be able to secure a great job."

To learn more or become an employer partner, contact Stacy Belen, Lead Drive for Five Navigator at stacyb@rmcep.com.



“...now I really make those SPARKS FLY!”

Melody's Story....

Melody is an RMCEP program participant who graduated from Lynnes Welding with employment already lined up. Here is the story she shared about her experience:



Upon finding RMCEP, this is truly the first time I ever felt HOPE! I have a reason to feel good about myself now. I met with my job counselor who informed me of the potential programs I may be eligible for. I told her about my past work experience, and I shared my passion for welding. I used to weld trailers for a couple of years. I knew this is what I wanted to do, but there was this huge barrier between myself and my dreams...MONEY! I had to work two jobs just to barely pay the bills. How would I ever afford school?

Well, I tell you what, my life has changed dramatically! With the program's help, I was able to enroll in a certified welding course. It helped cover tuition, books, and even transportation. It wasn't easy. There were long days, sore muscles, and a steep learning curve but I stuck with it. I had an instructor who believed in me and classmates who shared the same drive to build a better life.

Welding school didn't just teach me a trade it gave me direction, confidence, and a career I can build on for life. Getting help to start was the turning point I needed. Now I'm proof that with the right support and hard work, anyone can spark a new future. I tell you what, now I really make those SPARKS FLY!

After graduating, I landed a job at a fabrication shop. Today, I not only have a stable income, but I also have benefits, a retirement plan, and the ability to support my family in ways I never thought possible. I even started saving to open my own mobile welding business one day. I have applied to become a boilermaker recently. I work every day to better myself and to have the confidence to follow my dreams.



Services are provided through CareerForce locations that serve the Alexandria, Bemidji, Brainerd, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Little Falls, Moorhead, and Wadena regions. In addition, Mobile Workforce services are offered in the surrounding communities.

For the office location nearest you, please go to WWW.RMCEP.COM

Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer Program Provider.
Upon request, this document will be made available in an alternate form.

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