
2024 Annual Report

Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc.

New Horizons



Return on Investment
Summary Report
WDA 2

Rural Minnesota
Concentrated
Employment Programs

Return on Investment
to Taxpayer for each
\$1 Spent

PROGRAM:

Overall Return on Investment
(includes all programs
listed below) \$2.48

Minnesota Family
Investment Program
(MFIP) \$1.64

Diversionary Work
Program (DWP). . . . \$4.03

Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program
(SNAP) \$5.85

Federal Dislocated
Worker. \$5.37

State Dislocated
Worker Program . . . \$3.85



From the desk of
Tina Jaster, Executive Director

WE ARE RMCEP!

Minne-CEP, CEP, Job Service, WorkForce Center, CareerForce or RMCEP; **Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program, Inc.** is used to being called many different names; we don't mind, in fact we are thrilled with this! As an employment and training agency with 55 years under our belts, we know that each generation knows us under different names for a good reason, we made a difference in their lives!

While our partners have changed their names over the decades: MN Job Service, MN WorkForce Centers, and since 2019, CareerForce, we have always been Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (RMCEP) since 1968!

In our 55th year, we set out to engage with more individuals than ever before. With the help of a generous Minnesota Youth Program, we were able to present career advising services in nineteen school districts, support a nationally recognized trainer in seventeen regional High Schools, and connect with thousands of students.

As a recipient of multiple competitive grants focused on assisting job seekers from a wide range of circumstances from dislocated workers to New Americans, individuals with disabilities and those seeking a fair chance, we allocated tens of thousands of dollars back into communities through tuition payments, On the Job Training contracts, work experience, and prevocational training.

RMCEP continues to strive to meet workforce demands in our region, building relationships, and collaborating to foster successful outcomes. We will continue to follow our mission to inspire positive change leading to successful and prosperous individuals and communities through the power of work. The team at RMCEP is grateful for our partnership and look forward to what is on the horizon!

Working for and with you,
Tina Jaster and the RMCEP Team

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Year Ending June 30, 2024

As RMCEP nears its 56th year, we are proud of the accomplishments we have made! This past year we have served nearly 4,500 enrolled participants and exceeded in several performance outcomes!

	WIOA Adult	WIOA Dislocated Worker	WIOA Youth
Employment Q2			
Goal	84.0%	83.5%	69.0%
Actual	85.0%	85.7%	84.6%
Employment Q4			
Goal	79.0%	83.9%	70.0%
Actual	83.3%	89.7%	83.7%
Credential			
Goal	84.5%	83.0%	62.0%
Actual	88.5%	81.3%	62.2%
Median Earnings			
Goal	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$4,600
Actual	\$11,329	\$11,019	\$6,807

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 count also 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.

95% of the counties we serve are meeting or exceeding the Self Support Index, resulting in \$44,977 of bonus funds for our county partners.



Restoring Connections

RMCEP is proud to have been awarded a MN Department of Employment and Economic Development grant to work with individuals who have been justice-involved through the Re-Entry Pilot. Through these funds, we are serving justice-involved individuals who are Minnesota residents.

Participants enrolled in the Restoring Connections Project receive one-on-one career counseling, job search assistance, skills training, and wrap-around support services. Employer collaboration is essential to the success of participants, the Restoring Connections Navigator develops and maintains relationships with employers that support hiring of justice-involved individuals through providing “fresh start” employment.

If you would like to learn more about the Restoring Connections Project or would like to be listed as a “fresh-start” employer, contact Debbie Grant, at Debg@rmcep.com



Please see Nathan’s story on the next page!

Restoring Connections Leads to Personal Achievements!

My name is Nathan, and I am 46 years old. I just recently graduated from Commercial Truck Driving School and now have found a job. I was asked to write about this as a success story and after further thought I want to call this an achievement story. I believe to call it a success story would say my journey or life is over or that I succeeded and in actuality it is just begun.

Like I stated I'm 46 years old, I was released from prison this year in May of 2024, after serving 5 years for a controlled substance conviction. And the only reason I got released that soon was because I completed a program for non-violent offenders called C.I.P. - a military-type bootcamp.

I have been in and out of prison my whole adult life due to lifestyle and choices I made. As a child I was in and out of foster homes and group homes since the age of 9. I have had adversity in my life as well as poor decision-making. But just as I have dealt with that, I also have had brief periods of success – never lasting long or sustaining it. So, this last time I went to prison (and I want to emphasize ***last time***) I made a decision for it to be my last and to do different and to make changes.

I started this in prison knowing I had to do my time different if I wanted to do different when I got out. I also had a totally different set of circumstances this time coming out. I was coming out to being a full-time single dad to my 5-year-old daughter who was only a couple of weeks old when I went to prison. So, this time coming out, my mindset, my goals, and my circumstances were all different. Coming out starting from nothing, a full-time dad, I decided to pursue getting my CDL.

I had been connected with RMCEP in prison, so even with my record and history they gave me an opportunity to pursue one of my goals. They paid for me to get my training. Everyone there has been more than helpful. There was no judgement or looking or treating me different. They have been more than helpful; treating me with respect and dignity. I was so afraid of being looked at different because of my past, but this was not the case. They did not do work for me but have helped me in the process.

Since getting out, I have graduated driving school, found employment, obtained housing, and I am raising my daughter. What I hope to share and inspire others with is, that it is never too late. Your past does not have to hold you back and neither does your current circumstances. If I can make these achievements, then anybody can. My next goal is to make this a lasting success – then that will be a story!



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

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