

A Changing Minnesota Workforce: Closing the Gaps

Over the past 100 years, East Side Neighborhood Services has contributed to building strong, healthy communities and vibrant economies by creating independent workers from new and vital populations.

Funding Request

\$1.2M appropriation over two years to expand and build our programming.

Empowering Older Adults

The **Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)** provides work readiness training to low-income adults 55 and older.



Expanded Support Would:

- Increase our employer-informed training curriculum, skills development, and interpersonal learning opportunities.
- Boost the number of people served from 220 to 400 by accelerating the training period.
- Provide wrap-around services after SCSEP trainee leaves subsidized employment.
- Address short-term “Benefit Cliff” crises.
- Deepen engagement with long-term health and social welfare services.

Medical Pathways: Nursing Assistants

The **Nursing Assistant Plus Program (NA+)** addresses the universal shortage of nurses for a more robust medical talent pipeline.

Expanded Support Would:

- Provide a 30 to 75 per year increase in new NA+ students.
- Effect a 75% decrease in the backlog for certification.
- Strengthen medical certification pipeline to include Phlebotomy, Peer-Recovery Specialists, End-of-Life Care, Critical Mental Health, and Medical Records positions.
- Develop partnerships with hospitals, care clinics, and home care services.
- Provide 8 hours of institutional empowerment training.



Youth Employment

The **Youth Employment Program** generates connections to greater opportunities for under-represented Minnesotans ages 14 to 24.

Expanded Support Would:

- Enhance push/pull coaching and mentorship.
- Provide 12+ paid introductory work experiences.
- Offer 6 accessible career training track programs.
- Increase career planning overviews by 50%.
- Boost supports to overcome education barriers.
- Build short- and long-term training opportunities.
- Support 2-degree program pathways.



Why Fund This Bill?

Since 1915, East Side Neighborhood Services has been working with the changing population of Minnesota to help people successfully enter the workforce. This funding will allow us to:

- Customize service to meet individual needs.
- Integrate programs to create intergenerational approaches.

East Side Neighborhood Services' goal is to facilitate programming to help create pathways for education, and stability that allows our communities to thrive in Hennepin County and the Greater Twin Cities area.

Our funding request of \$1.2M appropriation over two years would help expand and build our programming to meet these needs.



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