

# STATE OF MINNESOTA SFY 2020-2021 UPDATE

In 2020, the three Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) agencies in Minnesota collectively served more than 5,000 young people in 14 counties in Central and Southern Minnesota and the Twin Cities through comprehensive mentoring and youth programming.

Over the past eight years, funding from the State of Minnesota, through the Department of Employment and Economic Development, has supported our collective focus on workforce readiness and college access programming.

**The SFY 2020-2021 appropriation provided \$237,500 per year in funding for Minnesota's three Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies for workforce readiness programming and community engagement activities for youth, ages 12-21.**

## WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMMING

The three agencies served nearly 1,200 youth to date through events, individualized college/post-secondary training support (tours, applications, FAFSA), and one-to-one mentoring.

### Highlights

- Mitigated the impact of COVID-19 by providing increased one-to-one mentoring and staff engagement during a time marked by social and physical isolation, and encouraged youth to dream BIG about their futures
- Created virtual tools and resources to connect youth and families with career/college readiness information and activities during COVID-19
- Hosted career exploration events with employer partners (Medtronic, Target, DAYTA Marketing, Hy-Vee and others)
- Partnered with AVID to provide mentoring and career/college readiness in four school districts
- Leveraged more than \$115,000 for 41 post-secondary scholarships to youth attending community and technical schools in partnership with Federated Insurance
- Found innovative ways to ensure youth and their mentors are still connecting virtually through fun, interactive games, educational tools, and guidance on managing stress



## TWIN CITIES OUTCOMES

- 94%** of youth graduated from high school
- 91%** of youth improved grades and academic performance
- 90%** of youth improved future educational expectations

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### TWIN CITIES - 3,231 youth

87% Free/reduced lunch  
55% Female/45% Male

57% Black/African-American  
13% White  
12% Latinx  
6% Multi-racial  
2% Asian/Pacific Islander  
2% American Indian

### SOUTHERN - 1,148 youth

67% Free/reduced lunch  
65% Female/35% Male

8% Black/African-American  
75% White  
14% Latinx  
1% Asian/Pacific Islander

### CENTRAL - 717 youth

66% Free/reduced lunch  
51% Female/49% Male

19% Black/African-American  
69% White  
5% Latinx  
2% Asian/Pacific Islander

## 2021 & BEYOND: PROPOSED SERVICES AND EXPANSION

Minnesota's Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies have led the national network of BBBS affiliates in combining high quality mentoring with intentional workforce readiness and college/post-secondary training access services.

BBBS Twin Cities, Southern and Central Minnesota request \$500,000 for SFY2022/2023. Especially important as we continue to address the challenges of COVID-19 and racial equity, this investment will support work readiness and college access to thousands of teens to ensure Minnesota's young people are empowered to succeed in tomorrow's workforce.

### Services

- Long-term one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite potential and support the success of youth
- Virtual career resource referrals to CareerForceMN and others in support of career planning and readiness
- One-to-one and group career and college readiness support such as college tours, application support, and FAFSA
- Career exploration through career research, job shadows, and career nights with employer partners
- Structured workplace/internship experiences
- High School Bigs Program that offers leadership and workforce readiness opportunities and AVID partnerships with multiple school districts
- Partnership with Twin Cities high schools that embeds mentoring and career/college readiness during the school day for youth not on track to graduate on time

### Why Invest in BBBS?

- BBBS is an evidence-based practice as determined by the U.S. Department of Justice
- Recent studies demonstrate that mentored youth are more likely to enroll in college and more likely to aspire to graduate college (Bruce and Bridgeland, 2014)
- The BBBS approach has a 5:1 return on investment – for every \$1 invested, society receives \$5 in return through improved educational outcomes and increased earnings over the mentored youth's lifetime (Levine, 2014)



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### TWIN CITIES

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**Interim CEO**

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SERVING

Hennepin County

Ramsey County

Dakota County

Scott County

Washington County

### SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

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SERVING

(Owatonna & Faribault)

Dodge County

Rice County

Steele County

Waseca County

### CENTRAL MINNESOTA

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SERVING

(St. Cloud)

Benton County

Morrison County

Sherburne County

Stearns County

Wright County