

Hiawatha Valley Adult Education Pathways to Prosperity Grants

The Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) Competitive Grant programs are Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) programs and services designed to provide workforce development and training opportunities to economically disadvantaged adults.

The outcome of the grants includes:

- Develop increased career awareness.
- Acquire basic skills education.
- Participate in skills-training programs resulting in certificates and credentials.
- Become placed into high growth employment positions and/or high demand industries with long-term career growth and opportunity.

Hiawatha Valley Adult Education (HVAE), Minnesota State College Southeast (MSCS), and Workforce Development Inc. (WDI) have partnered together to provide P2P grants in the SE Minnesota region since 2015. The three partners have been successful in securing \$2.4 million since 2015. The grants have been essential in developing manufacturing career pathways for adults in the region who have barriers to employment.

The current P2P grant applications were submitted by HVAE with the fiscal agent as Red Wing Public Schools, under the Community Education Department. Three grants were submitted and all three were funded.

The first grant is the On-Ramp grant. The On-Ramp to Career Pathways program targets individuals interested in earning a certificate and improving employability. In the On-Ramp to Career Pathways program, providers partner with a Minnesota Department of Education Adult Basic Education Consortia to ensure participants are receiving contextualized basic skills training and support for English Language Learners. Participants may move directly to employment from this program or are prepared to enter higher skill level training programs.

The On-Ramp grant is specifically for the Manufacturing 101 class held in the county jails to prepare detainees for a manufacturing career upon release. The detainees receive OSHA 10 certification along with college credit for work in the class. In addition, funding from the grant will provide programming for English Language learners interested in or already employed in a manufacturing career. The class will offer OSHA certification and language training to reduce language barriers.

The second grant is the River Region Bridge to Advanced Manufacturing. The Bridge to Career Pathways program targets individuals seeking to improve or obtain skills necessary to earn an industry recognized credential in an industry identified as in demand within their region. Providers partner with an active employer and Adult Basic Education (ABE) consortia provider. Participants may enter employment in an in-demand career pathway from this level or continue to higher level or post-secondary education.

This specific grant will fund the Accelerated Welding and CNC classes offered in previous bridge grants. Students from previous classes have obtained welding/CNC positions in regional manufacturing companies and/or enrolled in welding training at Minnesota State College Southeast.

The third grant is the River Region Individualized Training Pathways/Internationally Trained Professionals program. This grant will focus on supporting immigrant communities by providing services to assist internationally trained professionals in earning professional licenses or training required to do similar work in Minnesota.

HVAE, MSCS and WDI are very appreciative of the opportunities the grants have provided the Southeast Minnesota region.