

## Youth Employment and Financial Stability Pilot Program



### THE BUDGET BREAKDOWN

**Total Cost for 3 pilots:**  
**\$5.3 million**

**This Pilot:**  
**\$1,837,000 over 5 years**

#### Budget Includes:

- Program Innovation Expenses
- Operating Expenses
- Evaluation and Scaling Expenses

*This pilot — **Youth Employment & Financial Stability** — is part of a broader effort to support youth experiencing homelessness in Minnesota. Alongside the **Behavioral Health and Well-Being** and **Mentorship** pilots, it explores innovative strategies to enhance stability and opportunity for young people facing housing insecurity.*

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is launching a pilot initiative in the Frogtown and Rondo neighborhoods of Saint Paul to advance youth employment and financial stability. Developed through the LSS Design Lab, this model reflects a collaborative, cross-sector approach informed by youth with lived experience of homelessness and adverse experiences. It is part of Empower What's Possible, a five-year campaign to reimagine service delivery across Minnesota.

This pilot responds to a critical inflection point: when youth exiting homelessness begin shifting from survival to future-building. While systems often address immediate needs like housing and safety, they frequently fall short in supporting long-term stability. This initiative offers a launch pad — combining career pathways, financial education and personalized support — to help young people build meaningful, self-directed lives.

Youth voices have shaped every aspect of the design. The result is a responsive, replicable model that meets youth where they are and helps them move forward with confidence. We will use what we learn to improve systems of care across Minnesota — promoting more efficient and effective approaches industry-wide to better support youth experiencing homelessness.

## Together, we will:

Build pathways to meaningful careers and lasting financial independence for youth transitioning out of homelessness.

Create a statewide model of support that centers youth voice, lived experience and long-term opportunity.

Transform survival into success — empowering young people to lead with confidence, purpose and resilience.



## YOUTH VOICES



### Key Priorities

- Deliver **financial education** tailored to youth's lived experiences and learning style
- Build **career pathways** with partners that offer real-world exposure and connections
- Facilitate **leadership programs** that meet youth where they are and fuel aspirations
- Design **long-term access** so youth can use pilot resources beyond their program stay
- **Track outcomes** such as employment gained, career discernment and demonstration of budgeting skills
- **Evaluate data** and **refine** the pilot in real time to guide future replication across LSS service areas

### Why Partner With LSS?

- 1 Decades of experience supporting youth through life transitions
- 2 A cross-disciplinary team spanning housing, financial and employment services
- 3 Statewide reach to scale and sustain successful service models
- 4 Expertise in individualized support practices
- 5 A commitment to co-creating solutions with the communities we serve

What we heard from youth:

*"I don't want to rely on the state's money. I want to make my own money."*

*"I just tend to keep my financial problems to myself."*

*"I wish I had a better experience. I wish I had a better financial literacy."*

This pilot design started with listening – hearing youth share their hopes and struggles as they move from survival to building a future. Many want to earn their own money, go to college and feel confident managing finances, but they often face confusing systems and limited support. This program meets youth where they are, offering hands-on help with jobs, education and financial skills. With strong partners and personalized guidance, it opens real paths toward stability and success.



Scan the QR code to learn more about our pilot programs and how they will Empower What's Possible for youth!

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