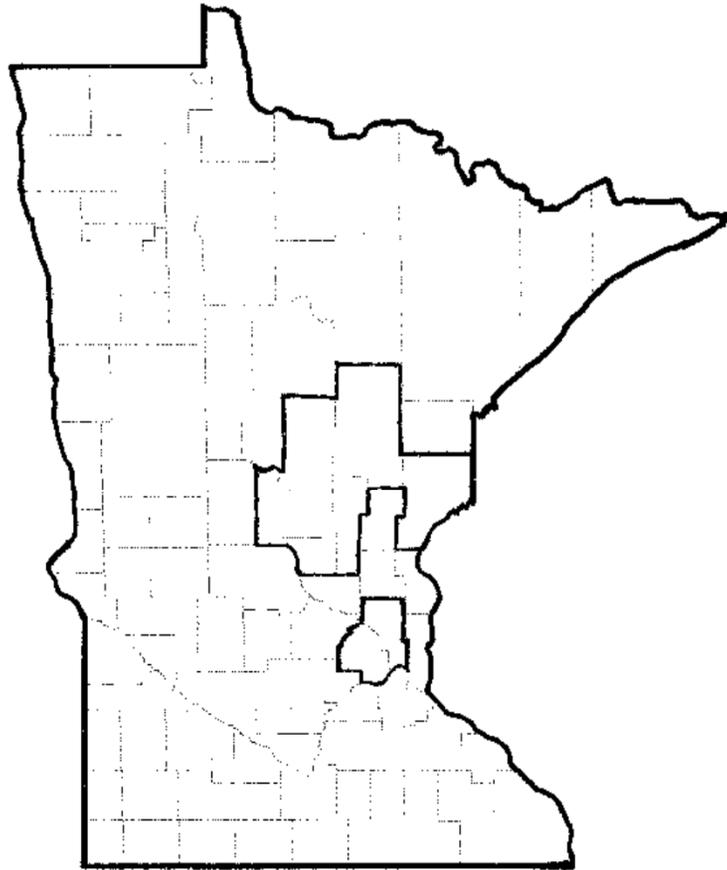


**Mille Lacs
Band of
Ojibwe
Department
of Labor**

August 2012





No
“Poverty/Poor”
Or
“Success”

Self-Sufficiency

What being has all its needs in life provided by another?

We must each achieve a balance of our needs to our resources.



Onaakonan System

- Expanding the Circle curriculum (teaching transition and handling change)
 - <http://etc.umn.edu/>
- Native Wellness (teaching personal balance)
 - <http://www.nativewellness.com/>
- Bridges Out of Poverty (understanding social differences)
 - <http://www.bridgesoutofpoverty.com/>

The Seven Teachings of the Anishinabe and the Spirit Wheel

Mind
Body
Spirit
Emotion



Honesty
Humility
Truth
Wisdom
Love
Respect
Bravery

Link Social Emotional Learning (SEL) to Achievement

- Relationships (with self and others) are central to achievement.
- Stress balance, teamwork and community
- Circles teaching about the different roles of men and women in the Ojibwe traditions.
- All worksites monitor and assess: reliability, safety, teamwork and achievement.

Thoughts create and govern our emotions

- Maximize positive thoughts and emotions
 - The core of traditional teachings



- Minimize negative thoughts and afflictive emotions
 - Anger/hate
 - Jealousy
 - Guilt
 - Shame

Understanding the World of Work and Self-Sufficiency

- Self-sufficiency has always been a life-long problem solving challenge...for us and our ancestors
- Wages are not “what a person is worth” but are based on your skills and labor force dynamics.
- Relationship skills, living the seven teachings, are highly valued.

Structure of the Program

- Employment and Career Exploration
- Healthy Circles
 - Activities
 - Regular Circle meeting
 - Financial Literacy
 - Support Services

Employment and Career Exploration

- Follows common work experience programming practices (\$7.25/hr)
- Ages 16-20
- Priority to have these be real work, real contribution placements
- Must attend regular Healthy Circles meetings
- Ineligible for activities incentives

Healthy Circles

- Ages 12-20
- Regular (weekly this summer) circles meetings
- All youth must attend circles to be in program.
- Youth age 12-15 are awarded incentives for approved activities. (\$20/activity, 3/week)
 - Activities must address Spirit Wheel balance.
- Journals and presentations are used for activities documentation.

- **Financial Literacy** (future implementation)
 - Matching savings
 - Understanding banking
 - Understanding loans



Support Services

Work Clothes (must provide receipts)

First 10 day meals

School Clothes

Partners



- Band Boys and Girls Club
- DOL Gotaamigozi Program
- School Districts
- Band Charter Schools
- Band Corporate Commission
- Parents and community members