



Interconnections

TANF WIOA YOUTH SERVICES

Anoka County Job Training Center
1201 89th Ave NE
Blaine, Minnesota



Anoka County
MINNESOTA

Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible

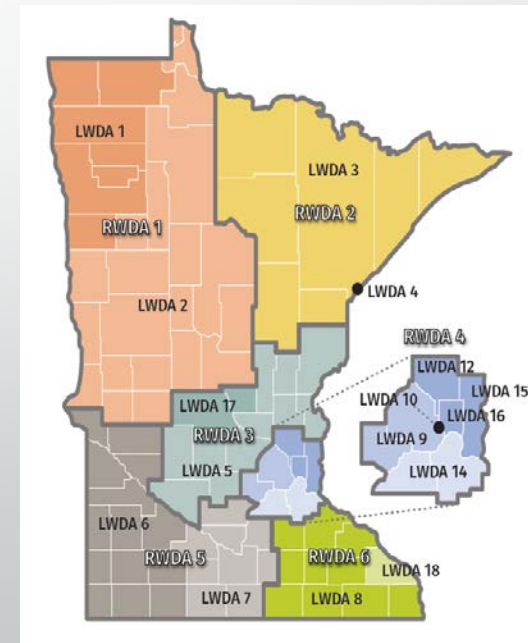
State of Minnesota Workforce Development Areas

Six designated Regional Workforce Development Areas in the state that represent a combination of Local Areas, as defined in WIOA, and Economic Development Regions, as defined in other federal law.

6 LWDAs in Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Anoka County – LWDA 12

50 WorkForce Centers statewide



Anoka County - A Local Workforce Development Area

The Anoka County WorkForce Center:

A collaborative partnership between:



- The Anoka County Job Training Center
- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
- Minnesota State Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Anoka Ramsey Community College & Anoka Technical College
- Metro North Adult and Basic Education Consortium
- Education Opportunity Center – TRIO
- Economic Assistance
- Anoka County Community Action Program
- Other core partners include: Anoka County Library System, MN State Services for the Blind, RISE, Minneapolis American Indian Center, local employers

Anoka County Demographics

US Census Bureau 2014

Estimated Population – 344,151

4th most populated county in the state of Minnesota out of 87 counties

Racial/Ethnic Groups:

White – 86.8%

Black – 5.4%

Asian – 4.5%

Hispanic – 4.0%

American Indian and Alaska
Native – 0.7%

Hawaiian/Other Pacific
Islander – 0.1%

Median Household Income: \$70,223

7.6% of Anoka County residents live in poverty

Median Age: 37.6 years

Located in a One Stop Service Center



Building Partners:

- Economic Assistance
- MNSURE
- Anoka County Community Action
- Child Care Assistance
- Head Start
- WorkForce Center
- Learn & Grow Child Care Center
- Public Health Nursing
- Achieve Services
- State Services for the Blind
- Lee Carlson Mental Health & Domestic Abuse
- Community Emergency Assistance
- Veterans Services
- Metro North Learning Lab
- Judicare

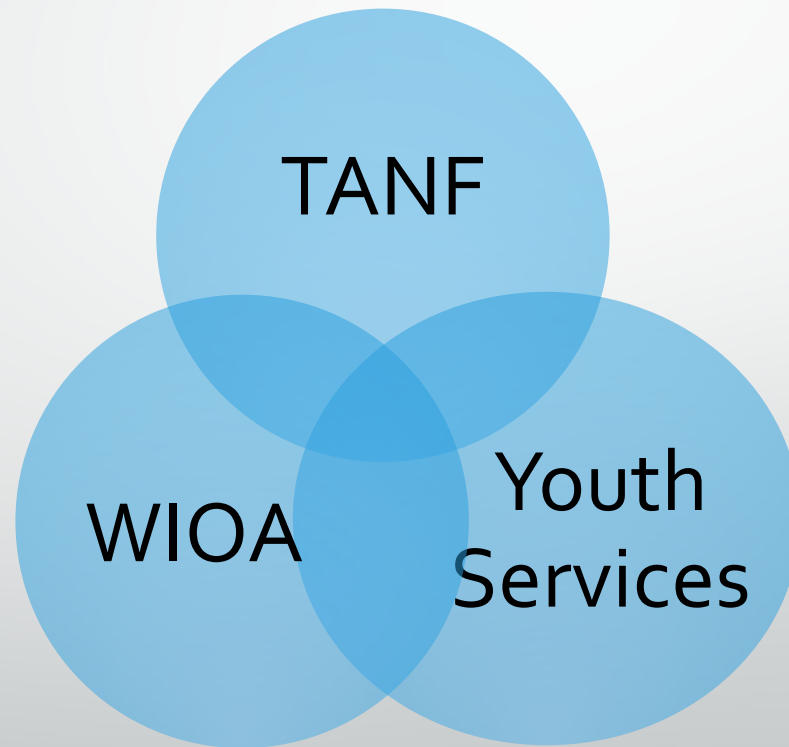
Programs of the Anoka County WorkForce Center


- Dislocated Worker Program
- Trade Adjustment Assistance
- Senior Community Service Employment Program
- Minnesota Family Investment Program
- Diversionary Work Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- **Youth Program**
- Several different projects targeting career pathway training, customized training, racial disparities, disabled, noncustodial parents of TANF families owing child support.



Interconnection of programs serving youth

Collaboration – Collaboration - Collaboration





Public Assistance Programs

Diversionsary Work Program (State of MN)

- Families applying for cash benefits can receive intensive job search assistance, case management and program support for 4 consecutive months in a 12 month period.

Minnesota Family Investment Program (TANF)

- Work-focused program that emphasizes economic stability for low-income families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/TANF; 60 month time limit.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Program to assist Food Support recipient with job search assistance in order to gain employment; 3 – 9 month time limit.

Services to TANF Youth

18 & 19 Year Old Parent Caretakers

- Services provided by a specialized team consisting of an Employment Services Counselor, Economic Assistance Worker and Child Care Assistance Worker.

Minor Parent Caretakers

- Comprehensive services provided by a county social worker who is a member of the specialized youth team.

Primary focus is assisting younger parents with high school completion, followed by postsecondary training or education and job placement. Though 18 & 19 year olds have the option of choosing between an education or employment plan, they are strongly encouraged to complete high school.

TANF Innovations Project

A collaborative approach between Youth Services and TANF in recruiting and identifying eligible youth from MFIP families to participate in summer employment activities. The annual funding stream is through Minnesota's Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) Office of Youth Development.

- This year's primary target group: youth ages 14-18, followed by 16-24 year olds.
- Providing younger youth with a 'first' work experience.
- Career Exploration activities in collaboration with Empowers/WIOA.

WIOA: Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act

Improving connections to employment by increasing education and training supports to the most vulnerable youth and adults.

Services to Youth

- Provide youth and young adults with career exploration and guidance, encourage attainment of education or credentials, promote skill training in in-demand occupations including jobs in career pathways or postsecondary training.
- 75% of funds must be spent on out-of-school youth; 20% of funds must be used for work experiences (subsidized employment, pre-apprenticeship, on-the-job training, internships, job shadowing).
- NEW FOCUS: Out-of-school youth ages 16-24, not attending school with one or more at risk factors.

Workforce Development Board Standing Youth Committee

Anoka County Standing Youth Committee (formed as a requirement under WIOA)

The Standing Youth Committee collaborates to share resources and deliver services to Anoka County youth by empowering them to achieve skills, knowledge and confidence resulting in their education, workplace and and personal success.

Membership:

- Anoka Hennepin School District – Adult Basic Education
- Anoka Ramsey Community College
- Anoka Technical College
- Anoka Hennepin Technical High School
- MN Dept of Rehabilitation Services
- YMCA
- Anoka County Social Services
- Job Corps
- Hope4Youth
- Anoka County Job Training Center

Anoka County Empowers Serving Out-of-School Youth

- Serving eligible youth ages 18-24 interested in pursuing occupational skill training and/or other postsecondary credentials.
- Inter-agency collaboration established between the WorkForce Center, Anoka Technical College, Anoka Ramsey Community College, Anoka Hennepin Technical High School, Professional & Workforce Training and Secondary Technical Education Program (STEP) to identify and connect with youth who can benefit from case management, education, financial and transitional support of Empowers.

KEY - *Collaboration & Communication:*

- Monthly partner meetings. Empowers staff keep regular weekly hours at ATC to directly interface with and recruit potential youth candidates, and utilize general marketing resources of the college. They interface with the Financial Aid Office, Student Success Coaches and TRIO Student Support Services for recruitment purposes.
- Recruit from DEI and Career Connections, MFIP, SNAP and general customers of the WorkForce Center.
- Maintain regular communication with Anoka County Social Services (Foster Care), Juvenile Corrections, Hope4Youth, Stepping Stone Shelter, local secondary schools and the YMCA.



Anoka County



Empowers

Service Model

- Career Matches through career assessment, skill identification, individual career planning.
- Preparation for academic success by assisting with high school completion, connecting with college prep classes, college enrolling and financial aid application.
- Training to obtain occupational certificates and exams, technical training, apprenticeships, postsecondary education.
- Support from trained vocational staff. Funding for tuition & books. Connection to other community resources.
- Experience: Paid internships, job shadowing, On-The-Job Training.
- Employment: Job search assistance (resume, interviewing, negotiating skills, professional references, placement and follow-up for job retention purposes).

Empowers U (University)

- Empowers staff facilitate trainings throughout the year.
- Implement the 14 elements of WIOA.
- Speakers expose youth to various topics such as Leadership Development, Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurship, Labor Market Information, and employment information about demand driven industry sectors and career exploration.
- This hands on training is offered to encourage responsibility and other positive social and civil behavior.

Other Special Youth Projects

PETS (Pre-Employment Transition Services)

- A collaborative project with Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS), serving youth with disabilities that are ages 14-21 who are attending secondary school and customers of VRS.
- Provides work experience opportunities within the community.
- The goal is for youth to gain confidence, job specific skills and positive work habits while preparing for future career opportunities.

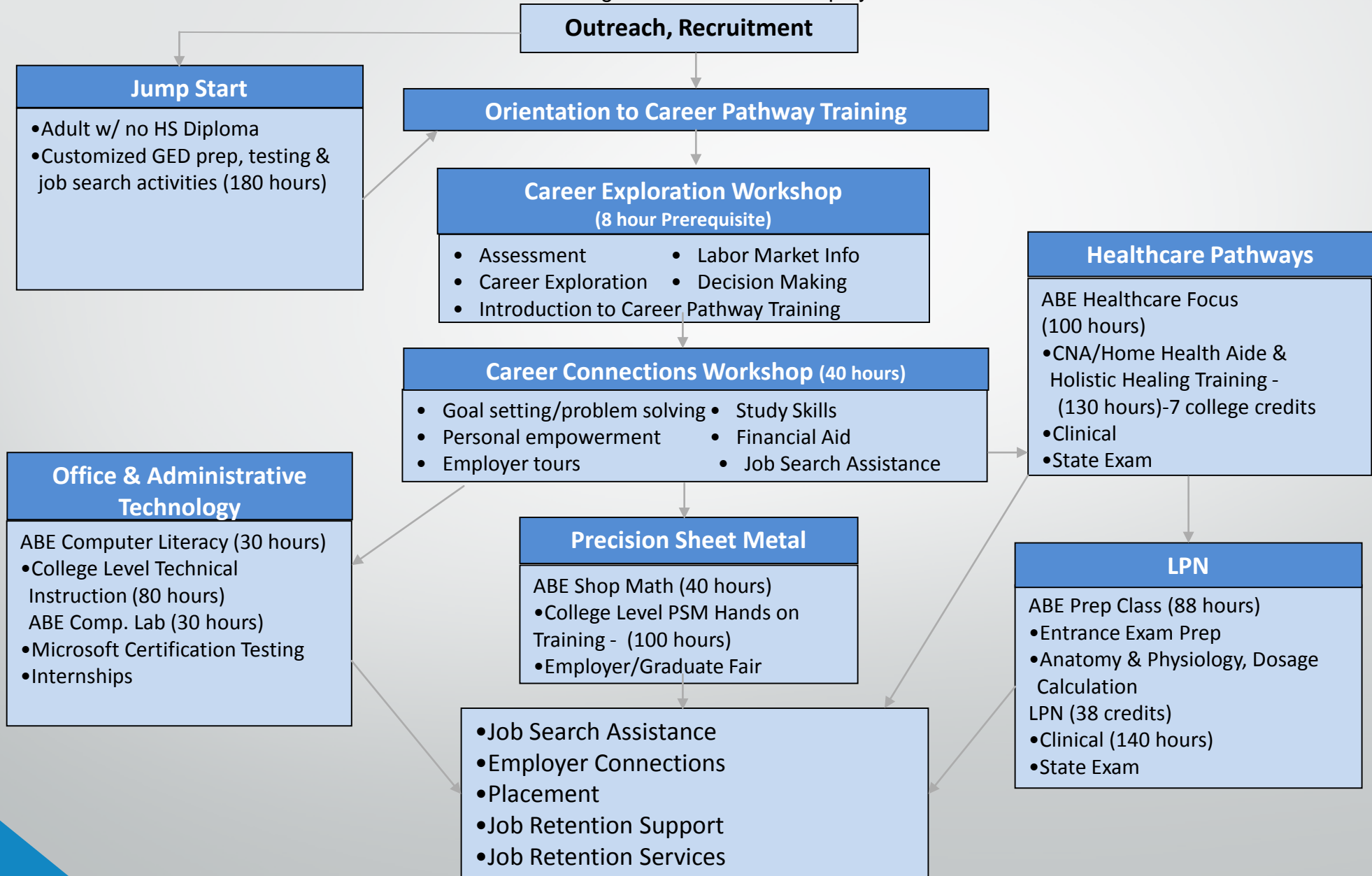
Other Projects continued

HECAP (Higher Education and Career Advisors Project)

- Activities to complement the work of existing school counselors. Support current State of MN requirement that all high school students develop a Personal Learning Plan (PLP).
- Targets ages 14-24 and includes students from traditional school setting (7 local districts in our county), local Teen Parent Programs, ALCS and ABE programs.
- Opportunities are provided to interact with local businesses and industries through business tours, business and industry speaker panels, job shadowing and mentoring.


Career Pathway Training

Partnership with Metro North Adult Basic Education, Anoka Technical and Anoka Ramsey Community Colleges,
Job Training Center and Local Employers



Career Pathway Training continued

- **Jump Start Your Success** is a comprehensive cohort class of GED preparation and job search, career exploration and GED testing.
- **Health Care Pathways** program provides students 230 hours of training, 7 college credits, and a Certification as a Nursing Assistance, and also includes 24 hours of clinical experience at a local nursing facility.
- **Precision Sheet Metal** training was developed in response to local employer demand for skilled workers in this industry. The training consists of 125 hours which includes 40 hours of Shop Math provided by Adult Basic Education. The remaining 100 hours is hands-on training in Precision Sheet Metal at Anoka Technical College.
- **Office & Administrative Technology** consists of 60 hours of ABE training on basic computer skills, open computer lab, and business applications and professional behavior. Students have an opportunity to obtain credentials in Microsoft Office, Excel and Word, along with a short-term paid internship.



Additional Credential Earning Opportunities


Options for low level learners

- Serve Safe Food Manager
- Forklift Operator
- Certified Nursing Assistant for low level learners
- Intro to Manufacturing

Disability Employment Initiative (DEI)

An innovative approach focused on helping people with disabilities transition to employment

- MN DEI Career Pathways, an interagency partnership led by DEED, is a US Dept of Labor Disability Employment grant that runs Oct 2014 – June 2018.
- Anoka County is one of three LWDAs in Minnesota to receive funding through this grant.
- The project focuses on increasing the employment rates and wages of adults with disabilities (this includes WIOA youth ages 18-24) through the aligned services and partnership of the MN WorkForce System. Emphasis is placed on assisting disabled individuals access career pathway training with successful employment outcomes.
- Customer focused and customer driven. Utilize Integrated Resource Teams (IRT).



Braiding of Funds/Services

What does it look like on the program level?

A 19 year old TANF youth who is disabled and pursuing career pathway training could potentially simultaneously receive services and/or supports from the following programs and staff:

Minnesota Family Investment Program

Employment Services Counselor

Economic Assistance Worker

Child Care Assistance Worker

Empowers/WIOA

Youth Counselor

Career Pathway Training

Navigator

DEI

Disability Resource Coordinator

Pros & Cons of interconnections between programs

What is working:

- Leveraging of funds and resources.
- Greater overlap of programs and services.
- Services are more universally accessible.
- Serving those with the greatest need.
- Expanding collaborative networks and increasing the number and level of community partnerships, including connections with local employers.

What are the challenges:

- Simultaneously managing several different program requirements and funding streams serving youth.
- Less customer friendly, can be overwhelming at times due to the increased complexity of services and numerous staff working with youth.
- To effectively streamline agency processes for the purpose of efficiently operating programs.

Questions?

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