



CENTRAL MINNESOTA
Jobs & Training Services

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Workforce excellence is CENTRAL to all we do!

Our Mission:

To strengthen Minnesota communities through leadership in workforce excellence.

Counties We Serve:

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| ■ Chisago | ■ McLeod | ■ Renville |
| ■ Isanti | ■ Meeker | ■ Sherburne |
| ■ Kanabec | ■ Mille Lacs | ■ Wright |
| ■ Kandiyohi | ■ Pine | |

Workforce Development Board

Brian O'Donnell | Chair
CMJTS Workforce Development Board

Owner/Broker, Priority One Metrowest Realty

The Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc. (CMJTS) Workforce Development Board (WDB) believes that everyone deserves the opportunity to be employed, find meaningful employment, receive vital training, and enjoy personal success.

Our mission is to provide leadership that integrates workforce, education, and economic resources for our communities.

The board's focus is to assist jobseekers and employers in creating workforce solutions in an ever-changing economy. Minnesota has experienced many challenges over the past years, including the Great Recession, the COVID-19 pandemic, the supply chain crisis, and fluctuating inflation and unemployment rates. The year 2023-2024 may bring more challenges, which will make the services we provide even more crucial to our local economies and communities throughout our 11-county region in Greater Minnesota.

CMJTS is a reliable, trustworthy source for job skills training and employment services, while also providing jobseekers with needed access to a complete network of employers. For nearly 40 years, CMJTS has provided quality training, career guidance, and job placement services for thousands of people looking for work and local businesses in need of qualified workers.

The business and community members on the CMJTS Workforce Development Board are honored to recognize our outstanding staff of workforce professionals. We know that day in and day out, staff are in the community doing the important work of serving local employers and jobseekers and continue to provide significant resources that impact our local communities.



A Special Welcome to DEED Commissioner Matt Varilek

Matt Varilek became the DEED Commissioner on June 20, 2023. Since late 2016, he served as president of the Little Falls-based Initiative Foundation, which supports economic and community development in the 14 counties and two sovereign tribal nations of Central Minnesota. He lives in rural Benton County near Rice with his wife and three children.

Workforce Development Board

Barbara Chaffee | Executive Director
CMJTS Workforce Development Board

CEO, Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc.

Celebrating Success and Partnerships in Central Minnesota

Celebrating CMJTS: In Year 2024, Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services will celebrate its 40th anniversary. For 40 years, CMJTS has followed its mission *“To strengthen Central Minnesota communities through leadership in workforce excellence”* serving thousands of individuals looking for work and local employers in need of qualified workers. CMJTS is honored to serve our 11-county area, which includes Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Pine, Renville, Sherburne, and Wright counties. The Joint Powers Board, Workforce Development Board, and CMJTS welcome you to celebrate with us (date to be determined in the spring of 2024), including current and past board members, staff, clients, partners, and family members.



Focus on Equity: CMJTS is committed to moving diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace and across all aspects of life in Central Minnesota. We're dedicated to a Minnesota that welcomes everyone.

Federal Funding: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is a law authorizing federal funding for workforce development activities. It is the foundation of our workforce development initiatives and job training programs for adults and youth. WIOA gives government, nonprofits, education, and industry partners greater flexibility to work together. The result is career training programs that give workers the skills they need to get good jobs at family-sustaining wages and give employers the qualified workers they need to stay competitive.

State Funding: We thank the 2023 legislature for funding approximately \$1.8 billion to DEED (Department of Employment and Economic Development) over the next two years to support small businesses, help our economy compete globally, and strengthen our resilient workforce.

DEED's Drive for Five Initiative Competitive Grants: DEED, through its Adult Career Pathways Programs, designed the Drive for Five Initiative Competitive Grants to conduct outreach, provide education and training, and job placement in (1) technology, (2) labor, (3) the caring professions, (4) manufacturing, and (5) educational and professional services. These industries have been identified as high growth occupations.

Adult Programs

An individualized approach to serving jobseekers and career-changers.

Fear and lack of knowledge tend to be a person's biggest obstacle to making a career change. After an individual experiences job loss or unemployment, they often have no idea where to start or how to go about the career change process.

This is where CMJTS can help.

Services are tailored to the unique needs of the individual and include assessment of current skills and interests, help in determining choices in career options, access to earn while you learn training opportunities, and tuition assistance for career navigator-approved classroom training that supports the career goal.

Kate's Story

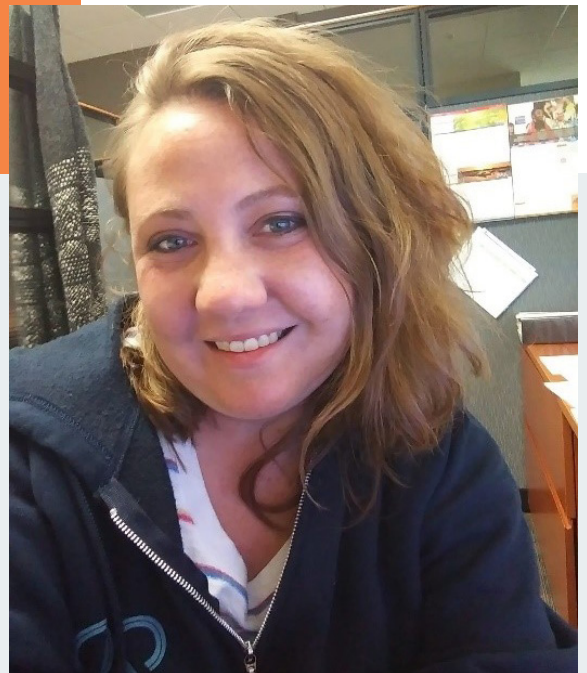
WIOA Adult Program

CMJTS played a significant role in my success.

When I was first introduced to Greg, I was in a very dark and challenging time in my life. Throughout this journey, Greg helped keep me on task and focused on my end goal. He supported me through a couple of twists and turns that life threw at me along the way and helped me navigate those hurdles that I would not have been able to navigate on my own.

I spent time exploring college while I was unemployed, and Greg helped me to get enrolled and set up the financial help I needed to move forward. After some time, I decided I needed to return to work before finishing college due to economic reasons. Greg helped me navigate that with compassion, patience, and understanding. Many times during this journey, I needed financial help to pay my bills. I was able to do that with assistance from CMJTS and the WIOA Adult Program until I found the job I have now.

I am happy to say I am employed doing a job that I love, am good at, and working for great people who appreciate me and allow for work/life balance, which is extremely important to me. I have never been happier at a job and see myself with this company for years to come.



Adult Programs

Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) Adult Program

88

Total Number
Served

80%

Credential
Attainment

62.5%

Entered
Employment

\$21.48

Average
Wage

WIOA Dislocated Worker Program

78

Total Number
Served

85%

Credential
Attainment

80.4%

Entered
Employment

\$25.93

Average
Wage

Minnesota Dislocated Worker Program

412

Total Number
Served

89%

Credential
Attainment

91.9%

Entered
Employment

\$30.85

Average
Wage

“

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Dislocated Worker Program and CMJTS! It has made such a positive impact on my life. I have always felt reassured and supported when working with my career navigator, Laura. She was always on top of her game and treated me with respect, compassion, and dignity.”

– Nikki, State Dislocated Worker Program

Public Assistance Programs

A proven approach effectively increases income and reduces poverty while promoting self-esteem and independence.

CMJTS provides employment services to individuals eligible for county assistance through DWP, MFIP, and SNAP Employment and Training. Participants are referred to CMJTS by their county of residence. Professional staff deliver comprehensive, work-focused services to participants designed to encourage and enable job-skill building, work experience, and employment. Various supports are provided, allowing participants to go to work and realize its benefit.

Andrea's Story

MFIP Participant

Hi, my name is Andrea.. I am a single mom to three beautiful kids in 3rd, 7th, and 9th grade. I would like to share my success story.

I have struggled with my mental health over the years.

Having the support from CMJTS, my employment specialist (ES), and the MFIP program, I keep pushing myself and things have slowly become better for me.

I recently was hired as a cook at the Grand Casino where I can apply my passion and love for cooking and work for an employer that values my knowledge, work history as a cook, and recognizes my passion. Recently, I was asked to take a supervisor position within 30 days of working at the restaurant and I accepted. This makes me feel like I get to go to work and apply what I am enthusiastic about versus it's a "job."

But with my success in my new position and career, I need to give recognition to Monica, my ES, and the support services that CMJTS is able to provide to support my family and success. I am more successful because of her and all her coaching, mentoring, and encouragement she gives.

My 2- to 5-year plan and what my future will hold with my goals and dreams: Success in a management role as a supervisor and building my credit back up to buy my first home. I owe so much to Monica for her continued coaching and support. I hope you all know how lucky you are to have her on the CMJTS team! Thank you for the MFIP program, Employment Services support, and everything in these programs that have supported me to a better life for me and my children.



Public Assistance Programs

Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)

1,101

Total Number
Served

669

Total Exited in
Program Year

153

Number
Employed

\$15.98

Average
Wage

Supplemental Nutrition And Assistance Program (SNAP)

18

Total Number
Served

8

Total Exited in
Program Year

4

Number
Employed

\$22.78

Average
Wage

Diversionsary Work Program (DWP)

341

Total Number
Served

302

Total Exited in
Program Year

77

Number
Employed

\$17.82

Average
Wage

“

“The most meaningful help that I have received from CMJTS is not just the Support Service funds to get me through the program, but also the life coaching from staff. I realized I am not the only person who has been through this, and I can do anything I want to!”

– Business Survey Response

Youth Programs

Youth programs provide leadership in building a skilled workforce—workers who can do the jobs of today and learn the jobs of tomorrow.

Through career counseling, job training, and strong business relationships, CMJTS helps prepare young adults for career pathways and the world of work that leads to meaningful employment.

Through an individualized approach, CMJTS' goal is to assist youth in overcoming barriers to employment and economic disparities that make them self-sufficient.

Naw's Story

Youth Program Participant

My name is Naw. I am 17 years old and I attend Willmar Senior High School. I was born in a refugee camp in Thailand. I'm part of a small ethnic group called Karen.

I came to CMJTS because I was interested in working in the garden (MNYOU Garden). At the Garden, I met a lot of new people. They were easy to get along with and I liked that the groups were diverse. We would mostly work outdoors planting, harvesting, or pulling weeds.

Through CMJTS, I attended the Operation Exploration Healthcare Camp as a leader where I took the initiative to help others feel more comfortable and included. The camp helped me with speaking since I was put into the leader's role, and I thought that it was my responsibility to speak up so it could encourage others to voice their thoughts.

I received help with career exploration, updating my résumé, cover letter, and applying for a job. I was even able to take the nursing assistant class. Currently, I work as a recreation assistant at Bethesda in Willmar at \$13.93 an hour.



“

“My work experience helped me to get a job in my field of interest, which I am very appreciative of.”

Youth Programs

WIOA Youth Program

114	72	12	92	18	0
Total Number Served	Youth with Disabilities	Youth Offenders	Basic Skills Deficient	Received Work Experience	Received On-the-Job Training

Minnesota Youth Program

315	218	23	231	151	63
Total Number Served	Youth with Disabilities	Youth Offenders	Basic Skills Deficient Training	Economically Disadvantaged	Received Work Experience

Youth Program Enrollment

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	■	9
Youthbuild	■	22
Youth Support Services	■	25
Career Exploration	■	25
WIOA Youth	■	114
Pre-Employment Transition Services	■	114
Youth at Work	■	125
Minnesota Youth Program	■	315
Outreach to Schools	■	1,611

Business Services

Inclusive Workforce Employer (I-WE) Designation

Recruit and retain employees with a variety of backgrounds, abilities, skills, and experiences with the Inclusive Workforce Employer (I-WE) Designation. The I-WE designation supports and recognizes employers in Central Minnesota who

- Express a commitment to an inclusive and equitable workplace in their mission, values, and/or policies.
- Assess how diversity, equity, and inclusion influence their work and culture.
- Provide diversity, equity, and inclusion education for staff and leadership.
- Allocate resources to support and sustain an inclusive and equitable workplace.



To learn more, contact Leslie Wojtowicz at lwojtowicz@cmjts.org or 763.647.5486.

What Others are Saying about

Inclusive Workforce Employer Designation

“

At Nahan, we recognize the value of every team member and their unique contributions. We're passionate about fostering a work environment that celebrates each individual, helping them feel not just welcomed, but truly valued. Our goal is to be the premier employer of choice in our area. Achieving the I-WE designation helps us showcase our values and our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion to current and potential employees, clients, vendors, and our community. It is an honor to receive this designation.”

– Human Resources, Nahan Printing Inc.

What Others are Saying about

Incumbent Worker Training

“

Partnering with CMJTS allowed our team to receive the necessary training to proceed with large OEM customers. This training aligned our team members' skills with our company vision, and it allows us to take our company to the next level.”

– Business Survey Response



Business Services

Business Visits: 379

Individual Business Visits: **237**

Businesses Participating in Hiring Events/Job Fairs: **142**

7

On-the-Job
Training Contracts
Written

\$26.38

On-the-Job
Training
Average Wage

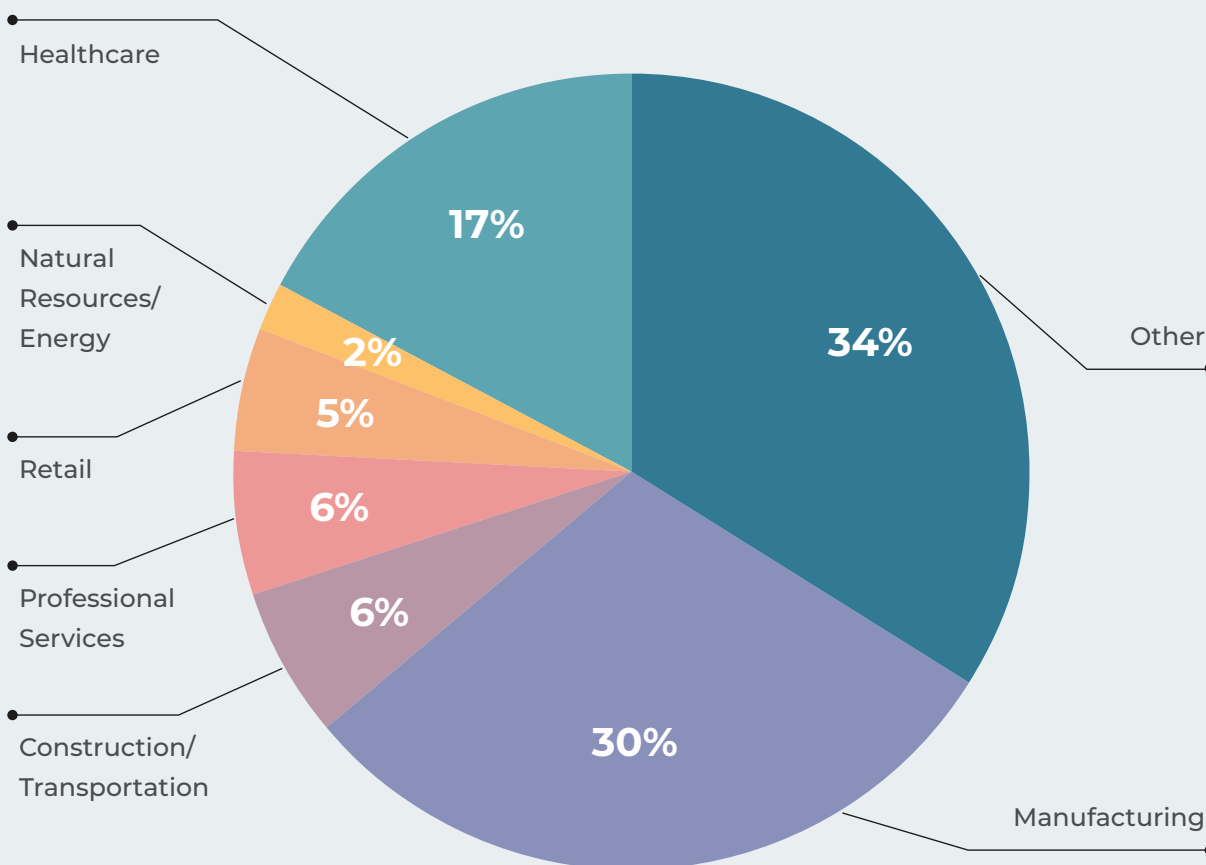
71

Work Experience
Opportunities
Provided

241

Incumbent
Worker Training
Participants

Business Visits by Sector





CENTRAL MINNESOTA
Jobs & Training Services

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