

X-Treme Opportunity

GRANTEE: Workforce Connections, Inc. (WCI)

LOCATION OF GRANT ACTIVITIES: Columbia, WI, Lacrosse, WI, Monroe, WI, Houston, MN, Allamakee, IA, Clayton, IA, Chickasaw, IA, Dubuque, IA, Delaware, IA, Fayette, IA, Howard IA, Winneshiek, IA, Dodge, MN, Fillmore, MN, Olmstead, MN

AMOUNT: \$1,124,252

VALUE OF MATCH AND OTHER LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$278,819

POPULATION SERVED: Youth ages 14-17 that have been involved in the juvenile justice system

KEY PARTNERSHIPS: Department of Corrections or Juvenile Justice Programs, Technical Colleges, WIA System Partners

KEY STRATEGIES: X-Treme Opportunity assists youth offenders who are released, on probation, or serving alternative sentences in addressing their workforce challenges and preparing them for job opportunities in high growth/high demand industries. WCI proposes to expand this program in scope by offering it to youth adjudicated through the juvenile corrections systems. The program will also be expanded throughout the 7 Rivers Region by replicating the program in northeastern Iowa and in southeastern Minnesota, through contracts with Iowa Workforce Development Region I and Workforce Development, Inc. One of the first steps in the project is to develop a referral packet so that expansion partners can meet with these organizations to outline the program and secure commitment. The program components include:

- 1) plan to prepare and place in high growth/high demand industries
- 2) upgrading basic and occupational skills participants
- 3) Referrals from Juvenile Justice and Correctional facilities
- 4) Coordination with juvenile probation officers, the juvenile court system and the education and employment components
- 5) Assessments for skills and aptitudes
- 6) Strategies to Ensure Skills Acquisitions
- 7) Job Search
- 8) Supportive Services
- 9) Job Retention
- 10) Advancement

PROPOSED OUTCOMES:

- Enrollment Year I 100%, Enrollment Year II 100%
- Placement in Employment Year I 60%, Placement in Employment Year II 60%
- Entering Post Secondary Education Year I 40%, Post Secondary Education Year II 60%



- High School Diploma and/or GED Attainment Year I 53%, High School Diploma and/or GED Attainment Year II 60%
- Attainment of Degree Certificate 50% Year I, Attainment of Degree or Certificate Year II 60%
- Reduced Recidivism Year I 5.3%, Reduced Recidivism Year II 12%

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