

LEAP YOUTH APPRENTICESHIPS: New Pathways for Opportunity Youth in the Twin Cities

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) will expand its existing youth education and employment activities, launching youth apprenticeships in banking, healthcare, and transportation. PPL's Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential (LEAP) youth apprenticeships will provide a new pathway to economic security and personal success for opportunity youth, with a focus on enrolling those who are involved in the juvenile justice and foster care systems.

Led by **PPL**, a nonprofit organization that provides affordable housing and career readiness services to residents of Minnesota's Twin Cities, the LEAP youth apprenticeship initiative includes many partners:

- **City of Minneapolis**
- **Hennepin County**
- **Minnesota Department of Transportation**
- **Goodwill-Easter Seals**
- **Ameriprise Financial**
- **Walgreens**
- **Minneapolis Public Schools**
- **Hennepin Health**
- **El Colegio High School**
- **East Side Neighborhood Services**
- **Plymouth Christian Youth Center**
- **Volunteers of America**
- **Bloomington Public Schools**
- **Brooklyn Center School**

The LEAP initiative enrolls over 200 students annually in alternative school programs and re-engagement centers that help them achieve economic self-sufficiency, high school or GED completion, and further education. Though work-based learning opportunities have existed within the LEAP model in the past, youth apprenticeship represents a new, more intensive opportunity for its students to gain experience and related training.

PPL has worked with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Walgreens, and Ameriprise Financial to develop coursework to prepare LEAP youth apprentices for roles in automotive technology, pharmacy, and banking. In collaboration with the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, PPL will explore opportunities to design LEAP youth apprenticeship pathways for office operations roles as well.

As a PAYA grantee, PPL will advance equitable economic opportunity through youth apprenticeship by:

- **TACKLING SYSTEMIC INEQUITIES FACING OPPORTUNITY YOUTH** by facilitating dialogue across three state agencies to identify and dismantle policy barriers that limit young adults' ability to access apprenticeship, unemployment insurance, and other key education and workforce opportunities;
- **LEVERAGING EXISTING PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS** to streamline services and resources to create a more diverse and better-aligned system to support the career readiness of opportunity youth; and,
- **IMPLEMENTING A DATA-DRIVEN GROWTH STRATEGY** through a rigorous data collection process that creates feedback loops to properly evaluate and support the needs and outcomes of all LEAP students.

“Opportunity youth need the tangible experience of being in the workforce. They need to see themselves there, they need to see the opportunities....It could either lead into continuing on to employment there or going back to college with new purpose or other career training. Young people we work with really deserve that opportunity.”

KRISTY SNYDER, LEAP Director