



CENTRAL MINNESOTA
Jobs & Training Services

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Where Workforce Skills Meet Opportunity!

Our Mission:

Strengthen our communities by providing workforce development services that enhance skills, increase employability, and meet the needs of local employers for a thriving job market.

Counties We Serve:

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

Workforce Development Board

Brian O'Donnell | Outgoing Chair CMJTS Workforce Development Board

Owner/Broker, Priority One Metrowest Realty

As my 2-year tenure as Chair of the CMJTS Workforce Development Board (WDB) concludes, I am grateful for the hard work of our staff in assisting individuals in finding employment, pursuing further education, and receiving training. We also help businesses recruit and train employees. Developing career paths enables individuals to contribute meaningfully to society, community, and family. CMJTS is dedicated to assisting people in achieving their goals, especially during challenging times. Our commitment to finding innovative ways to help our clients and communities remains unwavering. The success stories we hear from our clients each year attest to our positive impact on people's lives.



Our commitment to our mission and the people we serve is steadfast and will continue to guide us in the years ahead. The strength of our organization lies in its employees and staff. This past year, we have demonstrated our vigor as the board transitioned to new leadership. Change is challenging but also an opportunity for growth. As CMJTS celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, I want to extend my thanks to all past employees and board members who have helped for the past 40 years and to everyone we will help for the next 40 years. Thank you, Brian



Rob Stark | Incoming Chair CMJTS Workforce Development Board

Financial Advisor, Edward Jones Investments

It's an honor to help lead an organization like CMJTS at a time when it feels like "workforce" is becoming more and more of an everyday talking point, both from those looking for that next step in their career and those businesses that are looking for talent to fill important roles in their organization.

At CMJTS, our mission is to lead the way in workforce excellence by providing the resources, support, and opportunities needed to empower individuals and businesses alike. By fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation, we aim to create a resilient and dynamic workforce that can adapt to the ever-changing demands of the modern economy.

We see Central Minnesota as a place for all to flourish and as such build strong local economies and vibrant working communities. We are committed to building partnerships with local businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations to create a collaborative environment where everyone can succeed. Together, we can ensure that Central Minnesota remains a great place to live, work, and thrive.

We invite you to join us in this important work. Your support and involvement are crucial to achieving our mission and vision. Whether through volunteering, donating, or simply spreading the word about our efforts, every contribution makes a difference! In service, Rob

Workforce Development Board



Dina Wuornos | Executive Director
CMJTS Workforce Development Board

Executive Director

Over the past 12 months, Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS) has undergone significant changes. Leadership transitions have played a major role in shaping the organization's recent trajectory, with key leadership staff departing and a new executive director and finance manager stepping in to restore CMJTS to good standing. Control activities now play a critical role in the organization's financial oversight, particularly in response to delayed grant disbursements and audits. CMJTS management has refined

its approach to risk management by enhancing financial procedures, ensuring compliance with Department of Labor requirements, and safeguarding against future disruptions. Despite recent difficulties, the organization has demonstrated resilience. For example, it has implemented enhanced security protocols and improved its financial reporting and compliance processes. These efforts and our commitment to transparency ensure that stakeholders are well-informed about how public resources are managed and that our services are delivered effectively to the community.

Given the significant changes CMJTS has experienced, there is a growing desire to update the organization's mission and vision statements to better reflect its current priorities and long-term goals. The updated mission is to *"strengthen our communities by providing workforce development services that enhance skills, increase employability, and meet the needs of local employers for a thriving job market."* This revised statement emphasizes CMJTS's commitment to jobseekers and employers, ensuring they receive the necessary support to succeed in a rapidly evolving workforce landscape. The updated vision is to *"ensure a prosperous and inclusive Central Minnesota, where strong local economies and vibrant communities provide opportunities for everyone to thrive."* This forward-looking vision aligns with CMJTS's dedication to inclusive workforce development, helping individuals from all backgrounds gain the skills and opportunities they need to achieve sustainable employment. These updates reflect the organization's evolving role in addressing modern workforce challenges while maintaining its commitment to the community it serves.

Considering the challenges we have endured as an organization and a family, CMJTS remains steadfast in its commitment to providing high-quality services to businesses in need of skilled workers and jobseekers facing various challenges, such as career transitions, literacy and computer skills development, work readiness, transportation, and housing issues. For 40 years, CMJTS has worked tirelessly to help individuals overcome these barriers, empowering them to achieve economic self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life. Thousands of Minnesotans have benefited from CMJTS programs, and we will continue to evolve in response to the shifting needs of employers and jobseekers in Central Minnesota.

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.

Christina's Story

WIOA Adult Program

CMJTS played a significant role in my success.

When I first came to Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, I had been laid off from my previous job in interior design. I had been looking for work in interior design for close to four months with no luck! I got to a point where I started applying for any job to get a job. For close to twelve years, I was an interior designer. I was happy but could never make it fit; it just never seemed right.

Before I went to interior design college, I had always wanted to be a hospice nurse because of my grandma. I saw the lack of care she received, and I knew what I wanted and the care I wished my grandmother would have gotten. I didn't want other people's families to feel how I felt about the lack of care. I was all registered for school and even got my apartment, but a week before starting nursing school, I got scared and canceled my apartment and didn't even start school; I went into interior design instead. I have always loved design, which came very easily, but taking care of people in my everyday life fills my heart. So, being laid off for four months, I decided to leap and took it as a sign that this was my chance and exactly where I was supposed to be. That is where CMJTS came in. Danielle, my career navigator, went through things with me and ensured things made sense and that I'd succeed in my career change. She was there with me every step of the way. CMJTS helped me pay for my schooling, state testing, and other necessities. Because of CMJTS, I am currently working in hospice care, which I have always wanted. Without their help and guidance, I would never have been able to do it.



Adult Programs

Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) Adult Program

90	91%	73.2%	\$21.96
Total Number Served	Credential Attainment	Entered Employment	Average Wage

WIOA Dislocated Worker Program

68	95%	81.5%	\$32.52
Total Number Served	Credential Attainment	Entered Employment	Average Wage

Minnesota Dislocated Worker Program

322	92%	89.3%	\$30.74
Total Number Served	Credential Attainment	Entered Employment	Average Wage

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“I would like to express a heartfelt thank you for the services provided to me by my Career Navigator, Laura. My experience with CMJTS has been nothing short of wonderful. Laura has gone above and beyond to understand, dig in, facilitate, and coordinate resources, education and financial support that allowed me to begin a new journey in life.”

– Alissa, State Dislocated Worker Program, CLIMB

Public Assistance Programs

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

CMJTS offers employment services to individuals eligible for county assistance through DWP, MIFP, and SNAP Employment and Training. Participants are referred to CMJTS by their county of residence. Our professional staff deliver comprehensive, work-focused services designed to foster job skill development, work experience, and successful employment. We provide a range of supports to help participants enter the workforce and enjoy its benefits.

SharáLaneé's Story

MIFP Participant

My name is SharáLaneé Staples-Skinaway. I applied for the Minnesota Family Investment Program to help get myself and my two boys back on our feet after leaving an abusive marriage.

I had left my job in behavioral health so I could be available for my sons and be closer to home. My income dropped, and I did not have accessible childcare close to home, so I had to work a lower-paying job with fewer hours to care for my children. CMJTS Employment Specialist Joey J. supported me by helping with gas vouchers, insurance payments for my vehicle, and the ability to find the confidence to apply for graduate school.

I am now in my first year at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, attending their Clinical Master of Social Work program. I have returned to the job that I love in behavioral health as a care coordinator. I was also chosen to speak at this year's Wisconsin DHS Prevention Conference on Sacred Tobacco Use and Cultural Healing.

My boys are thriving. My youngest son, Thomas, competed and won the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Jr. Brave title for 2023. My oldest son, Justice, started as a freshman, and this is his first year in football, playing defensive lineman. I've included some photos of the accomplishments we've successfully completed due to the financial help received when needed by the Minnesota Family Investment Program. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

SharáLaneé, Justice and Thomas



Public Assistance Programs

Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)

875	622	173	\$17.69
Total Number Served	Total Exited in Program Year	Number Employed	Average Wage

Supplemental Nutrition And Assistance Program (SNAP)

77	62	12	\$20.90
Total Number Served	Total Exited in Program Year	Number Employed	Average Wage

Diversionsary Work Program (DWP)

237	213	79	\$18.90
Total Number Served	Total Exited in Program Year	Number Employed	Average Wage

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“Thank you all so much from the bottom of my heart because of this wonderful program my kids and I MADE IT!!”

– Breanna, Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)

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.

Mackenzie's Story

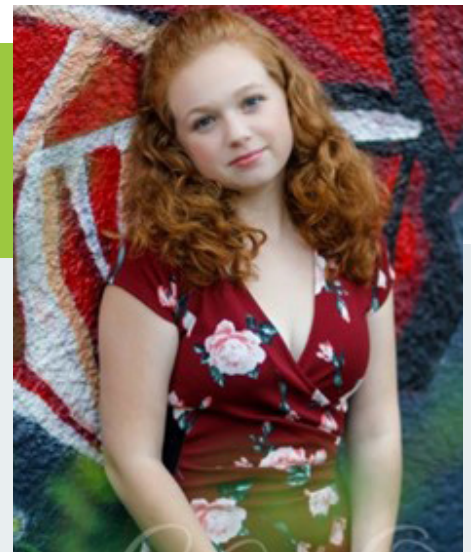
Youth Program Participant

My name is Mackenzie Collins, and I am 20 years old. Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services has helped me throughout high school, post-graduation, and to explore different career pathways.

CMJTS helped me gain career experience through their work experience program. I was able to gain workability skills and get paid to work at the Big Lake food shelf. The program's flexibility allowed me to complete high school while working at my own pace.

After graduating high school, I attended the CMJTS careers camp. I learned about different healthcare-related fields at the camp and obtained my CPR certification. I got hands-on experience, which helped me determine my best career path. Before attending the camp, I struggled to find employment that fit the schedule I was looking for.

During the CMJTS careers camp, we toured Strive Therapy in Buffalo, MN. Strive Therapy is a facility that creates learning programs for children with diagnoses including, but not limited to, sensory processing Disorders, ADD/ADHD, learning disabilities, and more. While at the Strive Therapy I could advocate for myself with the skills I learned through CMJTS and apply for a job. Within the next few weeks, I was called in for an interview and was hired as a receptionist for their front desk. This position will allow me to work closely with occupational and speech therapists and gain more knowledge about becoming an occupational and speech therapist.



Youth Programs

WIOA Youth Program

95	63	9	73	19
Total Number Served	Youth with Disabilities	Youth Offenders	Basic Skills Deficient	Received Work Experience

Minnesota Youth Program

369	273	24	259	177	72
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	12
Youthbuild	28
WIOA Youth	95
Pre-Employment Transition Services	103
Youth at Work	155
Minnesota Youth Program	369
Outreach to Schools	6,115



“CMJTS shows their dedication by showing up to help and talk to kids. For me personally, CMJTS made a difference by taking the time to help me find my path to the future.”

Business Services

Inclusive Workforce Employer (I-WE) Designation

The I-WE designation promotes inclusive employers and workforce diversity.

To receive it, employers have to:

- Commit to an inclusive workplace.
- Assess diversity's impact on work and culture.
- Provide education for staff and leadership.
- Allocate resources for an inclusive workplace.



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

Sherburne County has shown its steadfast commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable culture within its business and the region. The county has been honored with the prestigious Inclusive Workforce Employer (I-WE) Designation, highlighting its dedication to supporting and appreciating the unique contributions of a diverse workforce. This commitment enhances both the employment experience and the interactions with the communities it serves. Sherburne County's efforts in developing, implementing, and ensuring a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging have been acknowledged, making it the first county in the state to receive this esteemed designation.



What Others are Saying about

On-The-Job Training

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“Accessing on-the-job training funds, Bethesda hired two refugee individuals for caregiver roles. Bethesda and CMJTS formed a partnership to support individuals facing barriers to employment, especially those dealing with challenges such as cultural adjustments and language barriers. This partnership bridged the gap between potential employees and employers by addressing these individuals' unique training needs. The goal of this collaboration is to help these employees succeed in their new roles and contribute to a more inclusive and diverse workforce.”

Bethesda; Director of Human Resources

Business Services

Businesses Served

482

Business Visits

13

Inclusive
Workforce
Employer Consults

361

Businesses
Participating in
Hiring Events

\$2.24/hr

Average Wage Increase
for Incumbent Worker
Trainees

Participants Served

199

Incumbent
Worker Training
Participants

5

On-the-Job
Training
Contracts Written

\$21.65

On-the-Job
Training
Average Wage

82

Work Experience
Opportunities
Provided

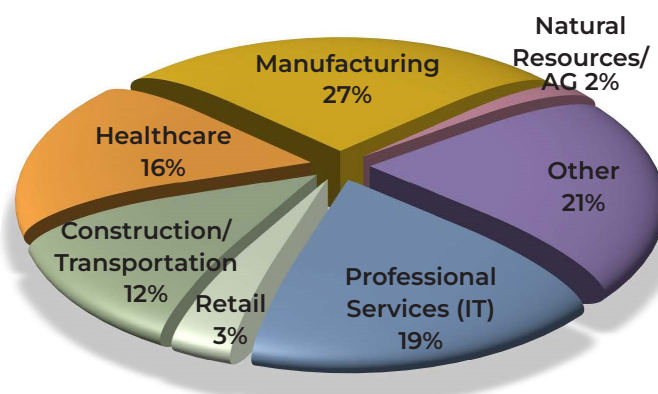
Thank You to Donors and Unrestricted Revenue

I wanted to express our deep gratitude to everyone who has supported CMJTS. Your generosity has significantly impacted our ability to help individuals and employers across our area, making a tangible difference in their lives and businesses. Thanks to the cash donations (\$14,613.12) from our dedicated supporters, we were able to purchase crucial supplies for our "Operation Exploration" initiative and provide lunches to participants, furthering our mission to empower and prepare the workforce of tomorrow. Additionally, we are excited to share that through our pay-for-performance contract with the Social Security Administration, we were able to assist twenty-four individuals in achieving employment goals. This effort generated Employment Network Revenue of \$55,009, underscoring the positive impact we're making in the lives of those we serve.

We are truly thankful for your support and look forward to continuing this important work with your help.

Leslie Wojtowicz, Development Manager

Business Visits by Sector





CENTRAL MINNESOTA
Jobs & Training Services

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